NSF INVESTMENT IN ADVANCING EVALUATION
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In this exploratory study, we examined the grant awards made by the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Education and Human Resources that were intended to advance evaluation knowledge and practice among STEM educators and evaluators. For the decade spanning 2004-13, we sought to determine the extent of investment in this area in terms of the monetary value of the awards, as well as the number of projects, investigators, and institutions funded. We were also interested in describing the nature of this investment with regard to type of activities funded and the context in which the results of the grant work were intended to have impact. Because of the work we do as an evaluation resource center for an NSF program (EvaluATE), serving the Advanced Technological Education program, we were curious about the availability of products generated with the grant funding, such that individuals involved in STEM education evaluation could locate and use them. Thus far, the study has relied on grant data available from the NSF awards database and through a search for related project information on the Web.

EXTENT OF INVESTMENT

- 10,329 Awards made by NSF Directorate for Education and Human Resources from 2004-13
- 3,232 Grants with eval in their abstracts
- 97 Grants focused on advancing evaluation knowledge and practice

$55.5 million was awarded to fund projects focused on advancing evaluation knowledge and practice.

Out of $9 billion in grants made by NSF’s Directorate for Education and Human Resources:

Over ten years, NSF made 97 awards to 69 principal investigators at 63 institutions.

TYPE OF PROJECTS

- DEVELOPMENT creation of frameworks, instruments, systems, and methods (36%)
- TRAINING/CAPACITY BUILDING development of evaluation knowledge and skills among educators and evaluators (22%)
- COLLECTIONS assemblage of evaluation-related materials (32%)
- RESEARCH empirical study of evaluation (12%)
- MEETINGS Percentages total more than 100% because some projects had multiple activity streams (6%)

PRODUCTS

229 grant products are available online

The size of the circles are proportional to the number of each product type found:

- Instruments (37)
- Books (26)
- Dissertations (3)
- Webinars (32)
- Tools (8)
- Journal Articles (27)
- Manuals (8)
- Conference Papers (6)
- Book Chapters (5)
- Reports (92)
- Repositories (8)

Percentage of the 97 projects for which we were able to locate products: 54%

evalu-ate.org

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