

AllOne Foundation

The Institute measured indicators present in 13 counties and developed detailed county profiles that describe socio-economic, health and social service data trended over time. Areas of focus included teen pregnancy, suicide rates, drug abuse, limited access to healthy food, and more. With three-year to five-year assessments of these indicators, it's possible to evaluate the influence of AllOne grantees and make improvements to ensure positive change as needed.

CEO Transportation Program Evaluation

The Commission on Economic Opportunity launched an initiative to assist agency clients with transportation. The Institute has developed an assessment for completion by individuals in need of such service, as well as a post-mortem survey. Analysis of results details the impact of the program on clients/riders.

Geisinger (4Ride Program Evaluation)

Geisinger enlisted The Institute to evaluate the 4Ride Program (a coordinated public transportation effort) and determine whether access to transportation positively influences social determinants of health. Quality-of-life indicators, such as access to food and job outlook, were assessed. The initiative, currently underway, is studying the impact of transportation on physical and mental health, including reductions in hospital readmissions and emergency room visits, regular use of prescriptions, improvement in medical appointment attendance, as well as patient-perceived improvement in quality of life.

Moses Taylor Foundation Strategic Initiatives

The Institute offered consultation to the Moses Taylor Foundation during the final phases of focus on new strategic initiatives. Metrics and outcomes (along with tools for collecting them) were detailed, with the plan to conduct evaluative services every year for five years.

United Way Summer Camp Program

The Institute studied the availability and accessibility of summer learning programs in four of Wyoming Valley's high-poverty school districts. The subsequent report details these programs and offers additional analyses that identify areas of needed improvement (pertaining to cost, arts-related content, and special needs accommodations). The asset matrix is used to inform planning.

SHINE Carbon

The Institute chronicled the success of Carbon County's SHINE program, an after-school project that helps prepare children for achievement through homework support, school attendance, and overall academic performance. Administered by the Lehigh Carbon Community College, the effort improved reading fluency and comprehension, enhanced knowledge of STEM subjects, and strengthened familial and community relationships.

SHINE Luzerne County

As part of Operation Gang Up research, which included data and gang profiler training and interviews, The Institute identified several initiatives that limit successful gang recruitment (which directly affects gangs' operation in communities). After exploring youth-focused and evidence-based programs across the country, The Institute found Lehigh Carbon Community College Carbon/Schuylkill SHINE. The SHINE program had over 10 years of data indicating success in the reduction of juvenile delinquency and enhancement of academic performance. The Institute recommended a similar launch in Luzerne County's most vulnerable districts, and developed a business action plan. Wilkes University agreed to act as academic host for the after-school program. Eight sites now serve hundreds of students. STEAM, summer activities, and family education are components of SHINE as well. The Institute provides research and data support, state and federal program reporting, and evaluative services.

Scranton Area Foundation – Capacity Building Program Evaluation

The Institute engaged in research to ensure that the foundation's programs are yielding positive results in local organizations. Three assessments tools (developed by The Institute) were used. The first addressed initial satisfaction, concerns, and potential for application of new strategies. The second and third measured progress, unintended consequences, other outcomes, and anticipated next steps.

Leadership Wilkes-Barre Program Evaluation

The Institute is evaluating the impact of Leadership Wilkes-Barre, to facilitate the development of an informed plan for the future. Doing so requires The Institute to develop assessments for the organization's signature programs – Intercollegiate Leadership Wilkes-Barre, Impact Leadership in Education, Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre, and Executive Leadership Wilkes-Barre. These evaluation tools will be deployed at the beginning and end of each program, and six months after completion.

Scranton Area Foundation – STEAM program evaluations

The Salvadori Center developed a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) curriculum for classroom use. Several school districts in Lackawanna County participated in the program, with the Institute examining student interest and performance throughout the process.

The Commonwealth Medical College, December 2013 – The medical college's Reach HEI program – a multi-tiered regional program designed to encourage careers in healthcare had been operational for three years with the help of federal funding. The Institute conducted an evaluation for the grant, in addition to data collection for use in preparing funding packages for program continuation.

The Wright Center, December, 2013 – The purpose of this study was to analyze resident performance and leverage the data to develop a plan to improve assessment techniques. Graduate medical education, the history and evolution of the Wright Center, and the Medical Home Concept were also evaluated.

Wall Street West/Wired Impact & Sustainability Assessment, December 2009 – An assessment of the WIRED/Wall Street West program was completed to determine overall quantitative and qualitative impact on the 10-county region. Surveys, interviews, focus groups, data mining, and input-output analysis were used to complete this 18-month study for the Department of Labor.