



ONLINE PROGRAM EVALUATION LEARNING MODULES: PRACTICAL TOOLS AVAILABLE ON DEMAND



The Centre's online learning modules make step-by-step program evaluation information available wherever and whenever it's needed. The three individual modules cover how to plan and do program evaluation, as well as how to use evaluation information.

Product

In January 2009, the Centre launched three online modules specific to separate phases of program evaluation – planning, doing, and using. They take users through the program evaluation process from beginning to end and include helpful information about program logic models, indicators and measures. They also help agencies and service providers develop evaluation programs that can be used to improve service and processes in a sustainable way.

The online learning modules can be freely accessed from the Centre's website. The modules function in any Flash-supported browser and ensure performance for users connecting to the Internet at speeds of 56 kbps or greater. The modules are also available in CD format for those agencies unable to access them online. Both formats are available in English and French.

Purpose

These tools aim to engage users through the integration of information, design, and technology, and promote a standardized approach to program evaluation.

Program evaluation is a critical component of continuous quality improvement, but it can be challenging for agencies with limited training and resources. Although there are many existing resources to assist in understanding evaluation, they tend to be static documents that are not specific to child and youth mental health. By using case examples throughout the modules, the intention is to make learning a more relevant and interactive experience. The learning modules are not intended to replace the face-to-face training and support. Instead, they may be used as stand-alone resources to help support the consultative work that Centre currently provides in evaluation.

Background

A review of current research revealed that the use of technology can be an effective way to enhance and facilitate learning. Before developing the online learning modules, the Centre consulted members of its Service Provider Reference Group to gain their input and suggestions. A number of individual agencies were also contacted in order to determine the usefulness of developing online learning tools.
