

Deciding Which Programs to Evaluate

An exercise to determine which programs you want to evaluate



PURPOSE

This exercise will help you identify your organization's key program areas and help you to decide which ones you may want to evaluate.

INSTRUCTIONS

Make a copy of this handout for each board member. Take 10 minutes at your next board meeting and ask each board member to complete it. Use a flip chart to document and prioritize top programs you want to evaluate.

FOLLOW-UP

At the next board meeting, confirm the top programs you want to evaluate for success and do the next 10 minute Board Exercise to identify the stakeholders.

Deciding Which Programs to Evaluate

An exercise to determine which programs you want to evaluate



INSTRUCTIONS

Post your mission statement and have a copy of your strategic plan available for review. Take 10 minutes at your next board meeting and, on a flip chart, document the board members' answers to the following questions:

Step 1: Identifying on-going key programs that deliver the mission of your organization

Do you have programs that you have clearly identified as necessary to deliver your mission?

Step 2: Identifying on-going programs that produce important income

What programs really help you bring in income and help pay for operations?

Step 3: What NEW programs are in the works that you would like to evaluate for fit with your mission and potential for success?

A.

B.

C.

Deciding Which Programs to Evaluate

An exercise to determine which programs you want to evaluate



Step 4: Choose ONE of the programs mentioned above you would like to evaluate

Choose one program from the previous page to evaluate using each of the following 10 minute board exercises in this book. You may want to choose a program that does not make you any money, but really does deliver your nonprofit mission. Or you may want to choose what you think is one of your most popular programs, and develop a benchmark so you can evaluate and document its success.

Program Name: _____

What do we want to know about this program? Check all that you want to discover:

- Cost effective?
- Serves the mission?
- Stakeholder support?
- Staffing needs to support the program?
- Do program participants and clients receive the outcomes we expect?
- Other factors (specify below)?