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Trillium
Foundation

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GROW GRANT SURVEY TOOLS

Through our Grow Grants, OTF invests in projects that are based on robust planning and deliver positive change. We have identified the most important changes we think need to happen in Ontario over the next decade to make communities more healthy and vibrant.

OTF will require all Grow grantees working toward the Grant Results listed below to conduct surveys of program participants.

If your application is approved, OTF's partner, Forum Research, will contact all relevant grantees and invite them to an orientation webinar. We'll have support available and resources to help you understand the process of survey administration.

OTF is selecting standardized survey tools that will help us get the full picture of the impact that we are having on our Grant Results. Each survey that you administer for your project will become part of a larger story, highlighting OTF's impact across the province.

The survey tools available here are the best tools that we've found to date. We've selected them based on a review of over 300 tools.

We looked for tools that:

- scored highly for validity and reliability;
- were closely related to the Grant Result;
- were applicable to our typical audience; and,
- were simple to complete, for OTF, our grantees and beneficiaries of the programs we fund.

We continue to search for the best tools to measure the success of our grants, and so the tools may change over time.

ACTION AREA	PRIORITY OUTCOME	GRANT RESULT (PDFs)
Active People	More people become active	Ontarians participate in an active lifestyle
Connected People	Diverse groups work better together to shape community	People who are marginalized take on leadership roles in their communities
		Diverse groups work together to improve community life
	Reduced social isolation	People who are isolated have connections in their community
Green People	People reduce their impact on the environment	People connect with the environment & understand their impact on it
Inspired People	*N/A*	*N/A: Inspired People Grant Results do not have survey metrics*
Promising Young People	More children & youth have emotional & social strengths	Parents, caregivers & adult allies have the skills to support children & youth who are facing barriers
		Children & youth who are facing barriers develop strong emotional & social skills
	More youth are meaningfully engaged in the community	Youth facing barriers volunteer and are in leadership roles
		Youth are involved in creating solutions for challenges facing their communities
Prosperous People	Increased economic stability	People who are economically vulnerable are able to meet their basic needs

		People who are economically vulnerable have access to community services that enhance financial stability
	Increased economic opportunity	People have the skills & knowledge to achieve greater financial independence
		People become or stay employed

What is a pre-/ post-survey?

These tools are designed to measure change over time. In order to see change within a project, surveys need to be administered more than once over the course of the grant. A survey at the beginning of the project will create a "baseline"; it will help you to know what knowledge, skills, attitudes or behaviours the people in your project have when they arrive.

Once the project is finished, or every few months in the case of ongoing initiatives, you will again survey the people involved. When we compare this data to the "baseline" data, we can see if anything has changed over the course of the program. It's the change over time that will help us understand the impact we're having in communities across Ontario.

We realize that not all programs have a registered set of participants, as well as a clear start and end date. We've created a variety of program types to try to reflect this diversity. Forum will help you identify which program type works best for you.

I'm applying for a Grow Grant with a Grant Result that uses a pre-/ post-survey metric. How will I collect the data?

1. Start planning to use the surveys as you prepare your Grow Grant application and workbook.
2. If your application is approved, participate in the orientation webinar hosted by OTF's partner, Forum Research.
3. Review the user guide that was sent to you by Forum, which will give you specific details about how to administer the survey to your participants and how to use the Evaluation Portal.
4. Fill out a short survey that will help set up the use of the standardized survey tool, specifically selected to measure progress toward your Grant Result. This will help identify the length and frequency of your program, and determine when and how often your participants will be surveyed.
5. Review survey results through the Evaluation Portal's reporting site.
   Report the data to OTF as part of your annual progress report and final report.

Examples:
- You received a grant to run a series of 6 week programs to reduce levels of aggression among children in conflict with the law by teaching them to manage their anger and problem-solve with others. This is under the Grant Result "Children & youth who are facing barriers develop strong emotional & social skills" in the Promising Young People Action Area. When your grant is activated, Forum will send you a survey to set up the use of the standardized tool to measure the emotional and social competencies of participating children and youth. You are required to survey your participants at the beginning and end of the project. By completing the survey at the beginning and end, we'll be able to see if the children and youth in your group have developed emotional and social competencies during the program. You will ask your participants to fill out the same survey at both times. By comparing the results, we can see the change that happened over the course of your initiative!

- Your initiative is based in a densely-populated urban neighbourhood. It uses a community kitchen as a hub for programs and services, helping people who are isolated to have connections in their community. Your grant is under the Connected People Action Area, focused on the Grant Result "People who are isolated have connections in their community". When we activate your grant, OTF will send you a survey tool to measure your participants' self-perception of social isolation. You will survey participants at the beginning of the program, and then again every six months, using the tool that we provided each time. Looking at the results of the survey over time, we will get to see if people feel less isolated since the program was put in place.

What's in it for Grantees?

You can benefit from this data as well. The survey responses that you collect will help you tell the story about your individual project and the positive impact it is having in your community. You can use the data to make improvements and track progress over time. The data that you collect may help you leverage funding from other sources to support the program in the future. We've used this approach with some of our other funding programs, and grantees have experienced the benefits.

Remember, for Grow Grants with survey metrics:

- This approach will help you and the Foundation measure the success of your program, and will help the Foundation tell the story of our impact.
- You are required to use the standardized tool so your results can be added up with similar programs, and so your results can be compared.
- You can, however, supplement the OTF standardized tool with other tools of your own choosing.
- You need to plan to administer the surveys before, during and after your program, and analyze the responses.
- OTF will provide access to the survey tools through their online Evaluation Portal and support throughout the course of your grant.
- This metric is useful, and can be one part of your overall evaluation plan.

Privacy Standards

OTF is committed to respecting the privacy of your clients and participants. Forum Research will ensure that:

- All information provided to OTF and grantees is anonymized. All personally identifiable information will be removed from data sets, so that the people whom the data describe remain anonymous.
- Data is reported to OTF and grantees in a way that ensure that individuals cannot be identified.
- Data is not reported using small cell counts, and in no circumstances will data be reported using cell counts of five or fewer.