

ACF Evaluation Policy

NAS CNSTAT Workshop on Principles & Practices
for Federal Program Evaluation
27 October 2016



ACF Evaluation Policy: History



- Encouraged by ACF leadership
- Vetted with office heads
- Established November 2012
- Published in Federal Register August 2014

ACF Evaluation Policy: Goals



Clarify

Disseminate

Bolster

Protect

Key Principles

Rigor ←

Relevance ←

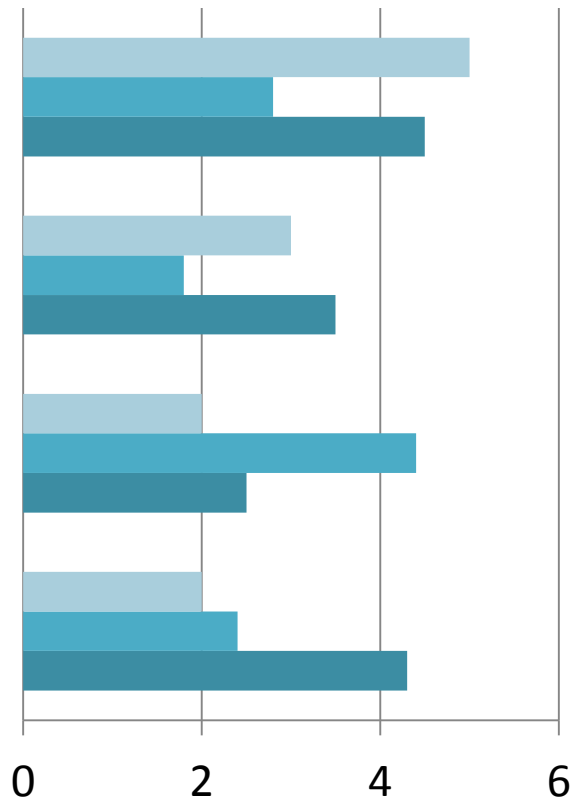
Transparency ←

Independence ←

Ethics ←



Rigor, part one



- Match of methods & question
- Rigor in all types of evaluations
- Internal validity
- External validity
- Measurement reliability and validity
- Feasibility

Rigor, part two

- Recruit and maintain workforce
 - Rewarding work
 - Professional development
- Contractors and grantees
 - Selection
 - Capacity
 - Oversight

Relevance

Stakeholders ←

Diversity ←

Partnerships ←

Dissemination ←

Use ←

Early planning ←

Continuous learning ←



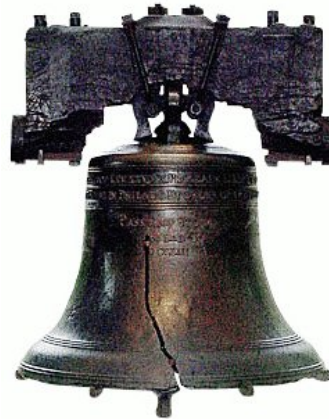
Transparency

- Publicize planned and ongoing work
- Release results
 - Comprehensive
 - Timely
- Describe methods
- Archive data



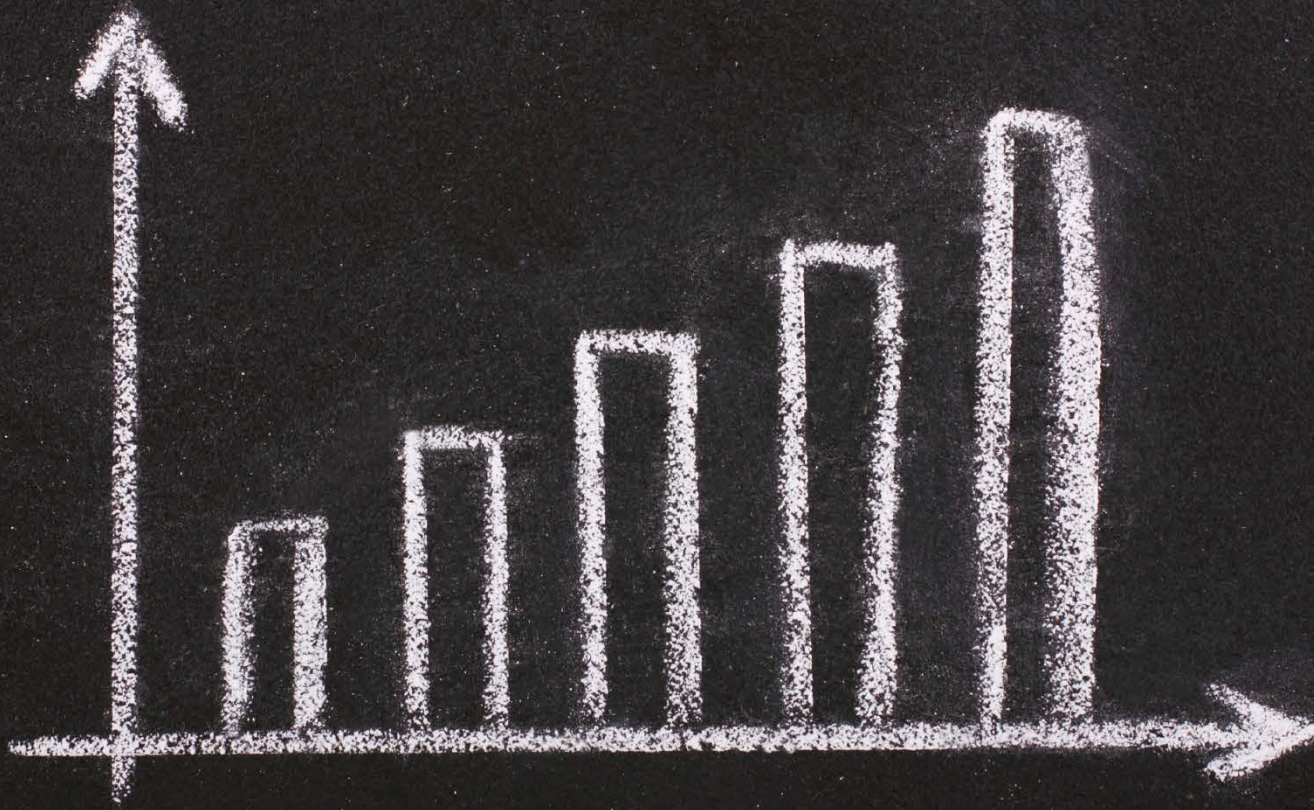
Independence

- Objectivity
- Bias and undue influence
- Evaluation design, conduct, & analysis
 - vs. evaluation priorities & questions
- Competitive awards
- Conflicts of interest
- Authority to release



Ethics

Yes



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Evaluation policy: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/resource/acf-evaluation-policy>

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www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/