

Capacity Building

CNCS Definition of Capacity Building

- A set of activities that expand the *scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness* of programs and organizations. Activities may also *leverage resources* for programs and/or organizations. For example, capacity building activities may expand services, enhance delivery of services, or generate additional resources. These activities achieve *lasting positive outcomes for the beneficiary populations* served by CNCS-supported organizations.

Capacity Building

What it is

- As a general rule, *indirect services* that enable organizations to provide more, better and sustained *direct services*
- Intended results:
 - Support or enhance the program delivery model
 - Respond to the organization's goal of increasing, expanding or enhancing services
 - Enable the organization to provide a sustained level of more or better direct services after NSP's term of service has ended

Capacity Building

What it is NOT

- Activities that are solely intended to support the administration or operations of the organization
- Activities that increase capacity during the NSP's term of service, but the new level of capacity is not sustained when the NSP leaves

Capacity Building

The Value of Capacity Building to CNCS

- An important part of the value CNCS provides to organizations and communities
- It is a key objective of Goal 3 of our Strategic Plan, “Maximize the value we add to grantees, partners, and participants”

Capacity Building

The Value of Capacity Building to CNCS (continued)

- To develop these pilot measures, we
 - leveraged past work done by our grantees, sponsors and intermediaries
 - Sought input on the draft measures from grantees, sponsors and intermediaries
 - Obtained OMB insight and approval

Questions/Issues in Capacity Building 1

- Sustainability: A lasting outcome of the capacity building activity or intervention. This may include maintaining service after the CNCS resource is gone, maintaining enhanced or increased services after the CNCS resource is gone, or both. Sustainable projects and programs have institutional procedures, resources and processes that assure the continuation of expanded or enhanced beneficiary services.
- Grantees should refer to the “Capacity Building Framework” companion document for examples of activities.
- Although many programs recruit and manage volunteers, only those grantees whose program models specifically focus on volunteer recruitment and management can opt into the Priority Measures. All other Capacity Building Measures are Pilot Measures.

Questions/Issues in Capacity Building 2

- Reporting on end outcomes, including Goal 1 outcomes, is entirely optional.
- Because these Measures are agency-wide, some of the activities listed may be prohibited by certain Programs. (Note the warnings on G3-3.1, G3-3.2, G3-3.7, G3-3.8, G3-3.12, G3-3.16 and G3-3.17.)