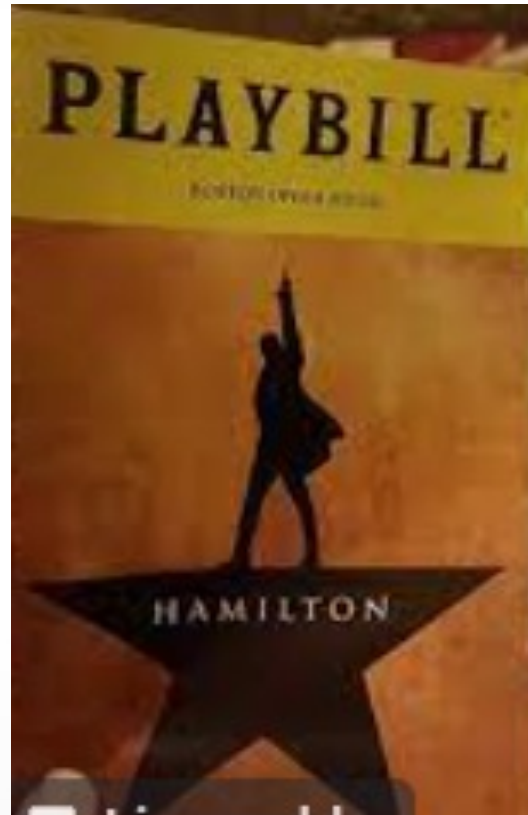




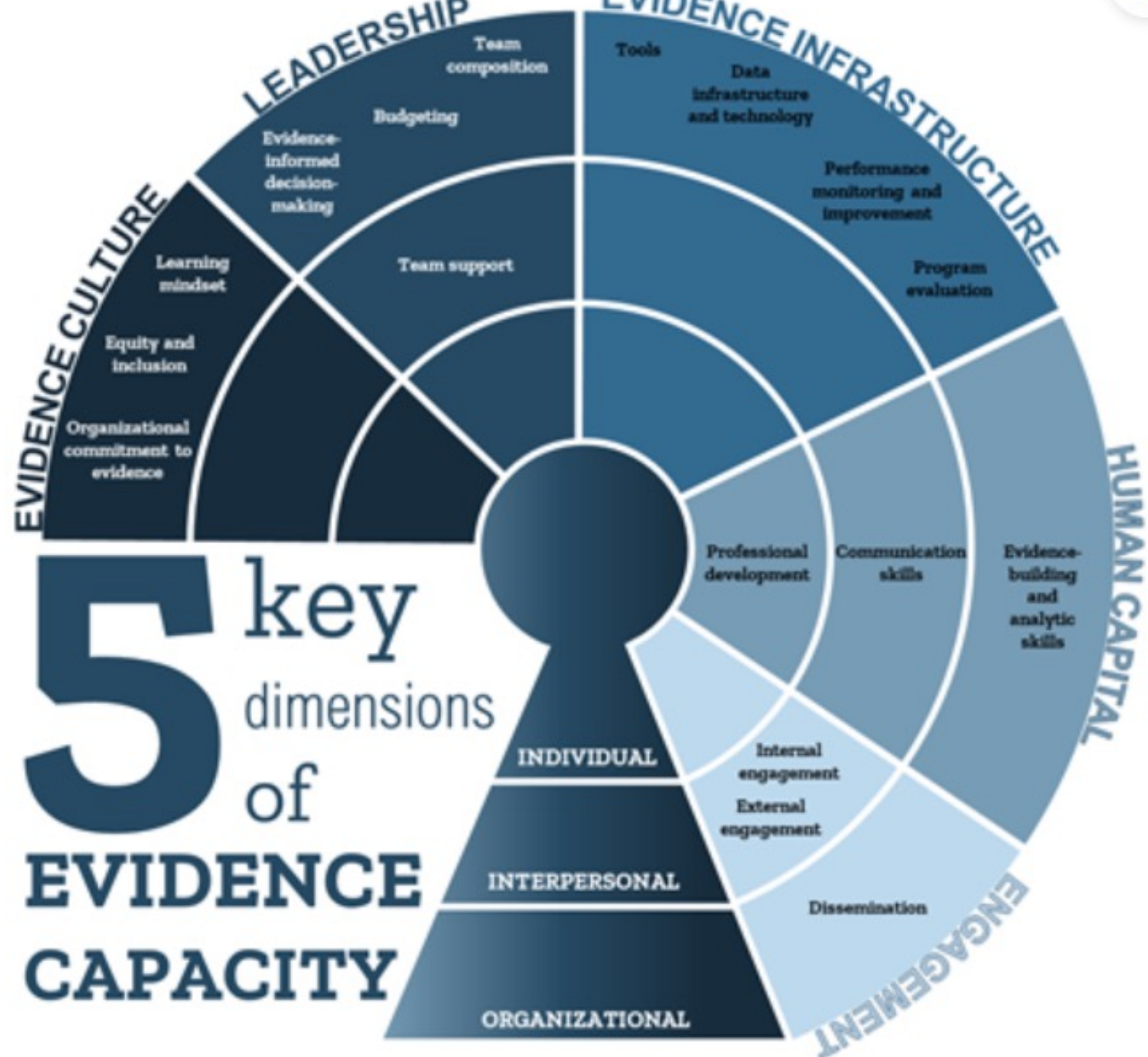
What we know about how government can support evidence use?

Lauren H. Supplee
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research and Evaluation

What do we know from research on when research is used?



Yanovitzky, 2020; Best & Holmes, 2010; Bogenschneider et al., 2019; Brown et al., 2016; Oliver et al., 2014



Infrastructure: Evaluation Policy

ACF seeks to promote **rigor**, **relevance**, **transparency**, **independence**, and **ethics** in the conduct of evaluations. ACF's Evaluation Policy, which was established in 2012, addresses these five key principles to govern ACF's planning, conduct, and use of evaluation. ACF revised our policy in 2021 to strengthen language related to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Rigor: ACF is committed to using rigorous methods to yield accurate findings.

Relevance: Our evaluations should address legislative requirements and congressional, federal, state, tribal, and local interests.

Transparency: We will make information about planned and ongoing evaluations easily accessible. We will release results regardless of the findings. Reports will present comprehensive results, including favorable, unfavorable, and null findings.

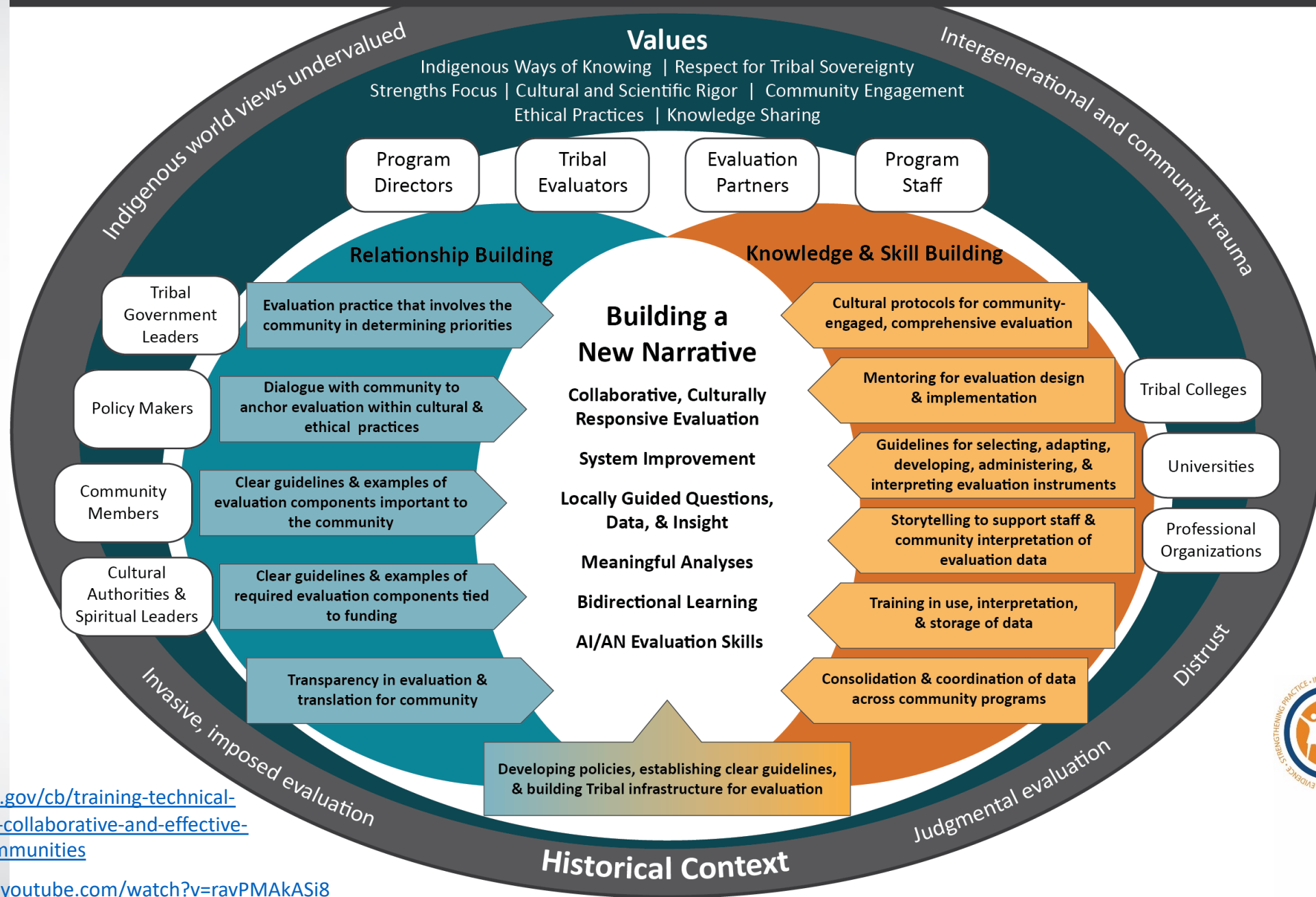
Independence: Evaluation should not be biased. To promote objectivity, we protect independence in the design, conduct, and analysis of evaluations.

Ethics: ACF-sponsored evaluations will be conducted in an ethical manner and safeguard the dignity, rights, safety, and privacy of participants.

Infrastructure to support engaged research

- Long-standing investment in RPPs since 1995 such as the child care policy research partnerships and the Head Start/Early Head Start University Partnerships
- Phased grants that allow project teams co-design the project together, often with TA centers to build capacity on both partners to effectively work together
- Grantees propose approaches to ensure the partnerships are balanced and that planning, implementation, and decision-making are grounded in collaborative and joint efforts.

CO-CREATING COLLABORATIVE & EFFECTIVE EVALUATION TO IMPROVE TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS



<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/training-technical-assistance/roadmap-collaborative-and-effective-evaluation-tribal-communities>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ravPMAkAsi8>



Infrastructure: Staff Capacity

Advancing Contextual Analysis and Methods for Participant Engagement (CAMPE)

1) Community Advisory Board will provide input on:

- OPRE editorial style guide
- Welfare and Family Self Sufficiency Learning Agenda (WFSSLA)
- Survey development
- Informed consent language and procedures

2) Incorporating contextual analysis of factors affecting the programs and people involved in our studies.

3) Equity Consultations to apply an equity lens and strengths-based framing to how we communicate and frame our research and evaluation projects.

What examples of context specific, place-based engaged research tell us about research funding and assessment protocols?

- Goes back to the 3Rs – relational, relevant, routines – What infrastructure supports meaningful place-based engaged research?
 - Requires time, money, training/support
- Research funding needs to incentivize or require the infrastructure:
 - To develop relationships over time, not just one-off projects
 - Support equitable power sharing through infrastructure/requirements
 - Intentionally invest in training and capacity for both researchers and lived experts

What lessons have emerged in navigating power relations between communities, intermediaries and academics?

- Equitable partnerships require examining conventional relationships.
- Equitable partnerships require examining how to support more equitable practices within the partnership
- Equitable partnerships require examining individual and institutional histories.
- Equitable partnerships require examining how resources are shared within and between partnering institutions.