

# Process For Development Of Illinois Evaluation Framework

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# Development of Framework: What We Said in Our Proposal

- EE evaluation frameworks can vary enormously in scope and degree of formality.
- Add process issues (e.g., roles, schedules, planning process) to the list of technical and policy components listed in the RFP.
- Don't try to develop the entire framework, or even the majority of it, before evaluation contractors are on board.
  - Don't want to delay contractor RFPs.
  - Eval contractors should be an important resource for technical components of framework.
  - Important to allow time for understanding and consensus

# Development of Framework: What We Said in Our Proposal

- Focus initial efforts on three sets of high-priority components:
  - Fundamental guiding principles, such as those driving allocation of resources and measurement of performance relative to legislatively mandated goals.
  - Process-related issues, such as evaluation planning process.
  - Components valuable to pin down before contractors are on board, such as contents and format of workplans.

# Development of Framework: What We Said in Our Proposal

- Put the following components on a somewhat slower track:
  - Type and depth of evaluation appropriate for each program type
  - Schedule for eval activities
  - Approaches to deeming parameter values
  - Methods for estimating net-to-gross ratios (NTGRs)
  - Precision requirements
  - Contents and format of evaluation reports

# Development of Framework: Additional Recommendations

- Emphasize incremental consensus building over the immediate construction of complex systems
- Learn by doing
- At least for now, veer toward the informal side of the continuum.
- View the framework as an ongoing process that will continue as Illinois gains experience with evaluation.
- For now, aim not for a single written document, but a series of pieces documenting what is recommended and agreed upon. Perhaps synthesize into a single document later.

# Development of Framework: Role of SAG Consultants and Eval Contractors

- In developing framework, basic role of SAG Consultants should be to advance general principles, and Eval Contractors to apply principles to specific cases.
- However:
  - Nature of RFPs ensures that winning contractor proposals will contain significant content bearing on framework components.
  - Because contractor positions on these issues will have informed their cost proposals, contractors may be reluctant to change.
  - Many of the framework components are issues that contractors are used to working directly with their clients to resolve.
- Therefore:
  - Development of technical components of framework and of contractor workplans need to proceed on parallel, linked tracks
  - SAG consultants will need to work collaboratively with evaluation contractors and utilities, reporting back to SAG
  - Some of what we do will need to be reactive (e.g., review winning proposals for approach to framework issues)
  - Further clarification of roles may be needed over time

# Development of Framework: Assumptions

- Both utilities' RFPs call for eval contractors to be on board in November
- Work on high-priority components until then
- Based on our experience, anticipate that initial evaluation planning might take roughly four months once contractors on board
- During that time, work collaboratively with eval contractors on remaining components, reporting back to SAG on:
  - Our initial recommendations
  - Reactions to contractor and utility proposals
  - What is agreed upon
  - Any unresolved issues at the end of the process
- See accompanying table for proposed detailed process