



Bright Beginnings

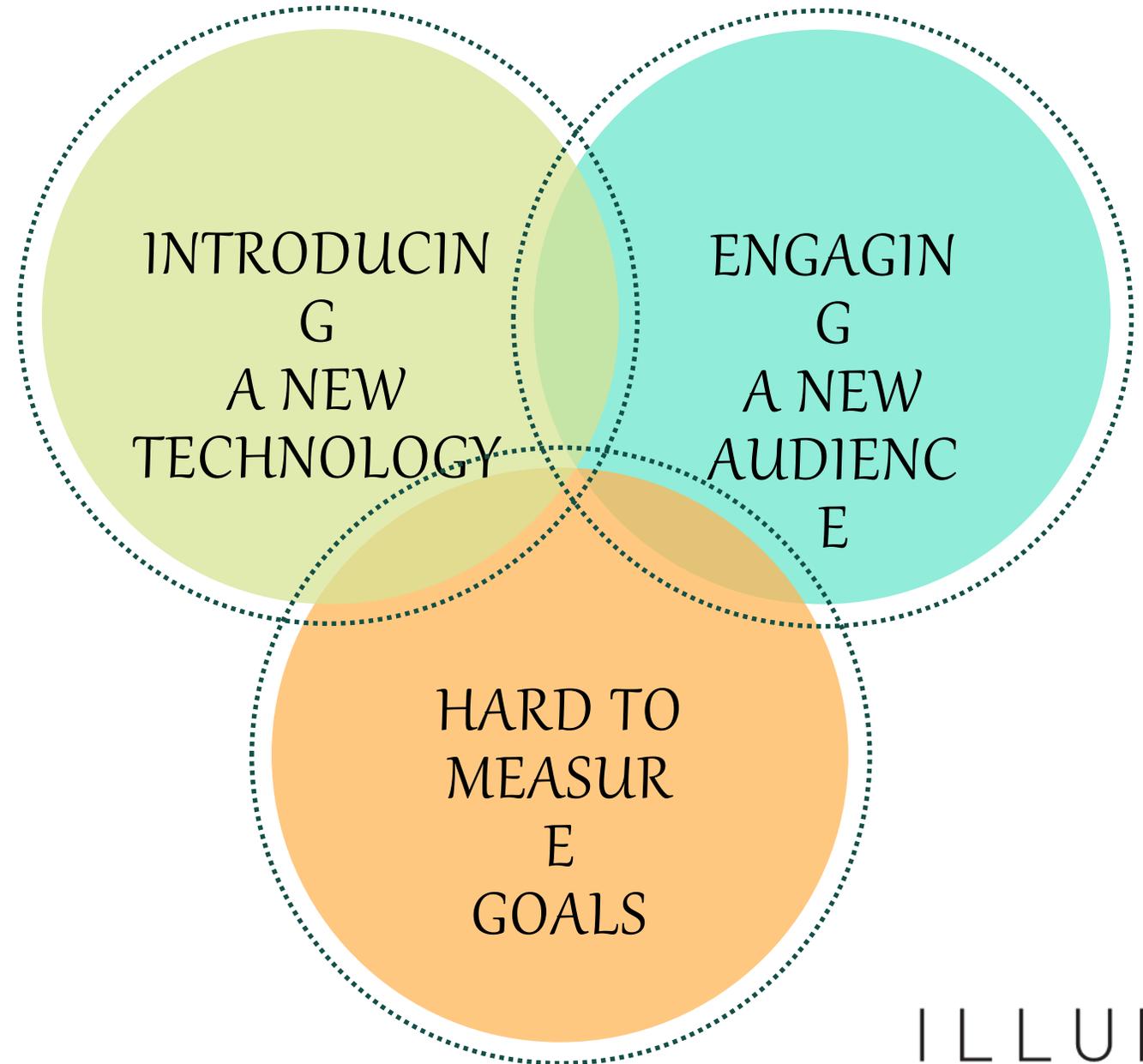
Lessons from Evaluating a
Statewide Solar for All Program



ILLUME
an E Source Company

Mallika Jayaraman
Senior Managing Consultant

Why does this matter?





ILLINOIS SOLAR FOR ALL **Program Design**

- Created by FEJA in 2016, expanded by CEJA in 2021
- Serves income eligible residents in Illinois
- Low-no upfront cost solar installs with guaranteed bill savings
- Goals around job training, grassroots education, reaching environmental justice communities, and energy sovereignty

RESIDENTIAL SOLAR
SMALL
**Onsite Solar for
1-4 Unit Buildings**



RESIDENTIAL SOLAR
LARGE
**Onsite Solar for
5+ Unit Buildings**



NON-PROFIT/PUBLIC
**Onsite Solar for
Non-Profit or
Public Buildings**



COMMUNITY SOLAR
**Residential Customers
Can Subscribe to
Offsite Solar Arrays**





ILLINOIS SOLAR FOR ALL

Evaluation: Impacts



Measure a variety of program impacts

Energy
Bill

Environmental
Social

Jobs and Economic



Conduct special topic research

E.g. How to measure the efficacy of the grassroots education portion of the program





ILLINOIS SOLAR FOR ALL

Evaluation: Process

Understand the experiences of those who deliver and benefit from the program

- Illinois Power Agency
- Program Administrator
- Approved Vendors
- Grassroots Educators
- Job Trainers
- Job Trainees
- Participants
- Other interested stakeholders

Engage these parties as stakeholders who provide input throughout the program lifecycle—from design, through evaluation and continuous improvement

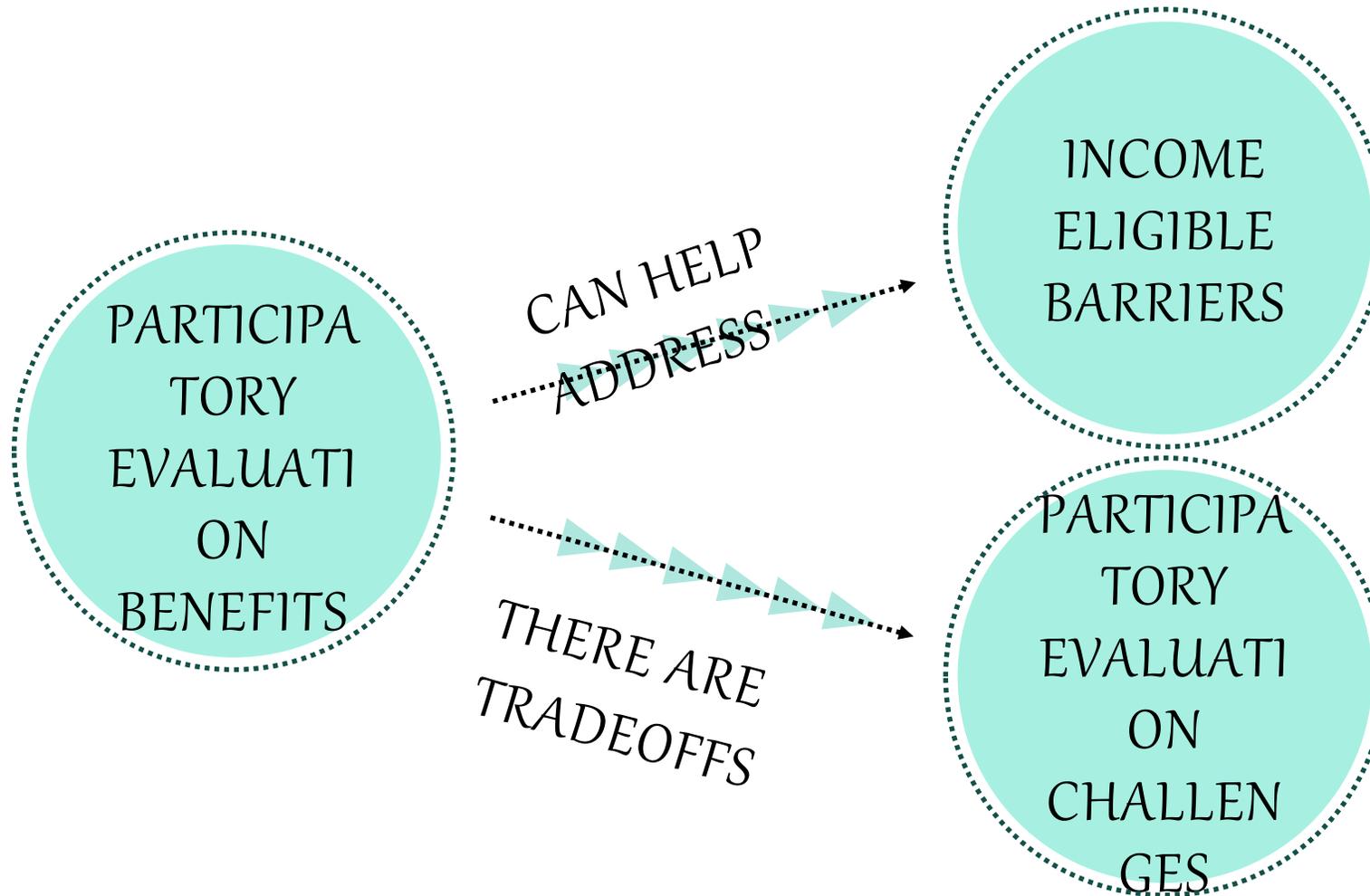
Evaluation Approach

Focus in on two considerations that helped with this type of evaluation



Participatory Evaluation

Includes Stakeholders in the Evaluation Process



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Includes Stakeholders in the Evaluation Process



In-Depth
Interviews with
Stakeholders



Evaluation Plan
Webinar



Ongoing input:
comment form,
inbox



Results/
recommendations
share out via webinar
and meetings

Participatory Evaluation

Outcomes and Lessons Learned

Outcomes

Interacting perspectives of program stakeholders

Solutions already being used by stakeholders and participants

Insights from those who can't or don't want to participate



Lessons Learned

Compensate stakeholders

Minimize data collection burden

Ensure clarity around how feedback is incorporated

Offer feedback opportunities across many channels



Evaluability Considerations

FOR PROGRAMS WITH EMERGING EVALUATIONS

- **Metrics definition:** How will the program measure success?
- **Defining participation** for multi-stage, multi-year projects
- **Access to real world data** and strategies for when this isn't available
- **Establishing data quality assurance and management:**
The evaluator can support



Evaluability Lessons Learned

FOR PROGRAMS WITH EMERGING EVALUATIONS

- **Metrics definition:** Stakeholder objective criteria serve as a consistent set of metrics year-over year
- **Defining participation:** use two definitions “Approved” and “Energized” projects to capture different types of impacts
- **Access to real world data:** capturing energy use and billing data as part of program design
- **Establishing data quality assurance and management:** Helps to build out at the outset of the program

Wrap Up

Advice for Future Administrators and Evaluators

Lessons Learned

Participatory approach can be used to engage and empower stakeholders

Consider metrics, data availability and QA/QC at the outset

Consider audience and data availability when defining participation



Ongoing Considerations

Capacity to provide input

Demonstrating and communicating how input is used

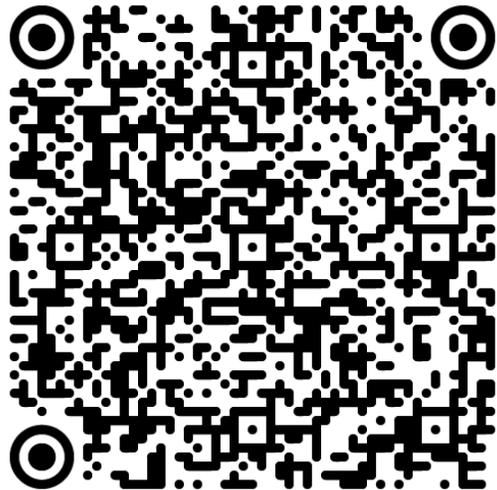
Challenges to access real world data

Thank You!

Mallika Jayaraman

Senior Managing Consultant

mallika@illumeadvising.com



Read our latest annual report!

