



Nonprofit organizations are being asked to use data to support decision-making and promote transparency, but they often lack the internal capacity to execute these tasks. Here's an example of how Glass Frog helped one nonprofit overcome this challenge.

PROVIDING TOOLS, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORT TO BUILD EVALUATION CAPACITY AT EdWorks

THE CHALLENGE

EdWorks¹ provides middle school students with a range of supports as they prepare to transition to high school. In their fifth year of service, EdWorks had assembled a leadership team that believed in the value of collecting and using data to inform decision-making at all levels of the organization. However, they faced several barriers in making this vision a reality:

- Limited time among senior staff to consider how to integrate new program offerings into the existing evaluation framework;
- Insufficient time and experience among key staff members to build out evaluation resources and tools;
- Lack of project management tools to oversee on-time data collection, reporting, and quality control; and
- Sub-optimal tools for sharing data across teams.

OUR SOLUTION

Glass Frog Solutions partnered with EdWorks to build their capacity to perform ongoing internal evaluation. **Our goal was to provide them with tools, resources, and support to foster an outcomes-driven culture. We used our expertise in the social sciences and project management to customize industry-proven tools to fit the way EdWorks operates. This approach allowed us to respond to client needs faster without giving them a one-size-fits-all product.**

Key deliverables included:

- Theory of change models, measurement plans, and survey instruments for new program offerings;
- A data management tool to schedule and track all data collection and reporting activities;
- Quality assurance and quality control plans to ensure data quality;
- A data dashboard that integrates and presents data from multiple sources to inform quarterly program team meetings and decision making; and
- Tiered training and support to institutionalize the new tools.

We provided services during a six-month engagement, with the intention of helping EdWorks become self-sufficient in their drive to use data to inform organizational decision-making.

If this is the type of challenge your organization faces or if you are a foundation with grantees in your portfolio that face these challenges, we can help. Glass Frog's team consists of quantitative methodologists, qualitative researchers, and experts on evaluation capacity building. We have used our talents to help over a dozen clients in the last two years alone. Please reach out for consultation.

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¹ EdWorks is a pseudonym. The details of the program have been altered, but the problem and solution are as experienced.