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11-2012

## 2012 Applied Projects Evaluation Interim Report

Caster Family Center for Nonprofit and Philanthropic Research, University of San Diego

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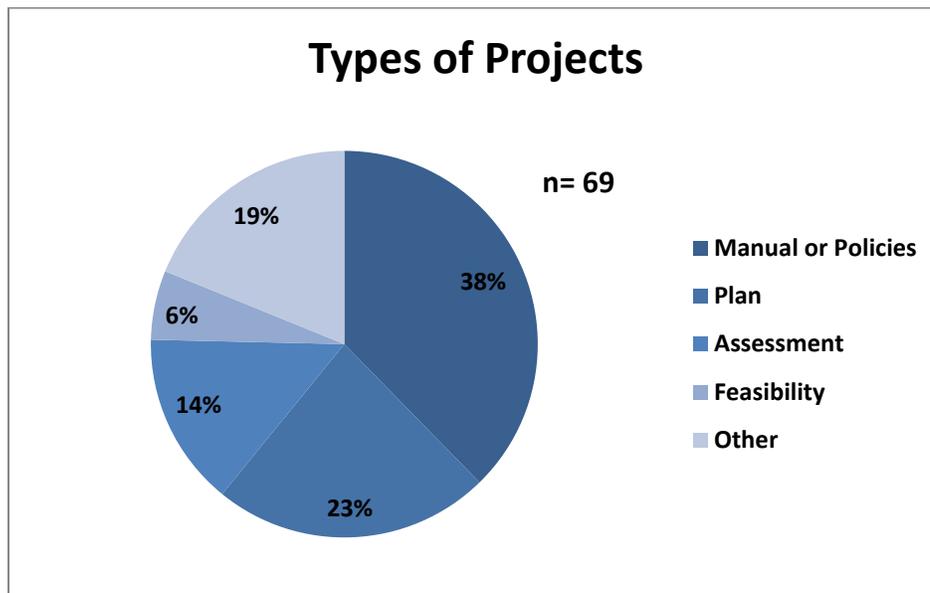
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# Applied Projects Evaluation

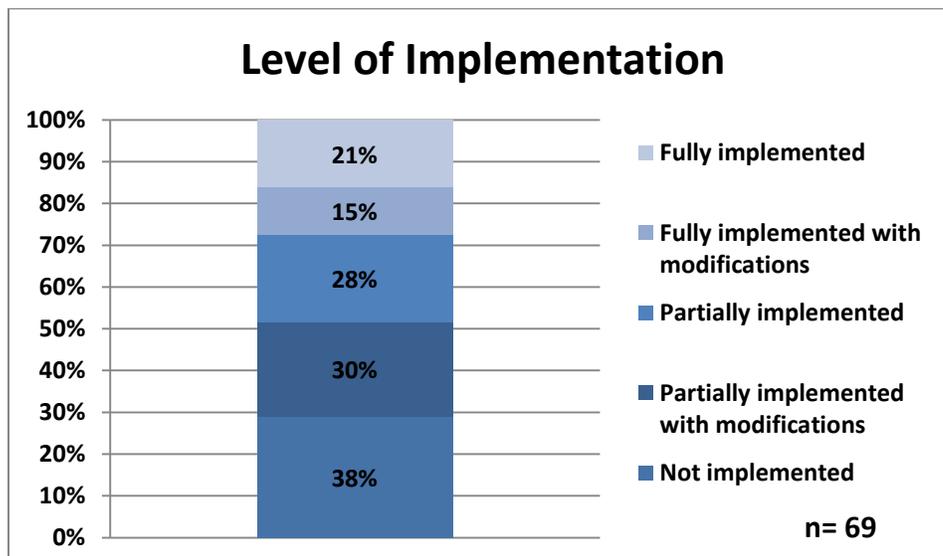
## Interim Report November 2012

In order to assess the value of applied projects completed by NPLM students for client nonprofit organizations, evaluation surveys are sent biannually. The statistics below demonstrate key findings from 69 responses to surveys administered during both the spring and fall of 2011 and 2012. The quotations included here are from the most recent survey conducted in the fall of 2012.

**Question: What type of project did the student(s) complete?**

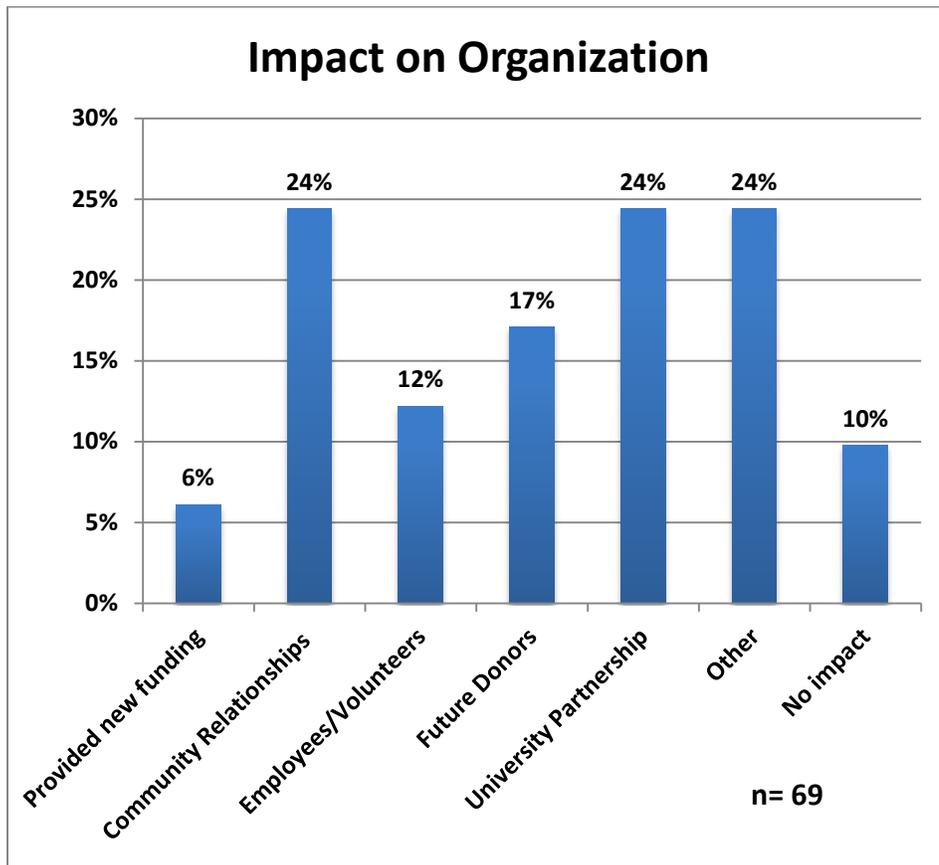


**Question: Since the project was presented to your organization, has it been implemented?**



For those organizations that have not yet implemented any part of the project, 44% say they plan to implement it.

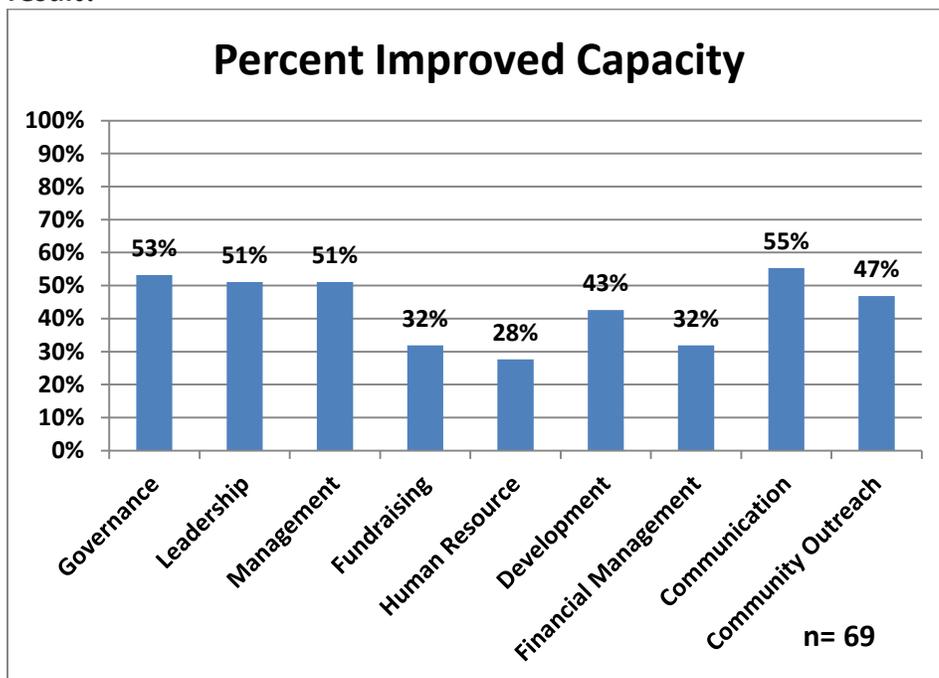
Question: In what ways (if any) has the project had an impact on your organization?



Comments from organizations that marked "other" include:

- Helped greatly increase internal controls
- Created needed dialogue and will strengthen effectiveness processes
- Made clear the inadequacy of our present Board makeup and organization
- Provided additional community resources
- Improved controls
- Strengthened Board of Directors
- Supported our planning and guided our thinking in all of our education programs

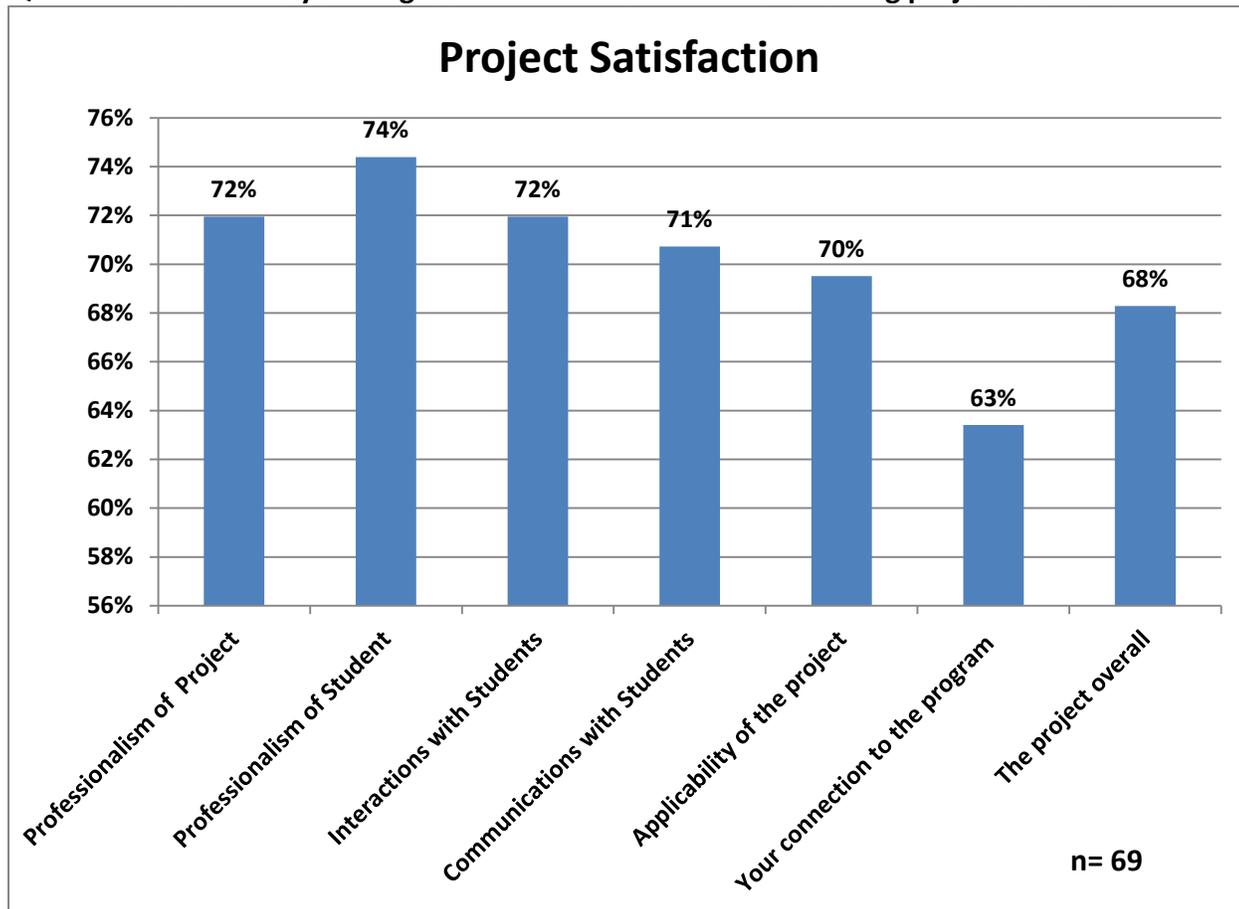
Question: To what extent did the following organizational management capacities improve as a result?



How has the organization operated differently?

- BOD is more organized
- The discussions pushed us to rethink what we do
- The organization now has a plan as a foundation for reaching out to the community
- Better communication
- Code is reviewed on regular basis, used in employee supervision, used as foundation for creating policies

**Question: Please rate your degree of satisfaction with the following project elements:**



**Question: How will the project change the community or region?**

- The farther our kids advance with their education, the greater earning potential they will have as they return to this community.
- Should provide greater community involvement when fully implemented.
- Improved communications.
- Can bring together a group under a new focus.
- The foundation will become an even more significant regional partner with both donors and grantees.
- The community will increase collaboration on behalf of common internal and external stakeholders.
- More effective job training programs with federal dollars.
- When an organization following a standards of ethics, it pays forward.
- Their efforts have assisted in our over-all growth.
- Through our strategic plan we will reach out to the community.

**Question: Please tell us ways we could improve the applied projects process.**

- We were very pleased with the process. Due to our own extenuating circumstances, we got a bit of a late start. The process would have been more comfortable (for the USD team especially!) with more time.
- We have not received the final product for our organization, but the group has been in touch with us to keep us informed.
- The project was excellent from start to finish.
- We need to continue to market the significance of the applied projects out into the region. It is an amazing process and the work that the students are doing is professional on all levels.
- This process was very smooth.
- We were satisfied and grateful for the service provided.
- I was very impressed with the program.

**Question: Please share with us any additional comments you may have.**

- It is understandable that the individuals working on these projects are: students, in the workforce and in some cases family members and there are limitations on their time. However when a team from the University is assigned with clarity of purpose up front then the team should be clear that they have a project to complete that the organization is depending on a certain value and quality of work. The student team should not compromise the quality, results or benefit of the project based on their limitations. Not doing a project well is actually a waste of the nonprofit organizations time and resources. Having an experience for the benefit of getting a grade is not a beneficial transaction for the organization. Better matching of talent, time and task required should be done in the future.
- We were extremely pleased with the way the team responded to our situation and worked with us, despite our situation.
- We will hope to have additional student teams work with us in the future!
- Excellent way for students to learn and organizations to engage!
- Our organization was in need of this BOD Manual and it was so well done, and user friendly.
- The students were highly professional and cared about the project. They were clear on their approach and had clearly given considerable thought to the project and how they would present it to us. They were very conscious of protecting our resources and conducted their meetings efficiently. I never felt they were wasting our time and the final product was excellent. Honestly, I would not have even considered writing a code of ethics for my department but now that we've done it, I refer to it regularly and use it to clarify my thinking.