

IOCE survey of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs)

I. Basic profile information

Please type your responses in the right column. Save Word document with name of your VOPE in title. Send completed document to IOCE@earthlink.net

1. Name and acronym of organization (VOPE)	Arizona Evaluation Network (AZENet)																
2. Geographic scope of organization	Subnational: Arizona (In the United States of America)																
3. Contact Details	<p>Names and e-addresses of up to three contact persons: 1: Michele Cranwell Schmidt, MPA: President, michele@lecroymilligan.com 2: Wendy L. Wolfersteig, Ph.D. , President Elect, WENDY.WOLFERSTEIG@asu.edu 3: Dr. Maria Aguilar-Amaya, Immediate Past President, mamaya@courts.az.gov</p> <p>Postal address of VOPE: P.O. Box 1984 Phoenix, AZ 85001-1984 Telephone: N/A VOPE website URL: http://azenet.wildapricot.org/</p>																
<p>4. a. Current formal/ registered membership –numbers of individuals, by their affiliation (if known; please at least give total)</p> <p>4. b. Informal membership (persons on your mailing list)</p>	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Government:</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>NGOs/CSOs:</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Academics:</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Students:</td><td>04</td></tr> <tr><td>Private sector (consultants):</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Other:</td><td>09</td></tr> <tr><td>a. Total official membership:</td><td>85</td></tr> <tr><td>b. Total informal membership:</td><td>324</td></tr> </table>	Government:	20	NGOs/CSOs:	12	Academics:	13	Students:	04	Private sector (consultants):	27	Other:	09	a. Total official membership:	85	b. Total informal membership:	324
Government:	20																
NGOs/CSOs:	12																
Academics:	13																
Students:	04																
Private sector (consultants):	27																
Other:	09																
a. Total official membership:	85																
b. Total informal membership:	324																
5. Year VOPE was founded	1995 received non-profit status in 2002																
6. Current status (identify which)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws adopted • Legally recognized by government 																
7. Information about growth: evolution of the number of members or financial resources in the last 5 years.	Evolution of Financial Growth (US Dollars): January 2016 - \$17,845; January 2015 - \$17,029; January 2014 - \$15,233; January 2013 - \$13,937; January 2012 - \$14,864.72																
8. Purpose and mission of VOPE	<p>Mission Statement: To provide a state wide interdisciplinary forum for professional development, advocacy, networking, and exchange of theoretical, methodological, and practical knowledge in the field of evaluation.</p> <p>Purpose: To provide and disseminate information about continuing education and professional development opportunities. To provide opportunities to share and exchange evaluation information and to jointly problem solve with colleagues. To provide a forum for networking. To conduct and/or facilitate training events, workshops, conferences, symposia, seminars, etc. in program evaluation. To advocate for quality program evaluation. To serve as a community resource on issues of program evaluation.</p>																
9. Current strategy and emphasis	AZENet's focus is to bring together professionals from around the state who engage in evaluation and research in order to create a dialogue surrounding evaluation and to encourage networking within the evaluation community while providing educational opportunities.																
10. Organizational capacity: Please describe your governance structure, leadership, services provided, finances, human resources, linkages with other organizations, etc.	<p>AZENet is governed by its membership and managed by the Board of Directors (11 members), three of which have executive and representation roles.</p> <p>Services: Organize conferences, workshops, training events, and symposia, and seminars in evaluation; disseminate information about continuing education and professional development opportunities; Provide a forum for networking; Serve as a resource on issues of program evaluation.</p>																

	Linkages with other Organizations: Affiliated with the American Evaluation Association.
11.Means of communication with members	Listserv, website, social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
12.Past events (e.g. during past year)	August 2015 to August 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Conference Calls: 5 • Board In Person Meetings: 2 • Board Planning Session Retreat: 1 • Annual Conference: 1 • Cluster Events: 3
13.Forthcoming key events/conferences – dates, location	- Spring 2017: Annual Conference, Location TBD. - October 2016: Training Opportunity – Using Data to Empower Arizona Communities, Phoenix, AZ
14.Name and e-mail of person submitting this information	Dr. Maria Aguilar-Amaya, Immediate Past President mamaya@courts.az.gov
15.Date of this update	August 16, 2016

II. Experience with Evaluation Capacity Building

<p>1. Background: Please provide a brief history of the formation of this organization (VOPE).</p> <p>1.1 Who were/are the key players?</p> <p>1.2 How many members do you have on your governing board/committee?</p> <p>1.3 What are the main existing strengths that your VOPE is trying to capitalize on?</p> <p>1.4 What are the main challenges that your VOPE is trying to address?</p>	<p>1.1 Key Players – Key players in the organization have typically been professionals working in the program evaluation field in private, non-profit, and governmental organizations. The board and membership include individuals who have been involved as far back as 1997.</p> <p>1.2 Members on Board – The Board of Directors is made up of 11 organization members. Three board positions are elected by the membership: Secretary, Vice President of Budget and Finance, and President Elect.</p> <p>1.3 Capitalizing on Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strong and consistent financial resources. – Consistency of conference participation over the last five years. – Willingness of board members to serve in different capacities on the board when their term has expired. – Long-time membership. – Diversity of board members. <p>1.4 Challenges Being Addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Holding events in the northern region of the state. – Drawing in membership from students in the evaluation field. – Lack of participation from the northern region of the state. – Limited awareness on the benefits of AZENet membership.
<p>2. Organizational motivation: What were/are the driving forces of the VOPE and its historical development?</p>	<p>Driving Forces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To increase awareness of evaluation in Arizona. - To provide training, educational, and networking opportunities to evaluators in Arizona.
<p>3. Evaluation Capacity Building¹: What has your VOPE done to promote evaluation (M&E) capacity?</p>	<p>Promoting Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize professional development events. - Use social media to bring awareness to AZENet events. - Pilot a mentoring program amongst evaluators. - Hold annual conferences. - Bring in nationally known key note evaluation speakers. - Meet and greet events. - Host book clubs.
<p>4. Context / target entities: More specifically, who are the persons or institutions your organization seeks to influence (to strengthen evaluation capacity)? For example:</p>	<p>AZENet Seeks to Influence:</p> <p>4.1 – Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona, Community Colleges, Non-profit Agencies, Government Agencies, Private Consultants.</p>

¹ By evaluation capacity we refer to the capacity of individuals to produce credible and useful evaluations (supply side), but also to institutional capacities to call for and utilize evaluations (demand side).

<p>4.1 Technical capacities to <i>supply</i> quality evaluations, partnering with experts, local universities or others to provide training for members, etc.;</p> <p>4.2 Strengthening VOPE organizational capacity itself;</p> <p>4.3 Enhancing the enabling environment for evaluation, including strengthening the <i>demand</i> for and use of evaluations by policy makers;</p> <p>4.4 Influencing governmental policies related to evaluation, evaluation designs and implementation of M&E systems, etc.</p>	<p>4.2 – Students, Early Career Evaluators, NGOs/CSOs</p> <p>4.3 - Government Agencies and Universities</p> <p>4.4 – Encourage us of evaluations for publically-funded programs.</p>
<p>5. Public accountability: Is your VOPE helping to strengthen oversight and transparency of government programs? If so, in what ways? Can you share any success stories of evaluators or others promoting public accountability?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>6. More specifically, what are some of the key themes for which you advocate? For example, are you promoting issues related to cultural sensitivity, equity, social justice, empowerment, transformation, gender, environment, poverty? If so, please describe or attach relevant documents.</p>	<p>AZENet has been promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems Change and Collective Impact • Strategic Evaluation • Capacity Building • Cultural Competence • Social Innovation and Evaluation • Use of evaluation data for decision making.
<p>7. Methods: Experiences in strengthening skills of individual members, by (for example):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organizing workshops led by local experts; • organizing webinars with international speakers; • designing and delivering e-learning programmes; • administering mentoring programmes; etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual conferences are led by national experts. - Piloted a mentoring program. - Organize workshops in the central and southern regions of the state which are led by local experts.
<p>8. Standards: Has your VOPE developed professional ethical codes/standards/ competencies (or adheres to those developed by others)? If so, provide documentation.</p>	<p>AZENet adheres to the professional ethical standards of AEA.</p>
<p>9. Job opportunities: Do you share employment/ consultancy opportunities with evaluators on your database?</p>	<p>Yes via email and listed on AZENet’s website.</p>
<p>10. Progress and results: What progress has been achieved so far in any of the above or other domains? What</p>	<p>Progress Achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finances have increased over the last few years allowing AZENet to provide more funding for local cluster event and to bring in nationally known speakers in the field.

are expected and unexpected results achieved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Piloted a mentoring program. Those who participated, when surveyed spoke favorably of the program. However, there was not a high participation rate as expected. - Currently in the process of developing an operations manual. - Currently in the process of finalizing travel pay guidelines for speakers who are brought in.
11. Lessons learned: Recommendations/ tips to others for good practices on how to organize and sustain VOPEs like yours.	When possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide opportunities for scholarships to attend conference for free. - Be willing to explore the ideas of others when costs are minimal. - When possible host a conference at a low cost or free facility to save on expenses. - Showcase the work of members by hosting a conference and putting a call out for papers for a poster session. - Showcase the work of member by hosting a breakout session and putting a call out for presentation proposals. This reduces the cost of paying for a speaker. - Host meet and greet events that are free members to come and network with one another.
12. Next steps: What does your organization plan to do next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To organize a series of free events for members introducing them to the various public data bases in Arizona government that are available for free online. - Revamp AZENet's Facebook page.
13. Willing to share with other VOPEs? For example, would you be interested in forming peer-to-peer partnerships with one or more other VOPEs to share lessons learned, advise each other? If so, describe what you would be willing to share / advice you would seek.	<p>Yes AZENet would you be interested in forming peer-to-peer partnerships with one or more other VOPEs to share AZENet's sustainability over the past two decades.</p> <p>AZENet would be interested in the experiences of other VOPEs on their recruiting efforts of students and early career professionals in the field of evaluation.</p>
14. Suggestions: What ideas do you have for what should be included in activities of IOCE and the EvalPartners Initiative?	Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sharing of membership recruitment efforts. - The development of evaluation webinars for international audience. - The sharing of using social media to bring awareness to evaluation. - Willingness to spotlight local evaluators and their work. - Willingness to spotlight national and international evaluation networks/associations.
15. Want to be actively involved? Does your VOPE want to be actively involved in IOCE and EvalPartners? If so, in what ways?	<p>Yes, in the sharing of information on conferences, speakers, sustainability of the VOPE, participating in international conferences, hosting guest speakers when they travel to the country in exchange for a free or low cost seminar.</p>
16. Would you be willing to write up a case study providing more detailed analysis of your VOPE's experiences?	<p>Yes.</p>

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this survey. As stated in the instructions, it will be added to the www.IOCE.net website so persons interested in finding evaluators in your country (or state or province) will have this basic information about your VOPE.

Please save this entire Word document with the name of your VOPE in the title, then send as an attachment to IOCE@earthlink.net.

For any questions or further information you may contact Jim Rugh, EvalPartners Coordinator, at JimRugh@mindspring.com.