



Implementing Capacity Building in My Organization/Program Panel Session & Table Discussions

A Definition of Evaluation Capacity Building (ECB):

“Evaluation capacity building involves the design and implementation of teaching and learning strategies to **help individuals, groups, and organizations, learn about what constitutes effective, useful, and professional evaluation practice**. The ultimate goal of evaluation capacity building is sustainable evaluation practice—where [a group or organization’s] members continuously ask questions that matter, collect, analyze, and interpret data, and use evaluation findings for decision-making and action.”¹

It is assumed that:

- ECB helps organizations see the importance of evaluation in the short and long term.
- If organizations implement good evaluations, they will get the most out of their projects.

Instructions for Table Activity

1) Discuss evaluation capacity building (ECB), using the following questions to help guide the discussion:

- Is your organization/program currently implementing ECB? If yes, how?
- How might you or your organization/program benefit from ECB?
- In what ways is your organization/program ready for ECB?
- What would be the major challenges of implementing ECB in your organization/program? How would you overcome these challenges?

2) After your table discussion, write down one question or issue that you would like the panelists to answer or address.

ECB Resources →

¹ Preskill, H. & Boyle, S. (2008). A conceptual model of evaluation capacity building: A multidisciplinary perspective. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 29 (4), 443-459. Emphasis added.



ECB Resources

Field Guide to Consulting and Organizational Development with Nonprofits: Common Types of Capacity Building, Authenticity Consulting LLC

<http://www.managementhelp.org/misc/np-capacity-building-types.pdf>

Building Capacity in Nonprofit Organizations, Carol J. De Vita and Cory Fleming (Eds.), Urban Institute Press

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/building_capacity.PDF

Capacity Building: Beware the Easy Fix, Pablo Eisenberg, The Nonprofit Quarterly

http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/index.php?option=com_magazine&func=show_edition&id=29&Itemid=106

(email evensens@prel.org for PDF copy)

Echoes from the Field: Proven Capacity Building Principles for Nonprofits, Impact Alliance

http://www.impactalliance.org/ev02.php?ID=19879_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC

Effective Capacity Building in Nonprofit Organizations, McKinsey & Company

<http://www.vppartners.org/learning/reports/capacity/assessment.pdf>

Helping Nonprofits Help Themselves: Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation Funds Organizational Development, Family Matters Spring 2002 Volume 7 Number 2 newsletter:

<http://www.cof.org/files/Documents/Newsletters/FamilyMatters/fmspring02.pdf>

Lessons from the Street: Capacity Building and Replication, The Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation

http://www.eisenhowerfoundation.org/aboutus/publications/lessons_intro.html

Building Evaluation Capacity, FSG Social Impact Advisors

http://fsg-impact.org/advice/Strategic_Evaluation/Building_Evaluation_Capacity.html