

IMPACT ASSESSMENT



- Understand what changed because of your work
 - Demonstrate value to funders, partners, and the community
 - Improve programs through evidence-based decisions
- Keep it simple: focus on learning and accountability, not perfection.

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DEFINE THE IMPACT	IDENTIFY CORE ACTIVITIES	CHOOSE SIMPLE OUTCOMES
<p><i>Start with clarity.</i> Key Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are we serving? • What problem are we addressing? • What change do we expect to see? <p>Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We serve youth ages 12-18 • Problem: lack of academic support • Expected change: improved school attendance and confidence 	<p><i>Briefly list what you do that contributes to change.</i></p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops or classes • Direct services (food, mentoring, housing support) • Advocacy or community outreach <p><i>Limit this to 3-5 core activities.</i></p> <p>www.liftdesigners.com</p>	<p><i>Outcomes describe changes, not just actions.</i> Short-Term Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge • Improved skills • Greater access to resources <p>Long-Term Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved well-being • Increased stability or independence • Community-level improvement <p><i>Focus on 1-3 outcomes per program.</i></p>
SELECT PRACTICAL INDICATORS	COLLECT DATA	REVIEW AND LEARN
<p><i>Indicators show whether change is happening.</i> Good indicators are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to track • Meaningful • Affordable <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of participants completing the program • Pre/post survey scores • Attendance or retention rates 	<p><i>Use methods that fit your capacity.</i> Common Low-Cost Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign-in sheets • Short surveys (paper or online) • Brief interviews or testimonials • Staff observations <p>Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing (during program) • End of program • Annual summary 	<p><i>Set aside time to reflect.</i> Ask</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What worked well? • What didn't? • What surprised us? • What should we change next time? <p><i>Learning is as important as reporting.</i></p>

SHARE THE IMPACT

Audiences

- Board
- Funders
- Community
- Participants

Formats

- One-page impact summary
- Annual report
- Website or newsletter
- Grant reports

Include:

- Key numbers
- Short stories or quotes
- Clear outcomes

KEEP IT SUSTAINABLE

- Start small and build over time
- Reuse tools and questions
- Align impact tracking with reporting requirements

A simple system you actually use is better than a perfect one you don't.

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