

Putting It Together

The AIHEC Indigenous Evaluation Framework is a demanding process that requires we commit to viewing evaluation as knowledge creation and grounding our practice in core values. It is an approach to telling our story that leads to learning. This learning should be celebrated and should contribute to the health of our communities. Some elements are easy to apply in an evaluation process, while others take time. As we implement the AIHEC Indigenous Evaluation Framework, we will also continue our learning about ways in which to move forward with this concept of Indigenous evaluation.

In applying the AIHEC Indigenous Evaluation Framework, it may be helpful to review the key elements and what they suggest for evaluation practice.

Ground the Evaluation in Traditional Ways of Knowing and Cultural Values

- Commit to learn from and use evaluation knowledge.
- Understand that a program fits within a context and must be understood within that context.
- Review the traditional ways of knowing and core cultural values and consider how to incorporate their principles into the evaluation.
- Consider the values or practices of your community and identify how these will be honored in the evaluation.

Creating Our Story

- Describe the story the program plans to tell by using an inclusive process.
- Diagram or draw the major relationships in the story; describe how activities are related to desired outcomes.



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- Identify assumptions that are being made about relationships between activities and outcomes.
- Develop key elements to explore as the story unfolds using questions or evaluative statements.

Building the Scaffolding

- Employ keen observation and interpretation of individual and communal experiences through the use of multiple approaches to explore the story; both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Consider ways to assess changes that the program wants to influence.

Responsive Information Gathering

- Identify the different methods that will be used to gather information.
- Consider issues of cultural and community appropriateness for each method used to gather information.
- Look for and use approaches that fit within an Indigenous value system such as authentic assessment and appreciative inquiry.

Planning, Interpreting and Celebrating

- Identify the sources of information and the schedule for collecting data.
- Construct a blueprint in the form of a table or set of tables to guide the implementation of the evaluation.
- Interpret information using appropriate analysis techniques for qualitative and quantitative data.
- Organize evaluation findings to meet the needs of multiple audiences.
- Celebrate with the community the learning from the story that is finally told.
- Use the knowledge created through the evaluation to move forward and improve services.