



4.1.2 Para-public sector

Daniel: Project officer for an international NGO (both science and social science education)

How would you describe your current role?

Senior Programme Officer for a non-profit regional foundation. I focus on supporting policy development and decision making on climate change. I'm responsible for the identification, negotiation, preparation and management of grants that support climate change policy development and its implementation. I also work to build capacity on specific topics related to climate change policy.

Specific responsibilities

- Training: In addition to acting as policy expert, prepare, organise and deliver workshops and training sessions for government officials
- Writing: Interim and final reports of projects, as well as policy documents for discussion with government officials
- Other: Organize and participate in meetings with government officials and representatives of other sectors (private and academic) to discuss and review how climate change policy is planned and implemented, and how that could be improved

Shannon: Executive Vice President and then President of an NGO (social scientist)

How would you describe your current role?

The organization works with high school students whose parents have not gone to university to help them to get to college, and then stick with them until they graduate. We help with test preparation, developing their lists of colleges and then applying, and finally help with applications for financial aid. We want to help them determine the best choice of university in terms of social setting and economics. Once they're at college, we contact them regularly, and help them apply for internships and jobs, so they're able to get going when they graduate. So, I need to keep up with the current research in order to translate key findings into meaningful action.

Specific responsibilities

- Project supervision: overseeing the development of the different programs–
- Writing/communication: financial and other reports, newspaper articles, grant proposals
- Staff/team management: e.g., help the development and communications manager with a grant proposal and report, meet with the director of programs for updates
- Work with clientele: interview students for the program, mentor students regarding financial aid and college decisions

Charles: Knowledge and evaluation officer in a national NGO (social scientist)

How would you describe your current role?



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We work collaboratively with community organizations, government, educational institutions and the private sector to support promising approaches to some of the country's most complex challenges. We aim to help influence public policy and shift resources to where they are needed. We do these through interventions, including grants, investments, bringing together community leaders and activists, and strengthening the capacity of organizations. I focus on the development and effective evaluation of grants. I work with grant awardees to decide what kind of evaluation will best match the evaluation to the organization's needs. I both capture knowledge for public dissemination (what parts of our work benefit the community sector) and for internal dissemination to ensure we become better at our use of grant funding.

Specific responsibilities

- Project evaluation: designing summative, formative, or developmental evaluation; drawing out the meaningful, useful knowledge emerging from the awards
- Communication: internal and external reports on the impact of the organizations grants

Sam

How would you describe your current role?

I summarize the state of knowledge on a particular topic, and present it in a context that is relevant and accessible to policy-makers, and interested experts. These reports can be internal briefing papers or publically accessible documents. A report I worked on has been downloaded hundreds of times. It's a way to do research, which I enjoy, that satisfies my desire for my work to have impact, that is, practical application or in some way improve people's lives.

Specific responsibilities

- Research-type work: read for literature reviews, data analysis, policy analysis, preparing graphs and figures read
- Communication: write briefing materials and reports that are evidence-based expert assessments of science questions relevant to public policy development; present at conferences
- Administration: project management
- Training: attend courses



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