Evaluating Shared Use: CDC’s Joint Use Agreement (JUA) Evaluability Assessments

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Identify innovative policies and strategies related to Shared Use within and beyond the school setting.

2. Identify policies and strategies determined to be highly promising for rigorous evaluation and replication.

3. Understand the concept of Open Use in both the school and faith-based environment, and identify strategies for overcoming potential barriers to the adoption of an Open Use Policy.
WHAT IS AN EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT?

- A process for evaluators to work with program managers to help them get ready for evaluation.

- A method for determining:
  - The extent to which a program is ready for evaluation
  - The changes that are needed to increase readiness
  - The type of evaluation approach most suitable to judge a program or policies performance

Source: Patton, Utilization Focused Evaluation, 1997
THE SYSTEMATIC SCREENING ASSESSMENT (SSA) METHODOLOGY

1. Selecting priority topics for assessment
2. Conducting a broad-based scan and nomination process to solicit innovations that address these priority topics
3. Using an expert panel of researchers and content experts to select promising innovations suitable for an EA
4. Conducting EAs of those that pass the expert panel screen
5. Engaging an expert panel to review the results of the EAs
6. Identifying those innovations that are most promising and ready for a rigorous evaluation

2012 EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENTS

• Statewide:
  - Arkansas Statewide Joint Use Agreement (JUA) Grant Program
    - Little Rock, Arkansas

• County-level:
  - Fairfax County, Joint Use Initiative (JUI)
    - Fairfax County, VA
  - Joint Use Moving People to Play (JUMPP)
    - Los Angeles, California

• Community-level:
  - Earlimart Neighborhood Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
    - Earlimart, California
  - Kingsbury, Joint Use Agreement for Swimming Pool
    - Kingsbury, NY
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUA RATING CRITERIA</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Potential Impact</td>
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<td>2. Reach to Target Population</td>
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<td>3. Acceptability to Stakeholders</td>
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<td>4. Feasibility of Implementation</td>
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<td>5. Feasibility of Adoption</td>
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<td>6. Transportability/Generalizability</td>
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<td>7. Initiative Sustainability</td>
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<td>8. Sustainability of Health Effect</td>
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<td>9. Staff/Organizational Capacity</td>
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<td>10. Overall Recommendation</td>
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JUA INITIATIVES RATINGS FOR RIGOROUS EVALUATION

Source: Pre-Evaluation Assessment of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Programs and Policies: Expert Panel 2 Summary Report
ARKANSAS STATEWIDE JOINT-USE AGREEMENT (JUA) GRANT PROGRAM

- **Level**: State-wide

- **Key Partners**: The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI)

- **Program Description**: Competitive statewide JUA grant program (awards $10,000 to eligible JUA programs)
  - Funds primary and secondary schools to increase opportunities for physical activity to improve community health and education outcomes
  - Promote the development and implementation of joint use policy and relationships between school and community entities
ARKANSAS CONSIDERATIONS: EVALUATION QUESTIONS

• What is the neighborhood context?

• What types of equipment and facilities are made available to the community?

• How has the existence of JUAs increased access to physical activity for community members and increased physical activity levels of community members?

• Are there environmental factors that may inhibit the community’s engagement in joint-use related activities?

• How has the program affected facility use?
ARKANSAS EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS: DATA COLLECTION

- Total number of agreements
- Pre/post physical activity levels
- Number of JUA sites
- Types of JUAs
- Number of users
- Demographics of users
- Types of use
- Total cost of the program
- Change in court filings
  - Liability issues and accounted maintenance costs
EARLIMART NEIGHBORHOOD
JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA)

- **Level:** Community-based

- **Key Partners:** Earlimart Town’s school board, town council, and community members to pursue a formalized partnership with the county

- **Program Description:** Community received a CalTrans grant which led to a JPA (between the Earlimart School District [ESD] and the County of Tulare) to build a park.
  - During school hours, the school will have exclusive access to 2/3 of the park (a gated space).
  - The community will have access to the remaining 1/3 of the park during school hours and will have full access to the entire park during non-school hours and on holidays and weekends.
EARLIMART CONSIDERATIONS: EVALUATION QUESTIONS

• Qualitative evaluation of the process of keeping the undeserved community engaged in the building of the park for 50 years, examining the following:
  ▪ Lessons learned about the initiative’s champion
  ▪ How the initiative progresses toward getting the park built

• Use this JUA as a case study for underserved communities with a large immigrant population
EARLIMART CONSIDERATIONS: DATA COLLECTION

- Follow-up Community Survey
- Focus groups (community members)
- Park usage
  - Number of users
  - Demographics of users
  - Types of events
- Community health status
- Changes to physical environment
- Additional funds leveraged
SUSTAINING JUAs: What we learned

1. **Buy-in:** Buy-in at all levels (district and school)

2. **Communication:** A common understanding of JUAs and language between entities involved

3. **Awareness:** Communication to the public about their ability to access facilities

4. **Needs assessment:** Use to identify which programs to implement at which sites and which to provide with environmental changes

5. **Funding:** Incentives may be needed for some sites with less buy-in