Documenting Outputs and Outcomes: Tracking EPSCoR Impacts on Research Capacity

Dr. Jennifer M. Schopf
Program Officer
OD/OIA/EPSCoR
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Think Bigger

We seek solutions.

We don't seek—

dare I say this?—

just scientific papers anymore.

Steven Chu
Nobel Laureate
US Secretary of Energy

UC Berkeley energy conference, March 2007
Outputs and Outcomes

• Consequences and effects of receiving the awards

• End results and products
  – Publications, course dev’t, graduated students
  – Additional students in STEM pipeline
  – Educating the public to identify invasive species
  – Creating tools for use by policy makers

• Try to be creative and think about the bigger picture
What is Impact?

• Consequence, effect, impression, influence, reaction, repercussion, result, significance, thrust, weight

• More than just a head count or publication list

• This should answer
  – so what
  – what difference does this make
  – what will change now that that occurred
  – how will this extend beyond the project participants
How do we use this information

• Communication to rest of NSF and NSB
• Responses to questions from Congress, OSTP, and others
  – EICC reporting
• Longitudinal study of awards
All Reports

• Succinct, and to the point
• Only talk about this reporting cycle
  – Annual report full 12 months
  – Final report can include some overview as well
• Written so that anyone in the project can understand
• Address any PTCs and reviewer concerns (incl rsv)
• Discuss strategic plans (if appropriate)
  – And results of any evaluation in the last year
• Discuss succession/transition planning
Track-1 Reporting Templates

- Updated for January 2011
  - Increased notes, explanations, examples
- Think about the cross links
  - Example 1:
    - Template A reports salary including other grants
    - Template E reports outputs, including external funding
  - Example 2:
    - Template E lists publication numbers
    - Report includes a list of publications
Track-1 Templates: Who’s Who

- FastLane List
- Table A – Salary Support
- Table B – Participants
- Table C - Collaborations
- Table D - External Engagement
Other Reporting Guidelines

• Track-2
  – Be sure to address both overall project goals as well as your jurisdiction specific work

• C2
  – Be sure to address all award facets in addition to the networking ones
Obligated Funds

• **Obligated Funds** have a contract or purchase order in place
  – Eg faculty salary, or equipment with a PO out
  – We do not use the word "encumbered" – each institution defines this differently

• If you expect to have more than 20% of your funds unobligated at the end of the reporting period **for any award** you must submit spending plan and timeline for the expenditure of those funds, including details of how the money will be spent

• At the end of the reporting period, if there are more than 20% of the funds left unobligated
  – SRO must prepare a request for carryover, including timeline
  – Requires NSF EPSCoR approval
  – It is not automatic
Timing

• Annual reports are due 90 days before the award date anniversary
• Final reports are due on the project anniversary, and overdue 90 days after
Overall- Think Impact

• We had a meeting on date.
  – We had 150 people meet to discuss X, which has resulted in Y collaborations and Z differences to the project
  – Stakeholders from A and B weighed in on project objectives, and because of this, we have altered our timelines to make sure we address C in the next year

• 10 students participated in summer REUs
  – X students changed to STEM majors
  – Y students decided to go to grad school
  – Z students continued work during the year

• Think about significant results
Questions?

• Jennifer Schopf
• jms@nsf.gov