

4-H ECOP Leadership Committee
Data Collection and Reporting
Summer State Program Leader Meeting Discussion Guide

Background

The broad and complex issue of current practices and purposes of 4-H participant data collection (inclusive of enrollment and participation) and reporting has risen to the 4-H ECOP Committee for discussion and consideration for policy shifts. After considerable dialogue the consensus of the committee is that the timing is right to take a broad and critical look at our current practices and procedures, particularly in light of the national growth goals and commitment to a significantly increasing our engagement with currently under represented youth audiences. The next phase of the process is to engage the broader 4-H State Program Leader community in this conversation during the summer meetings. This input will lead to the development of a draft policy document by the end of 2016 that will be further discussed at our winter 2017 meeting, leading to clear action steps and a timeline for implementation in 2017-2018.

The Process

Please reserve one hour of your summer meeting time for a facilitated conversation based on the following questions. Your regional representative to the 4-H ECOP Committee will facilitate the conversation and capture the input to keep the process moving forward.

The Questions

1. Please think about the larger stakeholders and financial supporters of 4-H in your State and at the National level. What do you think these stakeholders would like to know about 4-H participants? What is the story we should be able to tell and how well do you feel our system is currently able to tell our story based on the data we currently collect about our participants?
2. What do you see as the strengths of our current processes and systems for capturing information about 4-H participants?
3. How supportive do you feel the current processes and tools are for achieving the purposes for data collection that you outlined in question 1? Please identify any

specific gaps that you feel are limiting the effectiveness of the current process and systems.

4. The present data collection systems create a major delineation in data collection at intake as a result of the individual enrollment (provides personal identifiers) versus group enrollment process (no personal identifiers, thus no direct way to contact group enrollee).
 - a. What are the pros and cons of this approach?
 - b. What barriers to participation and enrollment does this create?
 - c. Are there alternatives that align better with our overall goals? If so, what might that look like?

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