

Strategies for Grounding the Evaluation in Traditional Ways of Knowing and Core Values

BELIEFS AND VALUES (INDIGENOUS FRAMEWORK)

Indigenous Knowledge Creation—Context and Use are Critical

- Describe how the evaluation itself will become part of the program and will be included throughout the program's implementation.
- Consider how to analyze specific variables without ignoring the contextual situation.
- Use evaluation approaches that ensure multiple perspectives such as mixed methods designs.
- Ensure that the context of the program is fully understood by any external evaluators and is described in any evaluation reports.
- Allow time for continuous reflection on what is learned and ensure that evaluation findings will be used.

People of a Place—Respect Place-based Programs

- Honor the place-based nature of many of our programs.
- Include information regarding how the program is situated within the community and how it connects to other programs or initiatives.
- Celebrate success, however do not conclude that what works in the local situation can be transferred or generalized to other contexts without appropriate contextual adaptations.

Centrality of Community and Family—Connect Evaluation to Community

- Create opportunities for engaging community through participatory evaluation practices when planning and implementing the evaluation.
- Make evaluation processes transparent so key stakeholders understand its role and how it will be implemented.
- Understand that programs may not focus only on individual achievement, but also on restoring community health and well being, and find ways to capture this in the program's story.

Recognizing our Gifts—Personal Sovereignty; Consider the Whole Person when Assessing Merit

- Allow for creativity and self-expression.
- Recognize that people enter programs at different places and with different skills and experience.
- Use multiple ways to measure accomplishment of individuals and/or groups.
- Honor accomplishment while recognizing that everyone has value and different gifts.
- Make connections to accomplishment and responsibility to self and community.

Sovereignty—Create Ownership and Build Capacity

- Follow Native Institutional Review Board processes or other tribal/community protocols for evaluation and research.
- Include consent processes that allow people to see how their information is interpreted.
- Use approaches and methods that will build evaluation capacity in the community and create opportunities for community members to develop evaluation skills.
- Secure proper permission if future publishing is expected.
- Share evaluation information in ways that celebrate your accomplishments and describe what you have learned.