

Evaluation and Monitoring in the ISE Program

Alphonse DeSena, NSF
Gary Silverstein, Westat

ISE PI Meeting
July 26, 2008

ISE Project Monitoring System

- **Web-based system**
 - Online system currently being piloted with 50 projects
 - Designed by NSF to document, monitor, and analyze the portfolio of ISE deliverables and outcomes
 - Completed by individual principal investigators—with assistance by evaluators and other partners
 - Information to be collected from all *future* ISE projects
- **Collects data throughout a project's lifecycle**
 - Baseline
 - Annual
 - Closeout

Information collected by the ISE Project Monitoring System

- **Baseline information about the ISE Project**
 - Lead organization and partners
 - Characteristics of anticipated audience
 - Deliverable types—e.g., media, exhibit, website
 - Anticipated impacts, indicators, and study designs
- **Annual data on implementation and impacts**
 - Update baseline data (e.g., add new impacts)
 - Challenges encountered
 - Number served
 - Extent to which anticipated impacts/indicators were attained
 - Lessons learned and future plans

How does the ISE Project Monitoring System differ from FastLane?

- **FastLane**

- Common reporting format across all NSF programs
- Most FastLane information is provided in a narrative format that cannot be easily sorted or aggregated across projects

- **ISE Project Monitoring System**

- Items are specific to the ISE program
- Data can be easily aggregated and disaggregated
 - Number of media projects targeting underrepresented minorities
 - Types of impacts/indicators and study designs for exhibit projects
- Technical assistance from Westat

Frequently asked questions about the online system

- I've completed the baseline collection—is this all the system is collecting?
- I don't know all the impacts that my project may accomplish. Can I enter more at a later date?
- I've entered impacts that my project is no longer addressing. Am I still responsible for meeting them?
- The system doesn't get at what's important. How can I report what I think is most important or interesting about my project?
- Might this turn out to be a punitive system?

Next steps

- Continue contacting projects from the pilot study via telephone to resolve issues
- Have some projects re-submit data about impacts/indicators
- Final approval of impacts/indicators by NSF program officers
- Open the *annual* collection (*Fall 2008*)
- Open the *baseline* collection for new projects (*Fall 2008*)

Breakout session

- **Present preliminary findings from the pilot study**
- **Discuss impacts and indicators in more detail**
- **Answer questions about the ISE Project Monitoring System**
- **Obtain feedback about how best to train applicants and PIs about impacts and indicators**

Contact Information

- **Gary Silverstein**

- Garysilverstein@westat.com
- (301) 251-2244

- **John Wells**

- Johnwells@westat.com
- (240) 453-2663