



What Makes a Good Outcome?

A good outcome will always pass the "So What" test. We hope all programs do good work but if we want to show the impact a program has on a person, group of people or a community we must be able to measure if it is changing anything. We always want more people to have food more homeless people to have a place to sleep, more children educated. That goes without saying. What we need to know is what difference they want to make by doing what they are doing. This is done by answering the "so what" question.

- Can it be measured
- There should be a % of change you anticipate seeing
- Does it appear they have outcomes that match the program they have asked be funded
- Does the outcome seem realistic for the project
- Does the organization have the capacity to get the information needed to measure the outcome(s) they have written
- A higher percent doesn't always signify that is the best program to fund. 100% may be justified but it is rarely achieved
- In some cases, it is hard to measure a new program so a nonprofit may use what is called a proxy measure to determine if their outcome is sound. The proxy measure typically comes from a national source that has done this type of programming and has a proven success model
- It is not just a count of people served, that is an output as it doesn't answer the so what question.
- Art's organizations have an incredibly hard time creating measurable outcomes since art is subjective and the influence of the art can't often be measured through surveys and changes over time to an individual. You will often find proxy measures used here as individuals look at the benefits of having the arts as part of a healthy vibrant community



Samples of good outcomes with a measure from our 2020 grant applicants:

Patients with hearing or vision problems will be referred to audiologists or optometrists for treatment. Measurement: Those students with issues will be re-checked in February and if corrections were made, more than 50% of those students will show improved classwork since they can now see or hear better.

60% of students will agree or strongly agree that having access to the food pantry allows them to feel more prepared to learn in school. Question on survey: Does the food that you receive from the school pantry make you more likely to feel prepared to come to school and learn?

Following each Kidz Bop and Young People's Concert, at least 90% of teachers will report that they feel the performance was a valuable enrichment experience for their students; provided their students with a greater understanding of the musical concepts taught; and increased the students' interest in music in general. Results will be assessed via a questionnaire.

95% of the graduates from Fall 2020 will still be employed 6 months later (Nov 30). The Coordinator will contact the employers during the month of December to get feedback on each employee. The Coordinator will record this information on the Graduate Tracking Sheet.

50% (at least 10-15) of Residents who qualify for USDA 502 Direct Loan and/or NACA Homeownership Program will successfully complete all necessary documentation required. Measure – The Residents will close on a home mortgage.

Half (50%) of the sheriff's offices that we approach will participate in the new law enforcement training program by making this available and required for their staff.

- Measure 1: We will measure this outcome by working with the sheriff's in each county to find out if this is being implemented once we 'go live'.