When you need to go deeper than applied research

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How can funders help facilitate application?

Illustration by B. Mellor
Obstacles to Use

(Relevance) (Credibility) (Legitimacy)

(Cash et al. 2002)
(From Arnott et al. In review.)
Competitive Research Timeline

(From Arnott et al. In review.)
Facilitated Collaborations Across the NERRS
Collaborative Research for Impact: Evidence from the NERRS

Can changes in science funding, change science practice?

Can changes in science practice, esp. more intensive interaction (including co-production), increase knowledge use?
Can changes in science practice increase use?

**EVIDENCE OF USE**

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**TYPE OF USE**

- **Instrumental**
- **Conceptual**

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Findings

I. Progress over time is evident and significant

II. Collaboration requirements have transformed researchers and practitioners

III. “Use” and “user” is broad and becomes more so over time

IV. The perceived (and actual) readiness for utilization and the readiness of users has increased over time

V. Traditional project evaluation limited in ability to capture program impact
Use of “Usability” Research

- Inform RFP guidelines and review processes
- Inform reporting requirements
- Refine PI reflections
- End-user pre/post surveys
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Thank you!

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Extra Slides
Impact beyond use

- Building sustained capacity and partnerships
- Demonstrating that innovations work
- Tackling institutional barriers
- Changing the conversation
- Informing legislation & regulation
- Training the next generation, generating publications, and furthering knowledge