MISSION

Provide participatory, utilization-focused evaluation to programs serving children, youth, and families in poverty.
STEPs is a leader in conducting evaluations of programs serving children, youth, and families in poverty.

STEPs uses a participatory, utilization-focused approach to all of its work. “Participatory” means that the evaluation team works collaboratively with program stakeholders in all evaluation activities, including planning and implementation. “Utilization-focused” means that all evaluation activities, from beginning to end, are conducted with an eye toward usefulness for the program. Additionally, STEPs makes extensive use of data visualization and infographics to make reports accessible and understandable to stakeholders, which is essential for evidence-informed practice.

STEPs is a community engaged program, that is part of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work. Located in the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, STEPs is interdisciplinary and employs full and part-time staff, including graduate students, faculty and alumni.

Here’s what some of our community partners are saying:

“...It has been great working with STEP. The staff are knowledgeable about program evaluation and are helpful in addressing our program’s needs and timeline.”

“The STEP team is very engaging and easy to work with... They made the program evaluation process easy and comfortable.”

ACTIVITIES

- Needs Assessments
- Process (operations) Evaluations
- Outcome (impact) Evaluations
- Social Return on Investment and Cost-benefit Analyses
- Evaluation Capacity-building Trainings

VALUES

- Social Work Principles
- High Quality Work
- Relationships
- Collaboration
- Empowerment
- Transparency
- Interdisciplinary

Programs positioned to make evidence-informed decisions about fulfilling their mission.

Recommendations

Analysis of existing data

Quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis