

What is your favorite memory from the Evaluation Institute?

Learning how to do the coding.

Helpful and insightful comments from the moderation team

Finishing our evaluation plan draft

I liked the fillable templates that were provided by the institute. Helped guide us through the process.

Working with other non profits and learning about them as well as our facilitators

I enjoyed the rubric session

Learning so much from all participants' sharing as well as facilitators. Lots of group wisdom!

feeling excited about evaluation for the first time!!

Trying out some new eval techniques with real participants



Today's memory! Getting to see all that we learned come together in these presentations.

I enjoyed the breakout sessions with our friend organizations, so to say -- especially bouncing ideas around and motivating each other.



Learning New Collection Techniques and formalizing our work plan

Sharing and learning from the peer orgs in the different breakout groups!



Our rich discussions in our small groups that helped clarify our thinking and goals

Learning new focus group methods

I loved the sharing of diverse tools and strategies and how we applied them right away.

Did the institute help with how you do evaluation? How?

The moderator's knowledge, passion and creating a caring environment were key. Thank you!

Yes. I think about evaluation from a wider lens-- more options and ways to gather info.

I think our biggest takeaway was to set clear evaluation goals and design evaluation tools around those ... previously, we just wanted to know if people liked our programs.

yes! we hadn't really thought about evaluation in our org for a long time, so just inspiring us to do some evaluation was very helpful

Yes! We are thinking about WHY we do what we do, not just numbers for grant reports

the sessions helped us consider a focus group-->survey approach to identify themes and develop survey questions

Absolutely. Provided me with a framework and practical tools to evaluate in a systematic way.

It was helpful to hear Claudia's advice relating to what we were discussing in our small group. Helpful to hear how she might look at the topic, often based on experience and expertise.

Finally understanding and applying logic models and rubrics!

emphasized the importance of why its needed

Absolutely! It helped us slow down and map out our logic model which helped to drive the development of our rubrics and evaluation questions.

An unexpected side benefit was the circular nature of the process - going through the logic model, rubric, eval process helped us hone what exactly we were trying to deliver and necessary content and activities.

Got us out of our safety box



Evaluation can be more than just surveys, it can be fun!

What other support, training, etc. do you need/would you like in order to further your evaluation practice?

Practice! So as not to forget. There was so much.

A better understanding of how to make evaluation really fit the scale of our org instead of it being aspirational.

Ways to continue developing and shares these skills in small virtual groups. And sharing whats working or not working.

Would be nice to continue support via the ECHO Lab or similar so we can keep in touch while continuing this work

Maybe more about how to connect with people who resist being vulnerable or are skeptical of our intentions during focus groups, surveys, or other methods of evaluation.

The ability to consult with the Eval Lab Team on Retainer...not sure what future needs will be

Translating eval info into beautiful graphs and reports people will read.

The coding of qualitative data was so complex and interesting - I would have liked to have more time to dive into that.

Follow up work sessions (maybe quarterly?) to keep developing tools and getting feedback.

It was great to be able to participate remotely from home/office, but I can see where certain parts would benefit from in-person collaboration and discussion. Maybe a hybrid in the future.

Yeah, I'm bummed we couldn't do the October session in-person. That would have been fun.

Data visualization would be helpful

Agree! Also, coding of nonverbal data (drawings, and other)

Offering mini-sessions without the week/year-long time commitment that I could send my colleagues to?

I need more funders to participate in these conversations and appreciate different metrics of measuring success and evaluation

If a friend asked you about the Institute, what would you say? Would you recommend it?

Already have!

monthly 4-hr zoom calls are tough, but the team planned and executed it well! Good use of interactive, breaks, and lecture. Time to work independently was KEY.

Recommended and said it was comprehensive and practical at the same time, applied knowledge.

Yes! I thought the info was presented in a logical way and I appreciated the full-year engagement b/c it kept us thinking throughout the year. Zoom made it possible w/o travel

The moderators were super professional and very caring. Great combo!



I have already been sharing the resources and lessons with friends and colleagues

Yes. Helpful to have the dedicated time and space to think and work through evaluation strategies.

I'm glad we were required to have multiple people per org participating in the lab. It was way more effective in a team.

Charla was fantastic!

Agree!



yes, very useful - I enjoyed the pace, the structure, the content

It was well worth the time investment - high quality and practical information, tools, guidance from skilled mentors and the best part - time to work on eval during the session and receive meaningful feedback from peers and mentors.

I wouldn't have been able to attend the week-long in-person training over the summer, so zoom was actually great.

I appreciated that they respected our time and participation by carefully sticking to the pre-planned agenda, and smoothly transitioning among all the moving parts.

The Virtual 9-month format once month made it possible and was just as effective and rewarding. Highly recommend!

I really appreciated the guidance of the evaluation lab trainers. Their step-by-step process of creating an evaluation plan was very effective for our organization. Now we have a usable formula to share with our teams and for evaluating all of our programs!

+1 agree!