EVALUATION PHILOSOPHY –
EVALUATING FUNDED PROJECTS 2016

Allegany Franciscan Ministries' staff have developed and implemented an evaluation model that fits our evaluation philosophy. We have three primary roles for evaluation: funding stewardship; grant partner learning and capacity building; and communication about results and impact. We are committed to keeping our approach to evaluation simple, asking only for what we will use, and remaining "lingo-free". Our hope is to have our relationship with grant partners characterized as positive, trusting, committed to improvement, honest and open.

Allegany Franciscan Ministries Evaluation Philosophy

As a good steward, Allegany Franciscan Ministries is dedicated to assuring that its investments move Allegany Franciscan Ministries toward its mission. The evaluation process is intended to be clear, simple, and focused on outcomes. The evaluation process is respectful of organizations with different size, sophistication, values, beliefs and traditions. It balances quantitative and qualitative methods to inform and guide Allegany Franciscan Ministries' decisions while improving grant partner services.

With this philosophy in mind, different approaches have been developed in line with different types of grants, commensurate with the size of the grant and scope and complexity of the funded project:

- A simple financial and program report form has been developed and implemented for one-time reporting of ACOR Grants, and two-time reporting of Tau grants, all of which are typically not more than $15,000.

- Major Grants, including St. Clare Fund, and All Region Fund Grants have a more rigorous evaluation and reporting model.

- Organizations that have a measurement and reporting system in place for another funding source are in most cases welcome to use the existing system to submit grant applications and report on success of grants.

Samples are available. The tools are reviewed annually with an eye toward continuous improvement. A limited amount of training, technical assistance and support is provided to applicants and grant partners. Please see the next page for a list of evaluation resources.

We welcome feedback – please contact us!

Evaluation Resources

This list is intended to help grant seekers and grant partners find useful information and tools for evaluation. It is not a complete list. We do not require that grant partners use any of these resources. We recommend that organizations consult with an outside evaluation expert if internal expertise is not available. We consider reasonable evaluation expenses to be appropriate costs to include in grant budgets.

▶ **Innovation Network.** Innovation Network provides knowledge and expertise to help nonprofits and funders learn from their work to improve their results. www.innonet.org

▶ **The Urban Institute Outcome Indicators Project** The Outcome Indicators Project provides a framework for tracking nonprofit performance. It suggests candidate outcomes and outcome indicators to assist nonprofit organizations that seek to develop new outcome monitoring processes or improve their existing systems. www.urban.org/center/cnp/projects/outcomeindicators.cfm

▶ **The Evaluation Center (Western Michigan University).** The Evaluation Center website contains an evaluation bibliography, instruments, models, and tools. www.wmich.edu/evalctr/

▶ **The Harvard Family Research Project,** which includes evaluation resources, approaches, and publications. http://www.hfrp.org/evaluation.

▶ **Results-based Accountability,** which presents a very plain-language approach to evaluation. www.raguide.org.

▶ **CDC Evaluation Working Group.** The website includes their core product, a Framework for Program Evaluation, as well as an extensive collection of evaluation-related links, including standards, organizations, publications, manuals, and reports in its resources section. http://www.cdc.gov/eval/framework.htm

▶ **What Works for Health.** Comprehensive listing of health care programs, expected outcomes, and evidence to date. http://whatworksforhealth.wisc.edu/

▶ **A Guide to Measuring Advocacy and Policy** prepared for the Annie E. Casey Foundation by Organizational Research Services. www.organizationalresearch.com/publications/a_guide_to_measuring_advocacy_and_policy.pdf

▶ **A Handbook of Data Collection Tools:** Companion to A Guide for Measuring Advocacy and Policy. Available online at: www.organizationalresearch.org