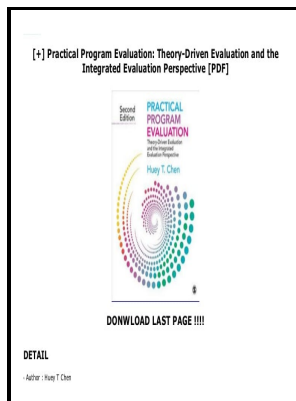


# Using program theory in evaluation

## Jossey-Bass - BetterEvaluation FAQ: How do you use program theory for evaluating systems?



Description: -

- Social surveys

Evaluation research (Social action programs) -- United States Using program theory in evaluation

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### Research Methods

Does it still make sense? Empowerment Evaluation Theory David Fetterman, PhD, developed Empowerment Evaluation as an approach to foster program improvement through empowerment and self-determination Fetterman, 2012. Evaluation Review, 21 4 , 501—524. Evaluation and Program Planning, 31 3 , 231—240.

### Program Theory and Quality Matter: Changing the Course of Extension Program Evaluation

The latter allows for a contribution analysis based on the interconnected theories of change.

### BetterEvaluation FAQ: How do you use program theory for evaluating systems?

In Oregon, for example, the 4-H program is working with the Weikert Center for Youth Program Quality to train educators on program quality measurement. For more information on the similarities and differences in theory-based approaches, readers can consult Blamey and Mackenzie 2007 or Stame 2004. Implicit in this line of thinking is that the measurement of the stated outcomes automatically provides valid evidence of a program's impact, whether or not there is any theoretical connection between the program's activities and the outcomes and regardless of the quality of the program's implementation.

### Research Methods

On the right-hand side of the figure, there are four causal link boxes, representing the basic theory of change.

### Program Theory and Quality Matter: Changing the Course of Extension Program Evaluation

Theory-driven evaluations: Need, difficulties and options. This shift in evaluation focus has implications for other Extension program areas as well. Horizontal initiatives thus require significant governance and coordination of activities, including program management and performance measurement.

## **Research Methods**

Any weaknesses point to areas where additional data or information would be useful. Similar to the policy evaluation case, a theory-based approach to evaluating a horizontal initiative may focus on the overarching intervention theory i.

## **Program Evaluation Guide**

To begin, it must be possible to identify the participants in a particular program from among the larger student body, and then to link participation status to information on individual outcome measures, such as retention, and to determinative characteristics, such as high school grade point averages and SAT scores.

## **Chapter 7: Program Evaluation**

In addition to the rights of human subjects that are the concern of institutional review boards, propriety standards promote a service orientation i.

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