Fiscal Mapping Community of Practice

Session 3
Readiness Check

Ready to start data collection?
Have you?

• Clearly articulated the purpose of the fiscal mapping project, and “what’s in” and ”what’s out,” to data collection partners?

• Come to consensus regarding the definition of key terms covered in the mapping process?

• Written down the methodology that will be used and shared it with participants?

• Tested the interview protocol to ensure stakeholders understand questions and data collection tools or online surveys work as intended?

• Tested protocol to ensure they solicit the right data?
Common Datapoints Collected

- Program or funding stream name
- Purpose of the funding stream
- Amount of the funding stream
- Funding source/agency that provides the funding
- Target age range for the funding stream
- Populations served by the funding stream
- Types of services provided by the funding stream
- Duration of the funds
- Eligibility, coordination, or matching requirements
Analyzing the Data
Analyze Descriptive Metrics

Analyze descriptive data about funding such as type, amount, duration, and use to:

- Gain an understanding of which funding streams are being accessed, and if additional funds could support the target services, outcomes or population
- The total investment in a particular support, service, outcome or population
- The balance of funding among federal, state and philanthropic sources
- The percentage of investment in a particular age range, support or service
Analyzing Analytic Metrics

Analytic metrics provide the data needed to identify opportunities for coordination, to gauge the sustainability of an initiative, and assess the amount of barriers to use or access. They include:

- A description of how funds flow (i.e. from Federal to State, from Federal to Local, or from Federal to grant competition winners)
- An assessment of whether or not funds are maximized (i.e. braided with other funding streams to create a more comprehensive support or to reach a wider eligibility pool)
- Identification of coordination opportunities
- Identification of barriers to use
- Identification of matching requirements
- An assessment of the sustainability or stability of the funds.
Synthesizing the Data

• The fiscal mapping report presents an opportunity to use data to answer the research questions set at the beginning of the process.

• Most reports use a combination of visualizations and narrative to highlight results.

• Many communities choose to create a suite of resources with the data—usually a report, a one-page summary with strong visual elements, and a presentation deck.

• The strongest fiscal mapping reports include a Call to Action or clear next steps that a community can take as a result of the findings.
Sample Fiscal Mapping Reports

The following slides share each sample project’s overall fiscal mapping goal and the outcomes of the study
New Mexico

Align state department resources that focus on children and youth

- Included both a report card on population level outcomes and a budget report on spending toward those outcomes
- Served as a shared document for the Children’s Cabinet to use for decision-making
- Reinforced the outcomes framework and helped the state use common language across data types
Maximize funding for programs that support healthy youth development/teen pregnancy prevention

- Examined federal, state and county funding
- Also sampled municipal and private funding
- Analyzed funds by various characteristics but also included an appendix listing out each of the surveyed funding streams
Learn the extent of federal funds devoted to opportunity youth

- Emphasized up front that getting accurate data would be a challenge
- Gives a deeper understanding of funding for opportunity youth
- Looked at funds they have—and those that are under-utilized
- Emphasized simple strategies they could use to diversify and expand funding
Understand the funding for afterschool programming

- Identify the funding streams
- Analyze whether the city is accessing a proportionate amount for afterschool services compared to other cities
- Offer recommendations on additional funding streams to leverage
Sample Report Outline

Introduction
- Background and Context
- Research Question and Approach
- Organization of Report

Fiscal Map
- Types of Funding
- Key Findings and Themes
- Discussion of How Funding Aligns with Policy Framework/Goals

Analysis of Current Funding Effectiveness or Adequacy
- Level of Diversification
- Stability and Flexibility
- Opportunities for Coordination

Conclusion
- Call to Action or Recommendations

Appendix listing all findings by funding stream
Questions?

Email Adam at rabinowitz@collaborativecommunications.com