



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@metisassoc.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 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 FAMILY ECONOMIC SUPPORTS PROJECTS

Corporation for Supportive Housing: Metis Associates evaluated this national organization's Keeping Families Together pilot program, addressing the complex needs of chronically homeless families with a history of substance abuse or mental illness. Metis's retrospective analysis included a review of program documentation, interviews with service providers and families, and administrative and child-welfare data. The evaluation found the program to have been highly successful.

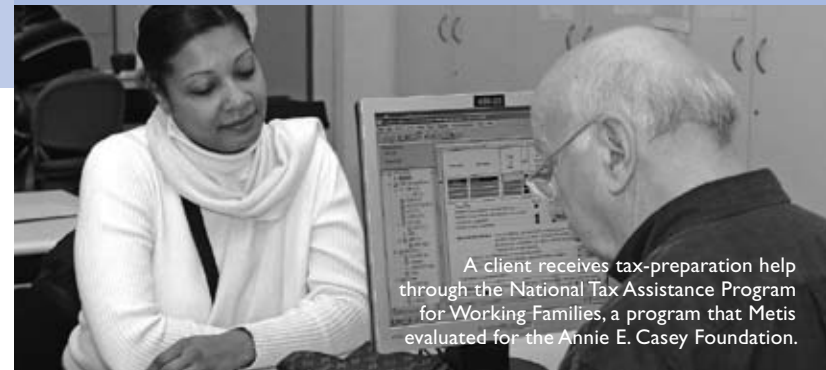
Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF): The AECF's National Tax Assistance for Working Families program helps low-income working people claim tax benefits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, to which they are entitled. Metis developed and continues to support an automated system that enables dozens of local sites to send their data to Metis for aggregation and analysis. Since 2003, this system has helped to document hundreds of millions of dollars in tax refunds paid to low-income families.

New Haven Home Recovery (NHHR): This nonprofit, community-based, multi-service agency received support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Fairfield County Community Foundation, and Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport to design services to improve social-welfare outcomes for residents of a Bridgeport housing project. NHHR hired Metis to observe its planning discussions, develop a schematic representation (logic model) of the project plan, and design an evaluation to study the implementation and impact of the project when it is undertaken.

New York City Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO): Metis Associates, together with its partner Westat, was chosen to provide technical assistance and to evaluate the impact of a number of demonstration programs in this large-scale anti-poverty initiative. Based, in part, on Metis's evaluation results, CEO identified a number of successful programs for ongoing implementation.

“When we started our College-Community Connections program, we knew we wanted it evaluated... Metis embraced this challenge and put together a rigorous, multi-method evaluation plan that helped us gain a broad understanding of the program's effectiveness in making college and the liberal arts and sciences real possibilities for the beneficiary students. We are delighted with the work that Metis did, which has been instrumental in shaping our second round of College-Community Connections programming.

—Cheryl Ching, Program Officer, The Teagle Foundation



A client receives tax-preparation help through the National Tax Assistance Program for Working Families, a program that Metis evaluated for the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

“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