

Resources and Collaborators

The partners of this evaluation effort include CSREES, CYFERnet collaborators, Land-grant universities, Youth At-Risk projects, State Strengthening projects, and New Communities Projects. Within this partnership, resources are available to evaluate the processes by which programs are implemented, as well as outcomes for children, youth, parents and families, and communities. The roles of the University of Arizona Evaluation Team and CYFERnet are discussed in this section.

The University of Arizona Evaluation Team

The University of Arizona, in collaboration with other evaluation partners, 1) facilitated the development of comprehensive evaluations of community-based projects, 2) revised this guide to be used as an evaluation framework by community-based projects, 3) designed and conducted an evaluation of the change in Extension's ability to serve children, youth, and families at risk--this evaluation is being conducted again in 2000, 4) works with collaborators to provide training and technical assistance, and 5) provides leadership and coordination to the CYFERnet evaluation component.

Children, Youth and Families Education and Research Network (CYFERnet: <http://www.cyfernet.org>)

The Children, Youth and Families Education and Research Network (CYFERnet) is a national network of Land Grant university faculty and county Extension educators working to support community-based educational programs for children, youth, parents and families. Through CYFERnet, partnering institutions merge resources into a "national network of expertise" working collaboratively to assist communities. CYFERnet provides program, evaluation and technology assistance for children, youth and family community-based programs. CYFERnet materials are made available through national conferences, printed publications, and electronic technology including Web sites, listservs, email, and satellite downlinks. Following is a description of the components included in CYFERnet.

CYFERnet - Program

CYFERnet's Program component provides for the review of Cooperative Extension System children, youth and family educational materials from across the country for inclusion on the CYFERnet Web site. Five separate editorial boards operate in the areas of child, community, health, parent/family, and youth. The Program component also oversees efforts to produce new training and educational materials to serve community-based children, youth and families at risk programs.

CYFERnet - Evaluation

CYFERnet's Evaluation component provides evaluation resources and support for community-based children, youth and families programs; assessments of organizational support for working with at-risk audiences; studies the use of information technology within these programs; and conducts research on program sustainability.

CYFERnet - Technology

CYFERnet's Technology component maintains the basic structure of the CYFERnet Web site, develops programming for working with youth and information technology, supports community-based program use of technology, and develops new technology-based online resources for these audiences.

Child Care - Extension Cares Initiative

The Network's goal is to share knowledge about children and child care from the vast resources of the land-grant universities with parents, professionals, practitioners, and the general public. NNCC sponsors the Kidcare child care listserv, has over 1000 reviewed publications through the Web, and publishes the Connections Newsletter that is issued four times a year for family child care, center-based care, and school-age child care. Online Resources: <http://www.nccc.org/>

National Network for Health (NNH)

NNH marshals the resources of Cooperative Extension and Land Grant University systems to promote improved health for children, youth, families, and communities. The Network reviews publications for inclusion on the Web, provides a National Database on Health Educational Resources and Materials, and assists in the development of comprehensive youth curricula products that address issues-based health programming. Online Resources: <http://www.nnh.org/>

National Outcomes

CYFAR has identified four National Outcomes to support the objective to improve the quality and quantity of comprehensive community-based programs for children, youth, and families at risk. These outcomes are as follows:

NATIONAL OUTCOME 1. CHILDREN

Children (ages 0-11 years) will have their basic physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs met. Babies will be born healthy.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 2. YOUTH

Youth (ages 12-18 years) will demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behavior necessary for fulfilling, contributing lives.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 3. PARENTS/FAMILIES

Parents will take primary responsibility for meeting their children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs and provide moral guidance and direction. Families will promote positive, productive, and contributing lives for all family members.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 4. COMMUNITIES

Communities will provide safe, secure environments for families with children.

If you are involved in the State Strengthening or New Communities Projects, your team selected both a Primary Outcome and a Secondary Outcome on which to base your evaluation.

The original purpose of the National Outcome Work Groups was to develop a set of common benchmarks and indicators that can be used by individual community-based projects to assess short-term and long-term program outcomes. This collection of information and instruments is accessible to all community-based projects and includes:

- ◆ menu of indicators;
- ◆ research base and supporting literature;
- ◆ recommended measures, methods and designs;
- ◆ criteria to select measures and designs; and
- ◆ analysis and reporting templates.

This information is disseminated on the web at <http://www.cyfernet.org> after it has been reviewed.