



The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

Frequently Asked Questions

FY 2011-2012

Evidence Based/Evidence Informed Programs and Practices

August 2011

1. Why did The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. Board define evidence-based/ evidence-informed (EB/EI) programs and practices?

The 2011 legislation passed by the NC General Assembly includes direction for evidenced-based or evidence-informed (EB/EI) programming in Sections 10.5(k) and 10.5(m). Please see the legislation or Resources document on Smart Net for exact wording.

- *Smart Net>Legislative & Advocacy>Legislation>Smart Start Legislation>2011 Smart Start Legislation*
- *Smart Net>Program & Evaluation>Evidence-Based or Evidence-Informed Information>Resources*

After seeking and receiving input from many sources, on 7/26/11 the NCPC Board passed the following definitions:

Evidence-based programs or practices are those that have repeatedly and consistently demonstrated desirable outcomes through application of scientific research methods (replicated experimental, experimental, quasi experimental).

An evidence-informed practice is one that is guided by child development theory, practitioner wisdom, qualitative studies and findings from basic research and has written guidelines, a strong logic model, and a history of demonstrating positive results. They may be rated “Promising” or “Emerging” by at least one source that rates evidence-based programs.

2. Why do local partnerships (LPs) have to review previously approved activities to ensure that they are meeting the evidence-based or evidence-informed definitions?

Partnership activities were submitted and approved prior to legislation being passed so it is important for LPs to review activities through the EB/EI lens.

3. During the ED webcast on July 29, 2011, LPs were told they should “examine each of our currently approved activities through the lens of the EB/EI definitions.” Are there any written guidelines available?

In response to several requests, we developed a checklist template and resources documents which are on Smart Net and were emailed to Executive Directors. Smart Net>Program & Evaluation>Evidence-Based & Evidence-Informed Information>Guidance.

4. Will NCPC offer any training or technical assistance for LPs to help us review our activities to comply with the EB/EI definitions?

NCPC Program Specialists are available for technical assistance by phone. Also, the Specialists plan to facilitate a future webinar on EB/EI programs and practices. In the meantime, please feel free to contact any of the program specialists to discuss your partnership's review process:

- Ann Ward (award@ncsmartstart.org) 919-821-9556
- Cynthia Turner (cturner@ncsmartstart.org) 919-821-9565
- Gale Wilson (gwilson@ncsmartstart.org) 919-821-9563
- Lois Slade, Manager (lslade@ncsmartstart.org) 919-821-9577

5. Is there an official “EB/EI list” that identifies Smart Start funded activities that are meeting the EB/EI definitions?

No, there is no adopted/approved EB/EI list. Early in the process, NCPC's Planning and Oversight (P&O) Committee reviewed a list that was drafted by NCPC staff; however, it was never adopted by the Board. The definition adopted by the NCPC Board allows for flexibility and LPs are not limited to any specific list of activities.

6. Since there is no adopted/approved EB/EI list, who makes the final decision as to whether an activity meets the EB/EI decision?

It is the responsibility of the local partnerships to assure activities are evidence-based or evidence-informed. If your partnership currently has approved activities that you are not sure meet the EB/EI definitions, please contact an NCPC Program Specialist to discuss options you may want to consider.

7. Is it true that LPs must comply with a “90%/10%” EB/EI activity requirement? In other words, 90% of all activities funded with Smart Start service dollars must meet the EB/EI definition and the remaining 10% would be excused for FY 11-12.

No, this is not true. Again, early in the process, NCPC's P&O Committee recommended a more narrowly defined definition of evidence-based and evidence informed programs and practice and suggested the 90/10 split to the Executive Committee (EC) for this fiscal year only, but the EC did not voted on it. All activities in FY 11-12 are expected to be EB/EI, based on the current definition adopted by the Board.

8. Do we have to re-bid our activities if revisions are necessary in order to comply with EB/EI definitions?

Please consult with a NCPC Financial Consultant and/or Program Specialist regarding individual activity changes so individual circumstances can be taken into account.

9. How do we document our activities are EB/EI?

You may want to use the Checklist Template and accompanying resource document as a starting point; however, this is a LP decision. Documenting research may include downloading the evaluation report(s) from websites, printed copies of research, website links, etc. Logic models and local monitoring forms can also help document compliance with all required components for EB/EI programs/practices.

10. Will LPs have to submit documents to NCPC to prove our activities meet the EB/EI requirements?

Not at this time. Please retain documentation at the partnership office so that it is available for NCPC monitoring visits.

11. Do LPs have to submit a logic model for each activity to NCPC this year?

At this time, there are no requirements for logic models to be submitted to NCPC. We ask that you keep updated logic models on file for each approved activity. If you'd like assistance in developing strong logic models, please contact an NCPC Program Specialist.

12. Who do we contact if we have questions regarding research or evaluation processes such as counts and outcomes?

Please contact

- Ann Ward (award@ncsmartstart.org) 919-821-9556
- Leigh Poole (lpole@ncsmartstart.org) 919-821-9580

13. What does NCPC expect from LPs regarding evaluation of EB/EI activities?

LPs are expected to collect "counts" or output data as well as outcomes for services. NCPC has recently requested assistance from local partnership Executive Directors, Program Coordinators, and Evaluators to help us refine our counts. NCPC staff will provide technical assistance to LPs and schedule a future evaluation webinar based on the workgroup's recommendations.

14. Where can we locate resources to determine whether our activities are evidence-based or evidence-informed?

NCPC staff have developed an EB/EI resource document that is posted on Smart Net> Program & Evaluation>Evidence-Based & Evidence-Informed Information>Resources.