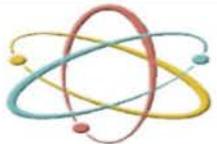


# Enhancing Evaluative Inquiry

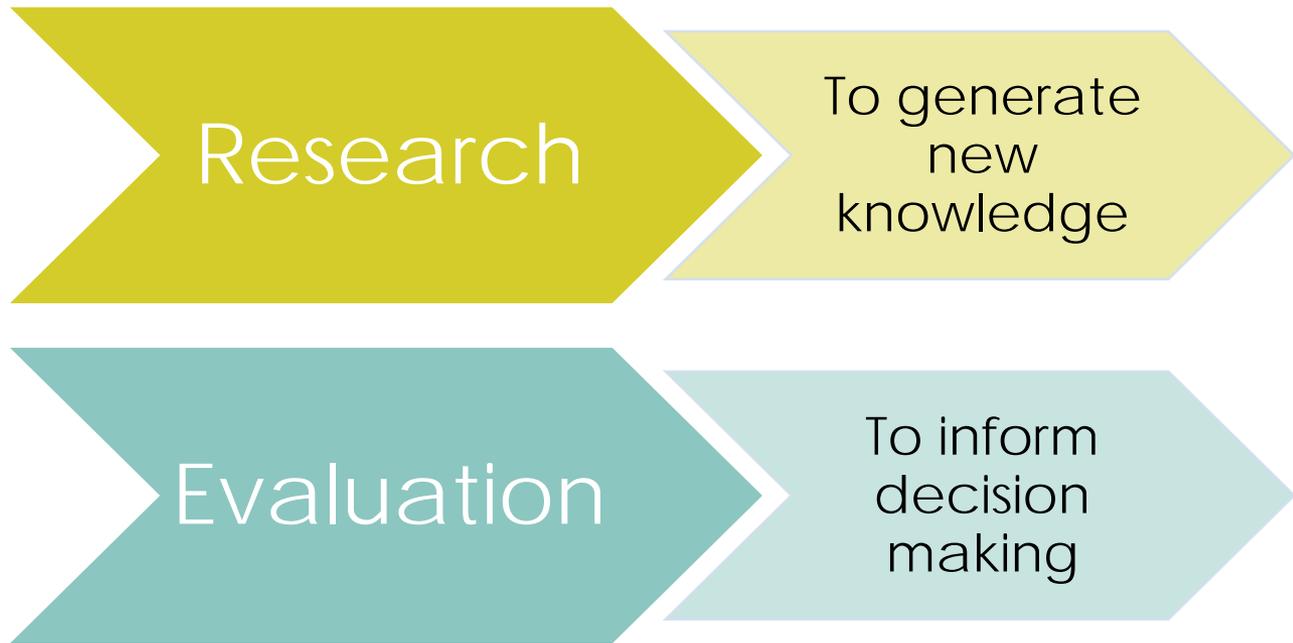
EPSCoR Project Directors &  
Administrators Meeting

May 17, 2016



**OFFICE OF INTEGRATIVE ACTIVITIES (OIA)**  
INTEGRATIVE ACTIVITIES      EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT CAPABILITIES      EPSCoR

# Research vs Evaluation?



Both foster learning and share methods.  
They ask different questions.

# Why do evaluation?

- ***To gain insight about a project and its operations*** – To learn how it is evolving and to establish what we can learn about how the project works
- ***To improve practice*** – to modify or adapt practice to enhance the success of activities
- ***To assess effects*** – to understand the direction of the changes attributable to the project and assess progress
- ***To build capacity*** - calibrate funding, enhance skills, strengthen accountability

as researchers

# Pls<sup>^</sup> already know how to:

- Get inquiry started, build a team
- Determine information priorities/purpose
- Pose questions, collect data
- Assess information quality and utility
- Manage resources for value
- Use feedback to inform decisions

*The goal is to become savvy evaluation consumers, not evaluators*

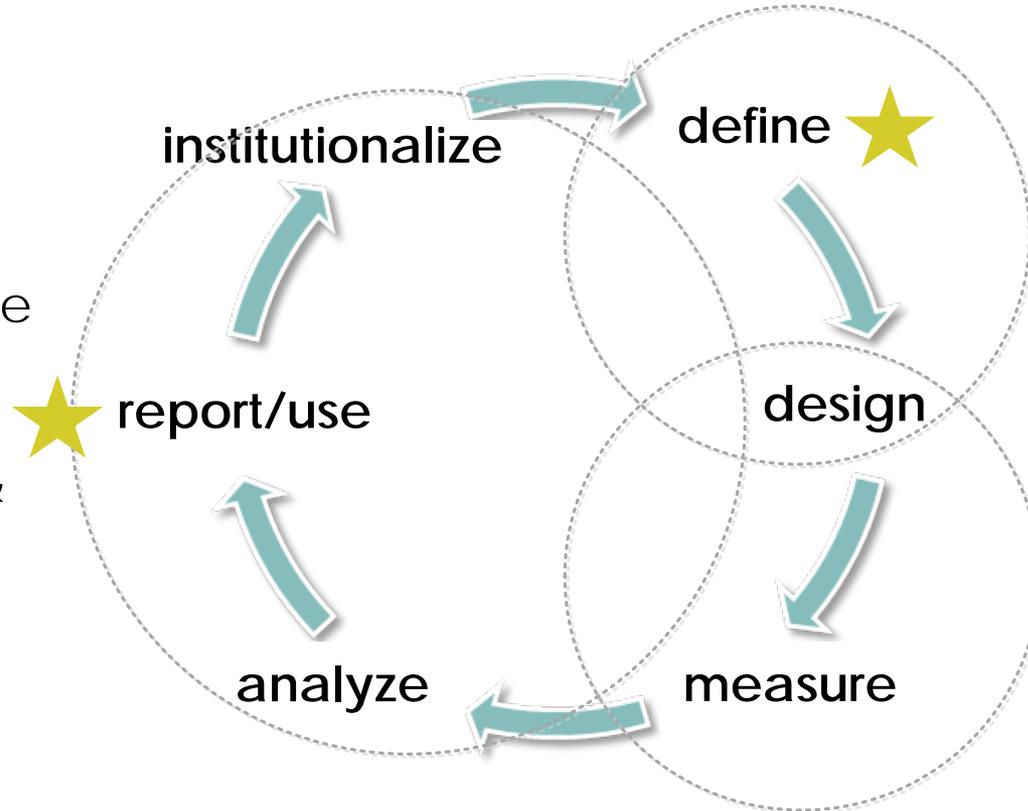
# Evaluative Inquiry Process

criteria for what constitutes evidence

1

3

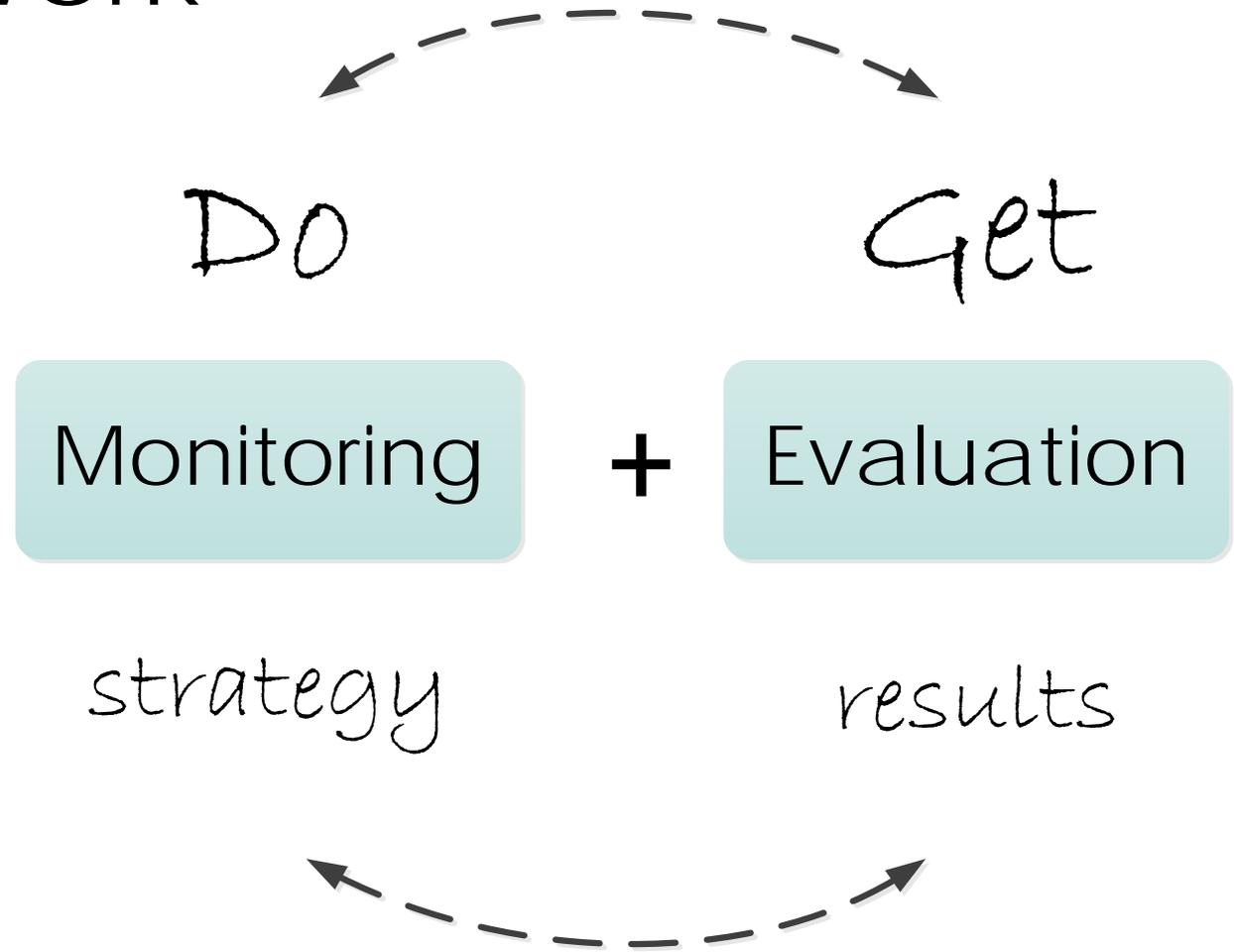
how evidence can be analyzed, synthesized & used



2

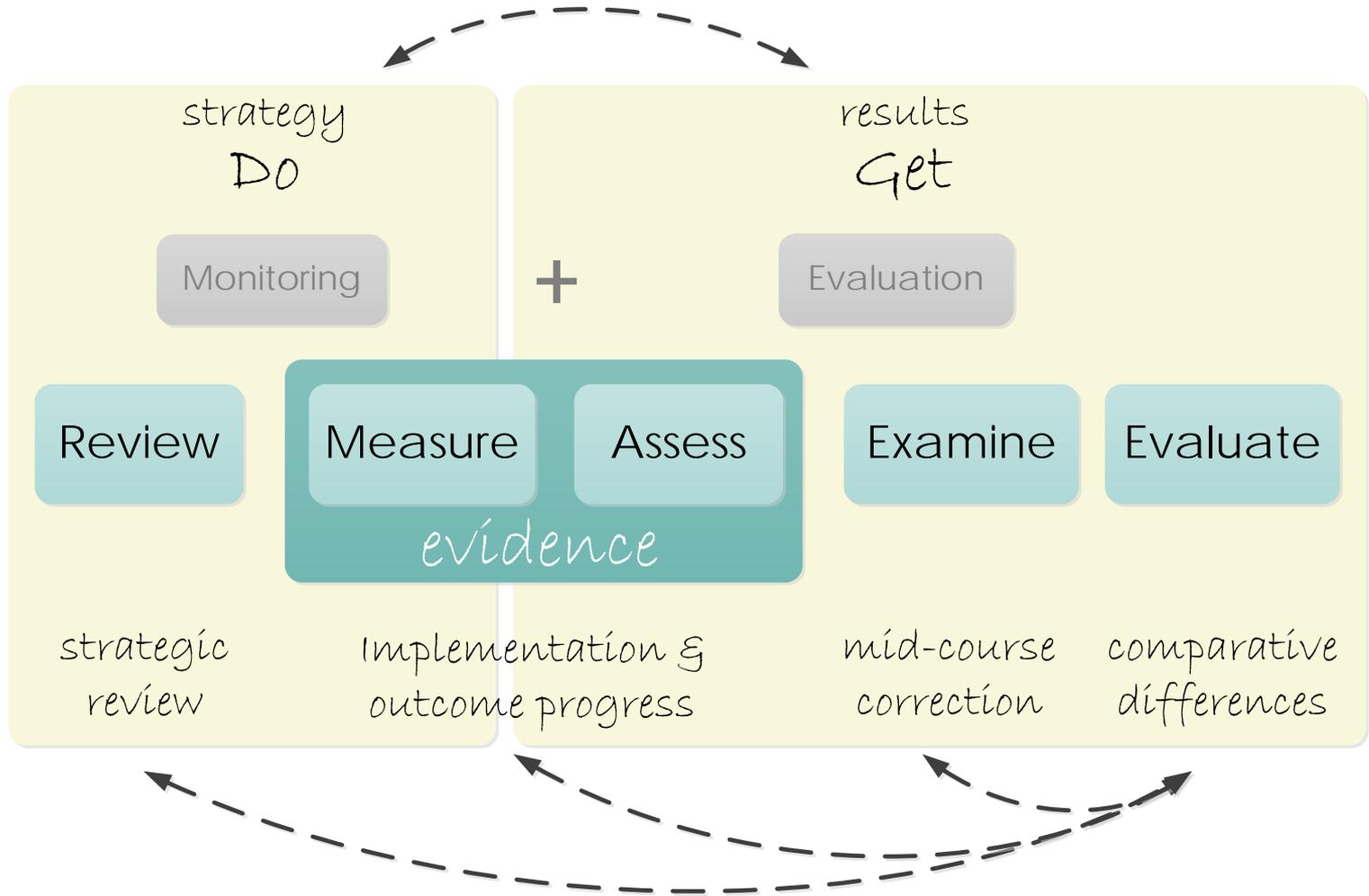
processes & methods for obtaining evidence

# Framework



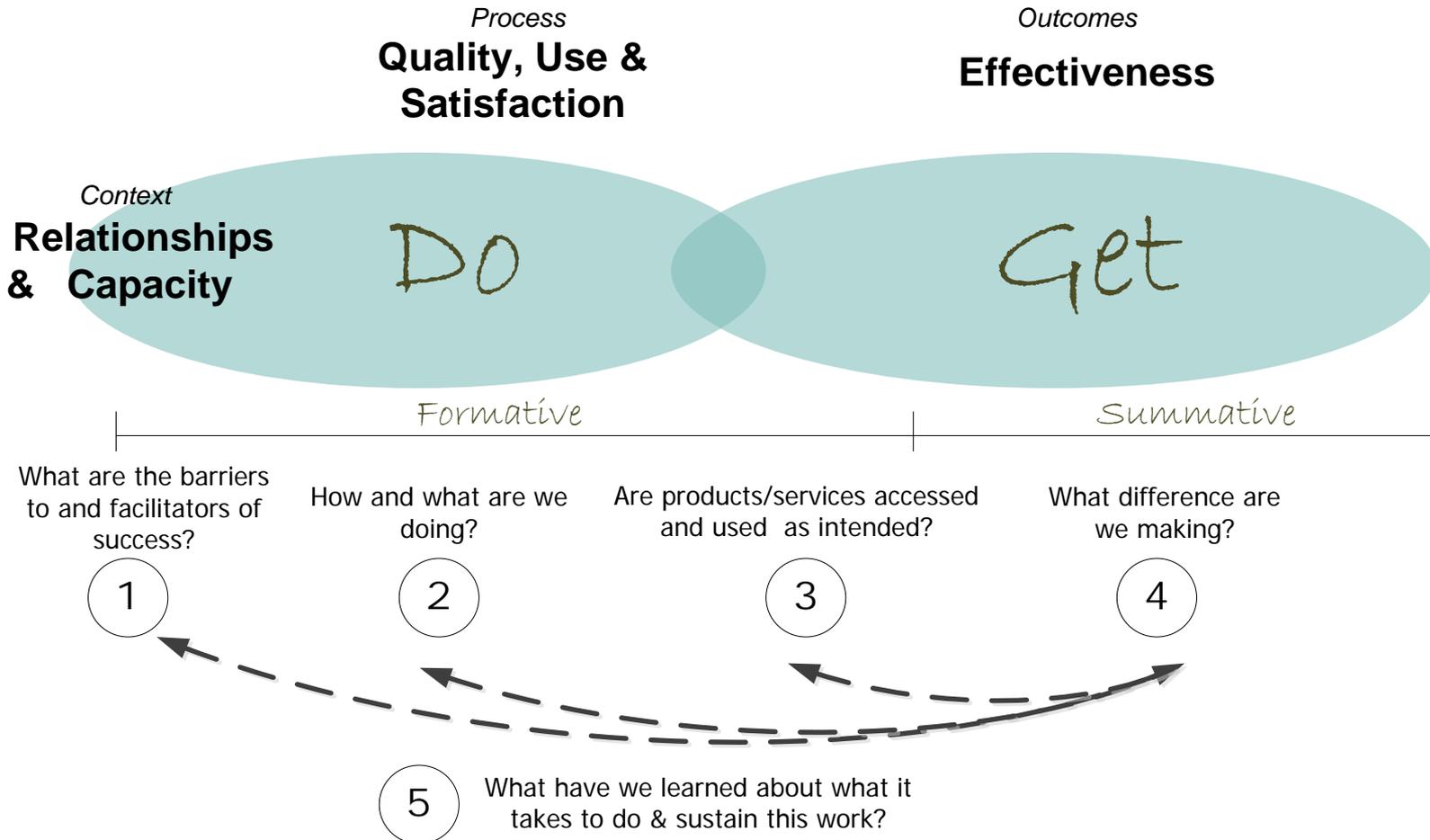
The framework should address both process and outcomes

# Information Needs



What purposes should an evaluation serve?

# Types of Evaluation Questions



# Question Examples

Audience	Typical Questions	Evaluation Use
Pls & Staff	<p>What are we doing?</p> <p>Are our participants satisfied with our efforts?</p> <p>Is the project being run efficiently?</p> <p>How can we improve our project?</p>	<p>Day-to-day operational decisions</p> <p>Indication of utility and feasibility of strategies</p>
Participants	<p>Did the project help me and people like me?</p> <p>What would improve the program next time?</p>	<p>Decisions about continuing participation</p>
Affiliates/Partners	<p>Is the project aligned with our goals?</p> <p>What is the project accomplishing?</p>	<p>Decisions about participation and support</p>
Policymakers & Influentials	<p>Who is the project serving?</p> <p>What difference has the project made?</p> <p>Is the project reaching its target audiences &amp; institutions?</p> <p>What do participants and the field think about the project?</p> <p>Is the project worth the cost?</p>	<p>Decisions about commitment and support</p> <p>Knowledge about value of effort</p>
Funders	<p>Is what was promised being achieved?</p> <p>Is the project working?</p>	<p>Accountability and improvement</p>

# PI Roles in Evaluation

1. Engage internal and/or external evaluator
2. Involve the team
3. Agree on what success looks like
4. Formulate evaluation questions
5. Agree on what evidence is needed to demonstrate success and/or change practice
6. Interpret and use results to manage and improve the project

# Methods

## Primary

- Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Observation
- Surveys

## Secondary

- Databases
- Financial Records
- Implementation Logs
- Web Statistics
- Bibliometrics

*Use methods appropriate for the evaluation questions and design*

# Evaluation Plan Template

Primary

Secondary

ID		Interview	Survey	Financial Records	Bibliometrics
1	What barriers and facilitators have influenced project success?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
2	What are the project's main accomplishments?				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Are products/services accessed and used as intended?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
4a	What difference has the project made? Individuals, institutions, jurisdiction?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4b	What difference has the project made for broader audiences?				
5	What has been learned about what it takes to do and sustain this work?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

*Collect, Connect and use evidence to address the questions*

# Evaluation Use

Data → Information → Knowledge → Wisdom



```
graph LR; Data --> Information; Information --> Knowledge; Knowledge --> Wisdom;
```

# Small Group Assignment, Part I

What are the things the \_\_\_\_\_ does in your jurisdiction to promote evaluation use?

- PI
- Team
- Evaluator

*Take 10-12 minutes to discuss & be prepared to summarize/report-out*