



Program Evaluation is a tool with which to demonstrate accountability to an array of stakeholders who may include funding sources, policymakers, state, and local agencies implementing the program, and community leaders.

OSI can:

- Engage stakeholders
- Describe the program
- Focus the evaluation
- Gather credible evidence
- Justify conclusions
- Ensure the use of evaluation findings and share lessons learned.

### Formative Evaluations

A *formative evaluation* (sometimes referred to as internal) is a method for judging the worth of a program while the program activities are *forming* (in progress). This part of the evaluation focuses on the process. Formative evaluations are basically done in real time. They permit the designers, learners, instructors, and managers to monitor how well the instructional goals and objectives are being met. Its main purpose is to catch deficiencies ASAP so that the proper learning interventions can take place that allows the learners to master the required skills and knowledge.

OSI can:

- Ensure that a program or program activity is feasible, appropriate, and acceptable before it is fully implemented.
- Monitor when a new program or activity is being developed or when an existing one is being adapted or modified.
- Examine whether the proposed program elements are likely to be needed, understood, and accepted by the population you want to reach.
- Examine the extent to which an evaluation is possible, based on the goals and objectives.
- Allow for modifications to be made to the plan before full implementation begins.
- Maximize the likelihood that the program will succeed.