



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.

Outcome Evaluations

Outcome evaluations, as the name implies, assess program outcomes. Outcomes can be immediate effects of a program or more distal. In general, the closer an outcome is to program outputs, the clearer the linkage between the two. That is, outcomes measured immediately after outputs are generated are less likely to be affected by outside factors that can cloud the relationship between outputs and outcomes. In addition to intended outcomes, outcome evaluations should address unintended outcomes.

OSI can:

- Measure the program goal.
- Measure how well the program goal has been achieved.
- Measure the degree to which the program is having an effect on the target population's behaviors.
- Tell whether the program is being effective in meeting its objectives.
- Help answer questions such as:
 - Has the overall program goal been achieved?
 - What, if any factors outside the program have contributed or hindered the desired change?
 - What, if any unintended change has occurred as a result of the program?
 - Are desired program outcomes obtained?
 - What, if any, unintended side effects did the program produce?

- Do outcomes differ across program approaches, components, providers, or client subgroups?