The Uses of Research in Policy & Practice

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Overview

1. Why study the uses of research?
2. Conceptual framework
3. Early findings & lessons
William T. Grant Foundation

Supporting Research to Improve the Lives of Youth

to inform policy and practice
Research to Practice

- Improve Quality of Research
- Improve Communication, Dissemination, Marketing
- Increase Adoption of Evidence-based Programs
User Perspectives
DEFINING & INTERPRETING RESEARCH
What is an evidence-based practice?

Practices that:

• Have been studied
• Have been applied to different populations
• Come with extensive training manuals or curricula
• Have been around for a long time
• Have been monitored and tracked carefully
• Require rigorous training and fidelity to curriculum
• Have published outcome data
• Are found on lists of EBPs
• Change a client’s behavior and way of thinking
• Have been supported by own studies and already implemented

Palinkas
How do they evaluate research?

- “Local” research
- Implementation

Palinkas
Trust & Credibility

“You know, you can find research to support anything. The problems we have in our society today.... People are now using research to say that all the problems are the teacher, and if you can correct the teacher, all our problems go away, which is ridiculous.... The point is research can be slanted to support many different viewpoints. It doesn’t mean it’s correct.”

Daly & Finnigan
“At the end of the day, you’re both going to be able to find studies that counter the other ones.”
ACQUIRING RESEARCH
Relationships

Peers

Intermediaries
USING RESEARCH

- Instrumental
- Conceptual
- Imposed
- Political
- Process
Early Lessons

- Understand your users
- Relationships
- Interpretation
- Uses are varied
Featured Grant

Major Update to Optimal Design Software

We are pleased to announce an important new tool for researchers and funders who commission evaluation studies. Optimal Design with Empirical Information (OD+) is a major extension of the original Optimal Design software; it was created by Professor Stephen Raudenbush, Dr. Howard Bloom, and their colleagues, using a grant from the Foundation.

Learn More ➔

Funding Opportunities

Upcoming Deadline for Research Grants

Letters of inquiry for our funding opportunities for research grants are due on April 3, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. EST. We are accepting proposals for both our investigator-initiated grants and the RFP for Understanding the Acquisition, Interpretation, and Use of Research Evidence in Policy and Practice.

Learn about Investigator-Initiated Grants ➔
Learn about the RFP ➔
Other


Suggested Resource
