

## RESOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING & ASSESSING NETWORK EFFECTIVENESS

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In addition to the resources listed below, stay tuned for *Catalyzing Social Networks for Social Change: A Funder's Guide*. This GEO and Monitor Institute publication will be released in September 2011. Early versions of the content can be accessed at: <http://networksguide.wikispaces.com>

### **Resources for Understanding & Supporting Networks**

#### **Building Smart Communities through Network Weaving**

An introduction to the basics on networks, how they evolve, and how they can be shaped for social impact—illustrated through a case study.

Valdis Krebs and June Holley, 2006. ONLINE:

<http://www.networkweaver.com/ideasandnetworks/documents/BuildingNetworks.pdf>

#### **Connected Citizens: The Power, Peril, and Potential of Networks**

This Knight Foundation report looks at what's working today for citizen-centered networks, paints three sketches of what the world might look like for connected citizens as soon as 2015, and offers pragmatic near-term recommendations for grantmakers.

Diana Scarce, *Monitor Institute*, Spring 2011. ONLINE: [www.connectedcitizens.net](http://www.connectedcitizens.net)

#### **Net Gains: A Handbook for Network Builders Seeking Social Change**

A handbook covering the basics on networks—including their common attributes, how to leverage networks for social impact, evaluating networks, and social network analysis.

Peter Plastrik and Madeleine Taylor, 2006. ONLINE:

[http://www.arborcp.com/articles/NetGainsHandbookVersion1.pdf?lt=net\\_gains\\_download](http://www.arborcp.com/articles/NetGainsHandbookVersion1.pdf?lt=net_gains_download)

#### **Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation: A Hands-On Approach to Supporting Networks**

A detailed analysis of organizational shifts at the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation to enable effective support of inter-organizational networks. Includes discussion of MRBF's "Network Officer" position and their strategy for supporting networks.

Doug Easterling, 2011. ONLINE: [http://www.mrbf.org/resource.aspx?catId=4#A\\_Hands-on\\_Approach\\_to\\_Supporting\\_Networks\\_\(March\\_2011\)](http://www.mrbf.org/resource.aspx?catId=4#A_Hands-on_Approach_to_Supporting_Networks_(March_2011))

### **Resources for Contributing to Network Learning and Assessment**

#### **Annie E. Casey Foundation Reports on Social Networks**

A series of five reports that explore what social networks are and their role in strengthening family and community change. These reports capture research findings that have informed Annie E. Casey Foundation's *Making Connections* initiative and their approach to supporting and measuring the impact of social networks in place-based communities.

Terri Bailey, Audrey Jordan, et al. 2006-2007 ONLINE:

<http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/PublicationsSeries/SocialNetworks.aspx>

### **Complexity and International Social Change Networks**

Sketches the challenges of planning, monitoring, and evaluating results in international social change networks and how these challenges can be addressed.

Ricardo Wilson-Grau. In *Assessing Progress on the Road to Peace Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities*, European Center for Conflict Prevention, May 2008.

### **Evaluating Performance in a Complex Adaptive System**

This chapter summarizes the characteristics of a complex adaptive system (CAS) from an organizational perspective, identifying properties of evaluation systems that are consistent with the nature of a CACS and describing tools and techniques for more effective evaluation.

Glenda H. Eoyang and Thomas H. Berkas. In *Managing Complexity in Organizations*, Quorum Books, 1999. ONLINE: <http://www.hsdsinstitute.org/learn-more/library/articles/Evaluating-Performance-in-a-CAS.pdf>

### **Networks and Evaluation**

Outlines a three-pronged approach to assessing the impact of networks: network mapping, network indicators, and network outcomes.

June Holley, 2007. ONLINE: [http://www.impactalliance.org/ev\\_en.php?ID=50436\\_201&ID2=DO\\_TOPIC](http://www.impactalliance.org/ev_en.php?ID=50436_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC)

### **Network Evaluation: Cultivating Healthy Networks for Social Change**

Outlines an accessible framework for thinking about network assessment– including handy worksheets step-by-step strategies.

Eli Malinsky and Chad Lubelsky, Center for Social Innovation and Canada Millenium Scholarship Foundation, 2008. ONLINE: [http://s.socialinnovation.ca/files/NetworkEvaluation\\_Pocket\\_english.pdf](http://s.socialinnovation.ca/files/NetworkEvaluation_Pocket_english.pdf)

### **Next Generation Network Evaluation**

Scans the field of network monitoring and evaluation to identify where progress has been made and where further work is still needed. Outlines iScale's approach to network monitoring and evaluation. Innovations for Scaling Impact (iScale) and Keystone Accountability publication, June 2010. ONLINE: [http://www.scalingimpact.net/files/IDRC\\_Network\\_IPARL\\_Paper\\_Final\\_0.pdf](http://www.scalingimpact.net/files/IDRC_Network_IPARL_Paper_Final_0.pdf)

### **Social Network Analysis and the Evaluation of Leadership Networks**

Discusses the value of Social Network Analysis (SNA) as a approach for to evaluating leadership networks. Illustrated with cases.

Claire Reneilt and Bruce Hoppe, *Leadership Quarterly*, January 2009. ONLINE:

<http://leadershiplearning.org/system/files/SNA%20and%20Leadership%20Networks%20%28LQ-2010%29.pdf>