

What do we hope to learn?

Why is this important?

No one starts a new project with a foolproof plan and most good projects or programs evolve and grow through time as the context changes and unexpected challenges or opportunities arise. Being clear at the outset about what you hope to learn along the way is a good way to make sure that you are mindful about this process. Learning goals are different from outcome or impact statements. For example, “reducing youth homelessness” is an outcome, while “developing more meaningful ways to engage youth in our decision making process about our homelessness work” is a learning goal.

Reflect on these prompts to help surface potential blind spots and identify some learning priorities. Remember that this is a starting point and that you may not have answers to all these questions right away.

What don't we know yet?

- What assumptions are we making...
 - about factors outside our control?
 - about who will be willing to help us?
 - about larger trends in our community?
- What might catch us off guard?
- How are we most likely to fail? What would be the red flags that we are getting off track?
- Whose voice have we not heard?
- What will we have to figure out as we go?

OUR LEARNING GOALS FOR THIS PROJECT

Based on these answers, here are our key learning goals for this project. Learning goals are the new things we most hope to learn through the grant.

1.

2.

3.