



metisassociates

making a meaningful difference

evaluation



Metis Associates, a national research and consulting firm headquartered in New York City, brings over 30 years of experience in evaluation, information technology, and grant development to its work with a wide range of organizations committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of children, families, and communities.

Our mission is to support public and private organizations in achieving results for the children, adults, families, and communities they serve. We work closely with our clients, so that together we can strengthen their capacity to carry out their missions, make better decisions, and deliver more effective services.

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Cover photo: Keeping Families Together—a program of the Corporation for Supportive Housing.
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METIS ASSOCIATES designs and conducts research studies and evaluation projects for educational institutions, government agencies, foundations, and community-based organizations. These activities are undertaken in programmatic areas ranging from education to child welfare to workforce development. Metis believes that one size does not

fit all when it comes to evaluation. Therefore, in every case, Metis tailors the right kind of evaluation to the specific client, the questions at hand, and the project budget.

Metis prides itself on taking a participatory approach to research and evaluation, involving clients throughout the life of each project. Metis researchers help clients to articulate their theories of change, craft research questions, and determine

the evaluation methods and measures that will best serve to answer these questions. Our teams balance strong statistical and quantitative-analysis capabilities with qualitative research skills, working closely with organizations to understand and respond to their research needs.

Through a synthesis of methodological expertise and field-based experience, Metis's evaluation professionals provide recommendations

that are based on solid research that is feasible to implement and most helpful for program improvement. These evaluation services are often provided in tandem with strategic planning and policy analysis to help clients assess the effectiveness of their programs in light of current trends and the regulatory environment.

We welcome inquiries about how we can best serve you. Please write to us at inquiries@metisassociates.com.

evaluation

Metis evaluated the CUNY Accelerated Study in Associates Program (ASAP), begun through the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity.

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Evaluation Design

Metis Associates designs many types of evaluations, from simple descriptive studies to complex experimental or quasi-experimental designs. Our researchers believe that a range of methods, measures, and respondents is necessary not only to ensure that findings are relevant to a variety of audiences and stakeholders, but also because the relative strengths of differing approaches serve to complement one another and ensure reliability and validity. Metis works closely with its clients to articulate a program's theory of change, frame research questions, build logic models, and develop evaluation work plans to help to determine the overall impact of programs as well as the effects of specific program elements.

Data Collection

Metis staff researchers are deeply experienced in both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Qualitative researchers are adept at designing and implementing a wide variety of data-collection instruments such as surveys, individual and focus group interview protocols, and observation guides. Our information technology specialists are highly experienced in designing, constructing, and maintaining databases to extract both point-in-time and longitudinal data. All instruments are designed in close collaboration with clients to ensure their alignment with project objectives, appropriateness for the target population, and scientific validity. All data collections are conducted in strict conformance with federal and state guidelines, ensuring the appropriate protection of respondents' privacy rights.



Data Analysis

Metis professionals are expert at selecting the analytical methods that best fit the data and the research questions being studied. Our statisticians are adept at utilizing the full range of available options—from measures of central tendency and simple univariate statistics to factor analysis, multilevel modeling, and the application of propensity score matching to construct viable comparison groups. Our experienced and sensitive qualitative researchers employ the full gamut of customized tools and protocols to obtain valid primary data from key stakeholders.

Reporting

Metis conveys the results of its evaluations in a manner that makes them understandable to all of its audiences—regardless of their technical sophistication. During formative evaluations, Metis provides feedback to clients on an ongoing basis, through formal interim reports and many other forms of communication. These are often accompanied by meetings, conferences, or webinars to include all stakeholders in the reporting process.

OUR PROGRAM AREAS

- K-12 EDUCATION
- HIGHER EDUCATION
- CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- FAMILY ECONOMIC SUPPORTS
- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- JUVENILE JUSTICE

SELECTED EVALUATION PROJECTS

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

Long-term evaluation and technical assistance support to this national systems-reform effort aimed at helping every youth aging out of foster care have access to the opportunities and supports needed for a successful transition to adulthood

New York City Department of Education

Numerous evaluations spanning three decades ranging from single-school to system-wide initiatives, including those focused on magnet-school, arts-in-education, and technology programs, and services for at-risk students

Arkansas Department of Education

From 2006 to the present, evaluations ranging from the state's longitudinal data system to its educational choice programs, including charter and virtual schools

Philadelphia School District

Evaluation of the GEAR UP Partnership, which promotes college readiness

United Way of New York City

Multiple assessments of programs ranging from youth development to financial stability for public-housing residents

New York City Center for Economic Opportunity

In collaboration with Westat, evaluation of the impact of a diverse array of antipoverty initiatives established through the mayor's office

The Food Bank for New York City

Multiyear evaluations of several programs to help low-income New Yorkers construct healthy diets and develop healthy eating attitudes among children

Teagle Foundation

Evaluation of the College-Community Connections program, which helps students from low-income families attend and succeed in college

Family Connection Partnership

Since 1995, ongoing evaluation of the 159-county partnership, which aims to improve child and family well-being across Georgia

Newark Strong Healthy Communities Initiative

Evaluation of this initiative, supported by the national Living Cities collaborative, to transform systems in order to reshape communities and policies to meet the needs of low-income residents.

“Working with our evaluators at Metis has been an empowering experience for our board and staff. We're getting information in a timely manner so that we know we're making the right decisions and moving along the right paths, and that the choices we're making are really impactful.”

—**Susan Lozada**, Executive Director of Community and Student Services, Allentown School District



Metis evaluated a hands-on nutrition education program provided by the Food Bank For New York City's CookShop Classroom program.

“When I accepted the challenge of creating a state intermediary to support 159 local collaboratives [for Georgia Family Connection Partnership], one of my first calls was to Metis. Their work has since made a difference in helping us to shape policy and practice as well as to increase understanding of the importance of results accountability and the use of evaluation locally across the state. My experience with Metis Associates has been nothing but positive, which is why I have continued to seek their expertise, knowledge, and assistance in my work to support children and families in Georgia over the years.

—**Gaye Smith**, Executive Director, Georgia Family Connection Partnership