Building Evidence into Agency Management Processes

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What is ACL?

- **WHAT:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) created the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2012 to increase access to community supports, while focusing attention and resources on the unique needs of older Americans and people with disabilities across the lifespan.

- **WHY:** All Americans—including people with disabilities and older adults—should be able to live at home with the supports they need, participating in communities that value their contributions.

- **HOW:** ACL brings together the Administration on Aging, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and the HHS Office on Disability.

[https://www.acl.gov/about-acl](https://www.acl.gov/about-acl)
Where Do Performance and Evaluation Sit?
“People change what they do less because they are given analysis that shifts their thinking than because they are shown a truth that influences their feelings.”
John Kotter 2002
Center for Policy and Evaluation

- Policy Review of ACL Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

ACL’s Mission
Maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities, and their families and caregivers.

ACL’s Vision
ACL’s vision is that all people, regardless of age and disability, live with dignity, make their own choices, and participate fully in society.
- Goal 1: Advocacy
  Advocate to ensure the interests of people with disabilities, older adults, and their families are reflected in the design and implementation of public policies and programs.
- Goal 2: Protect Rights and Prevent Abuse
  Protect and enhance the rights; and prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults and people with disabilities.
- Goal 3: Individual Self-Determination & Control
  Work with older adults and people with disabilities as they fully engage and participate in their communities, make informed decisions, and exercise self-determination and control about their independence, well-being, and health.
- Goal 4: Long-Term Services and Supports
  Enable people with disabilities and older adults to live in the community through the availability of and access to high-quality long-term services and supports, including supports for families and caregivers.

Policy Review of ACL Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)
Based on mission, vision, and goals of ACL, here are six questions that the policy review team will use as a guide in reviewing FOAs. These questions will be applied only when appropriate as we recognize statutory, regulatory, and funding restrictions within which ACL programs operate.

Inclusiveness
I. Does the FOA address the needs of older adults, persons of any age with a disability, and their families?

Person-centeredness/Self-direction
II. Does the FOA promote choice and control for older adults and persons of any age with a disability?

Community Living
III. Does the FOA promote community integration and community living for older adults, persons of any age with a disability, and their families?

Quality
IV. Does the FOA promote evidence-based, high-quality services and systems?

Sustainability
V. Does the FOA require grantees or contractors to use their learnings to develop a business case, and sustainability and dissemination plans for successful programs and services?

Individual Rights
VI. Does the FOA advance the rights of older adults and persons of any age with a disability?
Office of Performance and Evaluation

- Use of Logic Models
- Cross-functional Teams
- Posting about performance/evaluation in the workspace
- Training for ACL staff
- Friends of Data

“Friends of Data are people who use data in their everyday work, use data for decision-making, and ask for help with data if they need it.”
Summary

• Infuse performance and evaluation whenever possible
• Make performance and evaluation accessible
• Show staff the concrete benefits of performance and evaluation to their programs and themselves

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