

An Opportunity for Afterschool Programming? Youth-led Evaluation

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Youth In Focus

May 23, 2005

California Afterschool Network

Context Pressures

Tremendous influx of funding
and expectations ...

- Academic press overwhelms
- Performance and Measurement
- Inclusiveness

What is youth-led program evaluation?

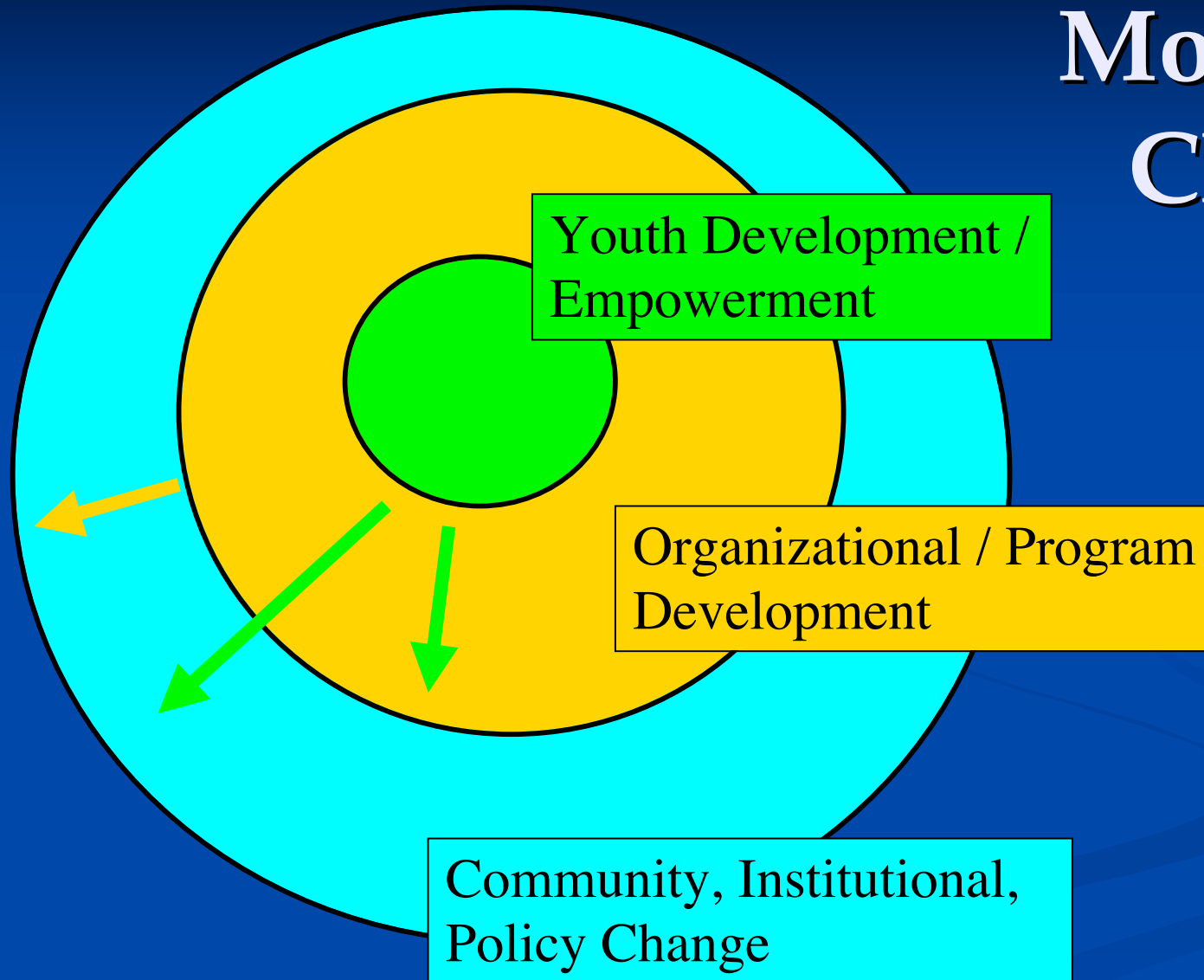
- User Driven
- Oriented to Program Improvement
- Context Sensitive
- A Youth Development Strategy

Why youth-led?

When youth lead an evaluation process,
youth frame the issues.

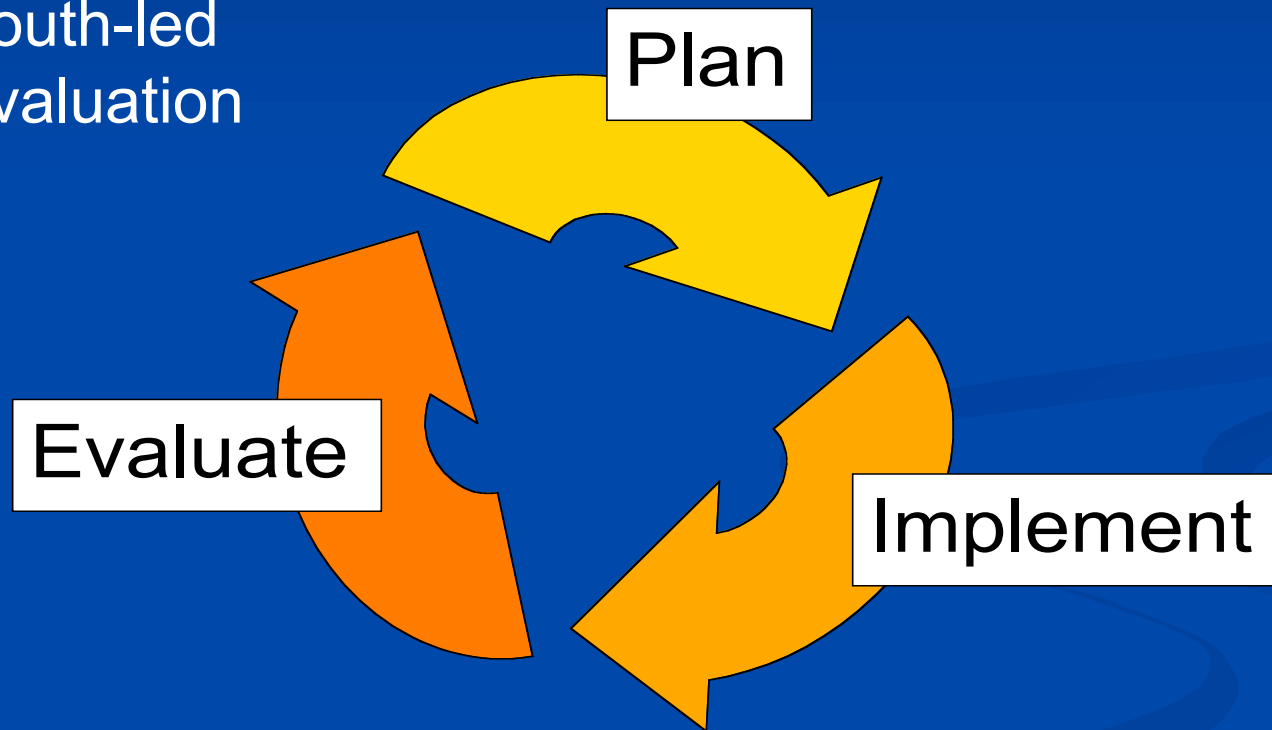
- where and what to look at
- within a specific program
- within community context

YIF's Model of Change

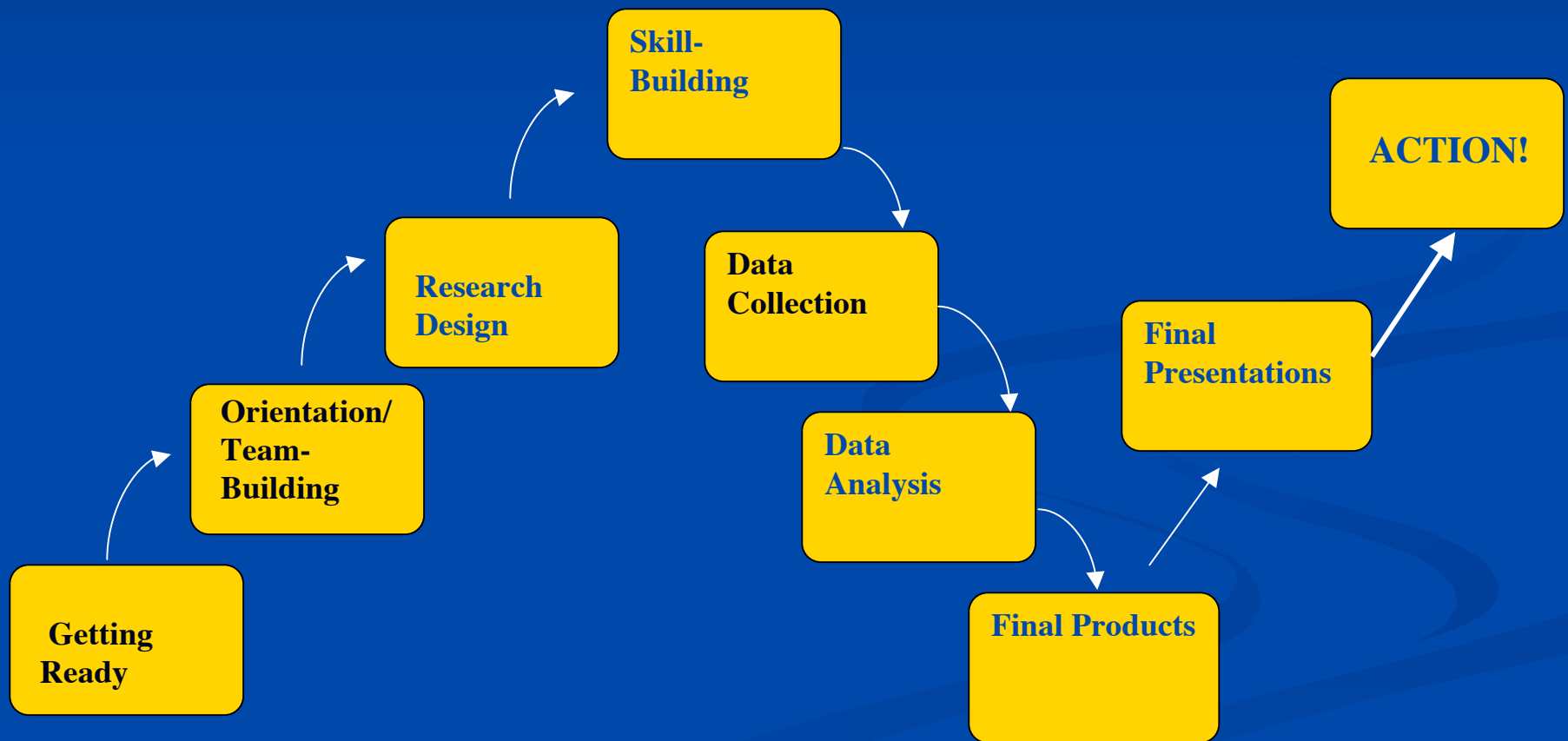


A Learning-Action Cycle

Youth-led
Evaluation



A Multi-Step Process



Elements of High Quality

- Interactive, Fun, Collaborative
- “Learn by Doing”
- Critical Thinking
- Intentional Skills Development
- Caring Relationships
- Youth-led Decision-making
- Adult and Organizational Development

Organizational Capacity

- Sufficient time / resource / staff allocation
- Leadership support
- Follow through on youth recommendations / institutional responsiveness
- “Adult development”
- Institutionalizing Cycle of Youth REP

Youth Prioritize Concern

- How do you treat us?
- Bathrooms and College Prep
- Stereotypes, Discrimination, Bullying

Youth Identify New Areas

- New areas for program expansion
- Not served or underserved youth populations
- New strategies

Youth Views In Context

In their own words, from their own view

- Youth are experts on youth culture
- Youth-friendly data collection instruments
- Youth trust youth

A New Standard?

- Need for context-specific information to make meaningful programmatic changes.
- Growing belief in the need for those most impacted by a program to shape that program.
- Civic engagement as a core need for youth development.
- Youth empowerment as a key strategy for our most marginalized youth populations.

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