**EDC** Education Development Center

This webinar is being recorded

# EVALUATORS & ALLIANCES IN PARTNERSHIP

## An AGEP ECBC Webinar

February 9, 2023

**Suggested Webinar Etiquette**

1. Make sure your screen name has your name and alliance
2. Mute yourself unless you are talking
3. Turn on video when talking
4. Use the chat to share thoughts, comments, questions at any time
5. Enable captions if wanted
6. Use side by side mode for easy viewing

Unmute  Stop Video  Security  Participants 5  Chat  Share Screen  Record  Captions
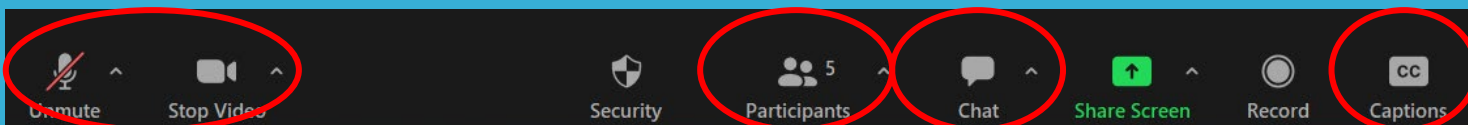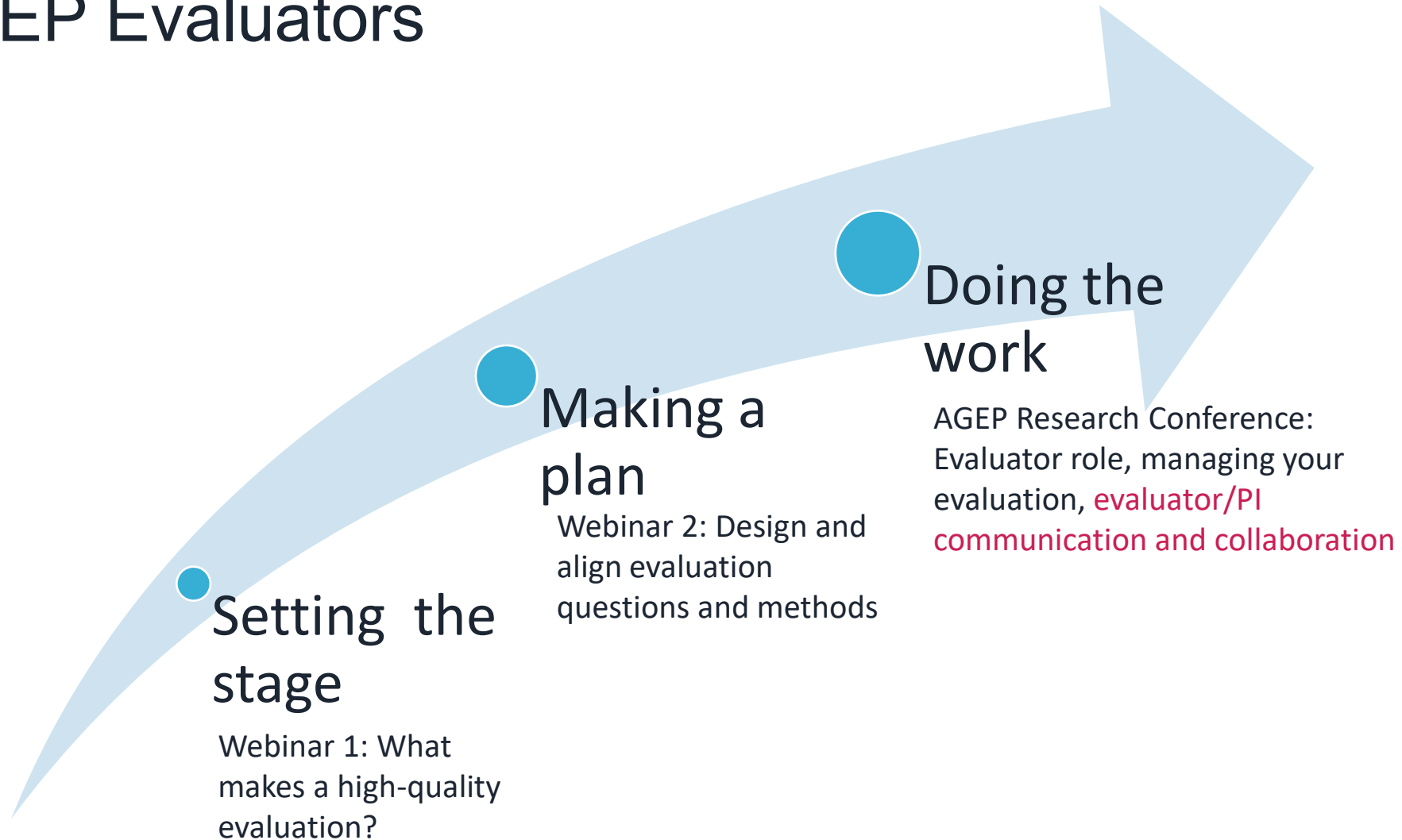
# Agenda

- Background and context for today's webinar
- Evaluator roles in partnership
- Breakout groups
- Full group discussion
- Evaluator partnership in action: communication and use
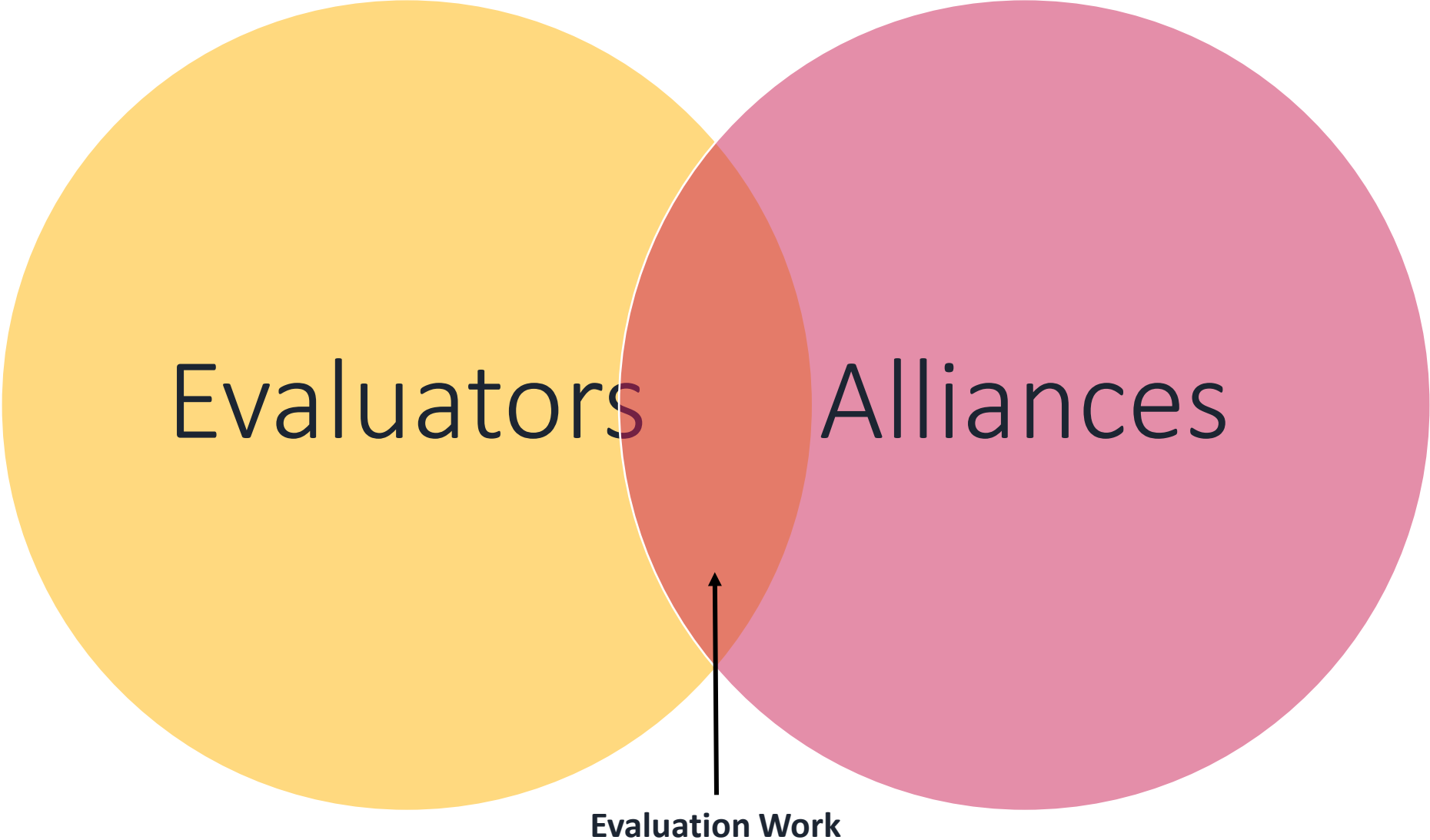- Wrap up and next steps

# ECBC Goal

Increase the capacity of evaluators to produce high quality, culturally responsive, contextually relevant, methodologically appropriate evaluations of AGEP Alliances.

# A recap: ECBC Fall Sessions
## for AGEP Evaluators

**Setting the stage**

Webinar 1: What makes a high-quality evaluation?

**Making a plan**

Webinar 2: Design and align evaluation questions and methods

**Doing the work**

AGEP Research Conference: Evaluator role, managing your evaluation, evaluator/PI communication and collaboration

# Evaluation vs. Evaluator Capacity Building

# Making that shared space constructive



Evaluators

Alliances
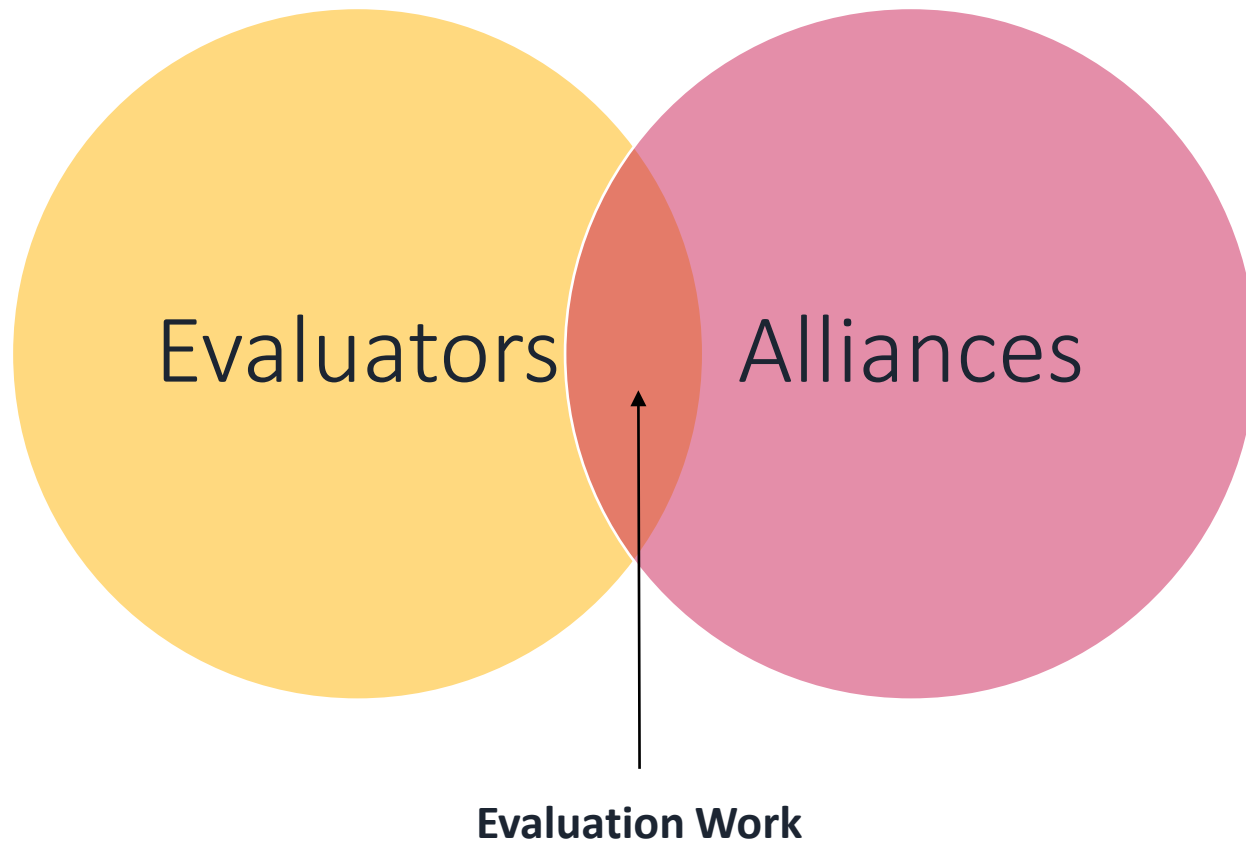
Evaluation Work

Today we will focus on three issues that can support high quality evaluations:
1. Roles
2. Communication
3. Use

# Multiple Perspectives

# Roles

Why is it important to clarify roles?

- To ensure PIs and evaluators are on the same page about the evaluation
- To decide the extent of involvement for evaluation work
- To clarify expectations and set boundaries of the partnership
- To establish and maintain transparency
- To know how to interact with team members

"An evaluator's role is not self-claimed; rather it is defined by the things an evaluator does during the evaluation."

Source: https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1065989.pdf
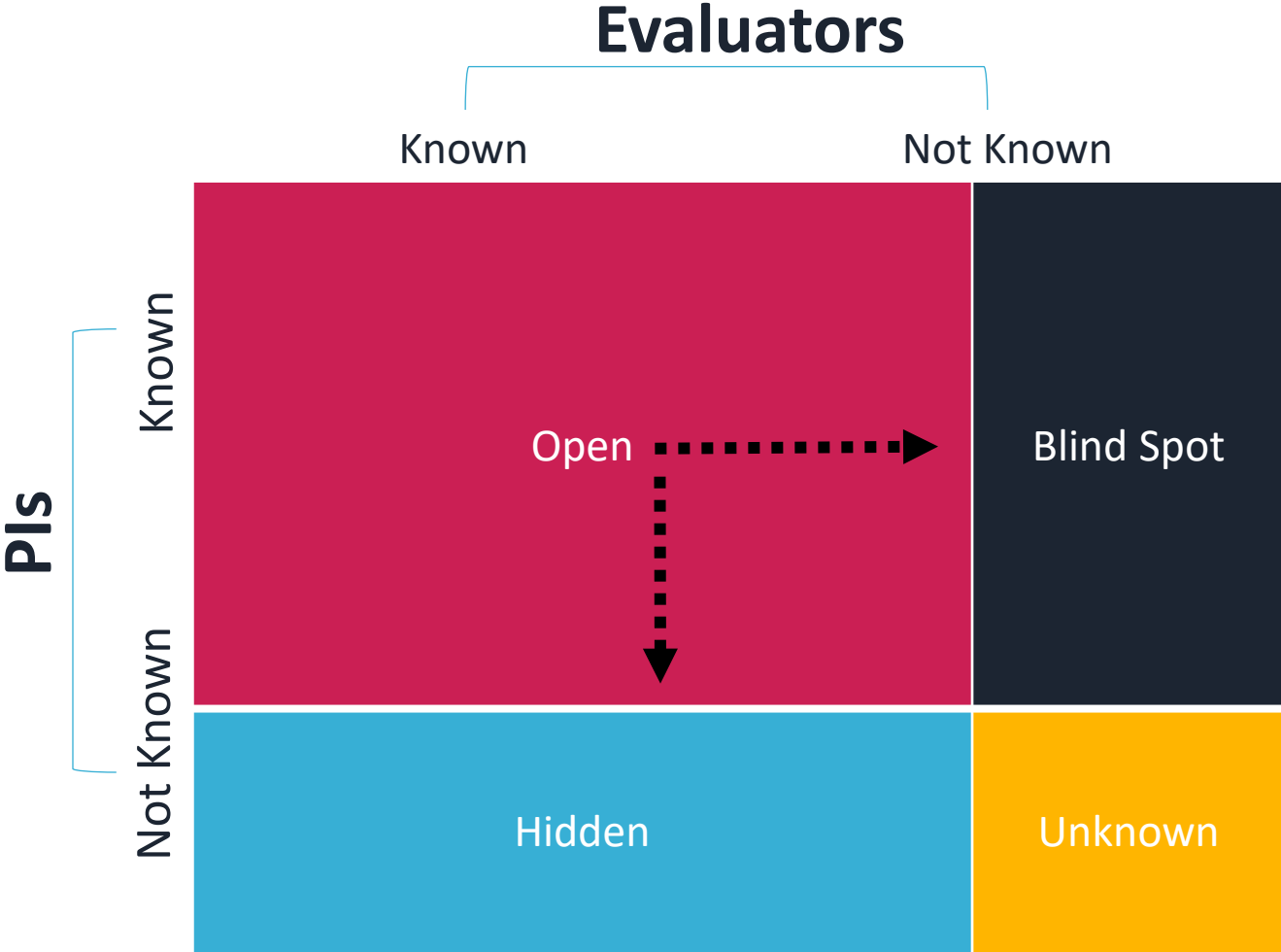
# What is an evaluator?

- Facilitator
- Judge
- Methodologist
- Counselor
- Educator
- Interviewer
- Journalist

- Explorer
- Mediator
- Cartographer
- Human
- Influencer
- Learner
- Project manager

- Observer
- Advocate
- Critical friend
- Auditor
- Negotiator
- Confidant
- Detective

What else??

# Introducing the Johari Window: Partnership Starting Point
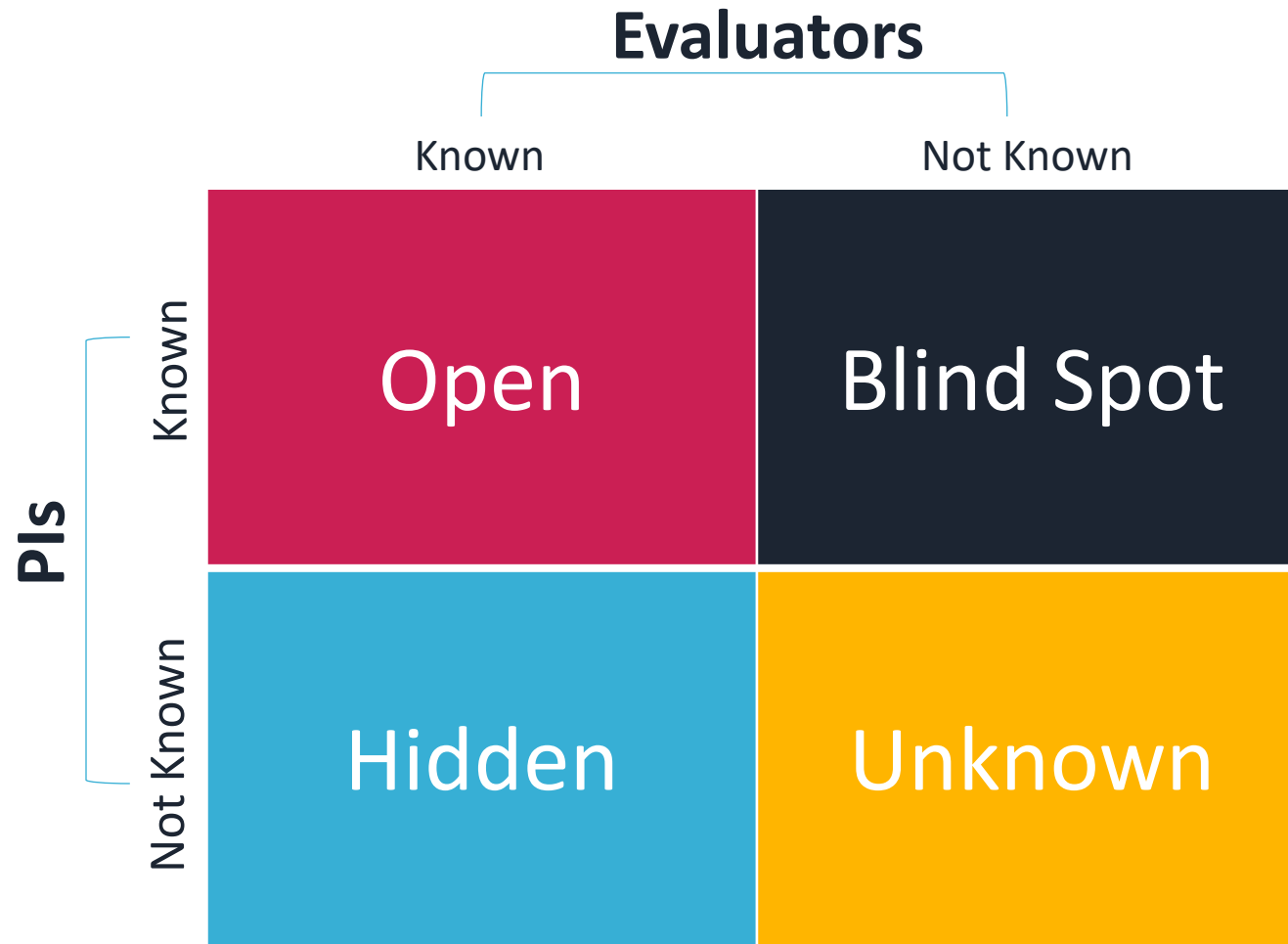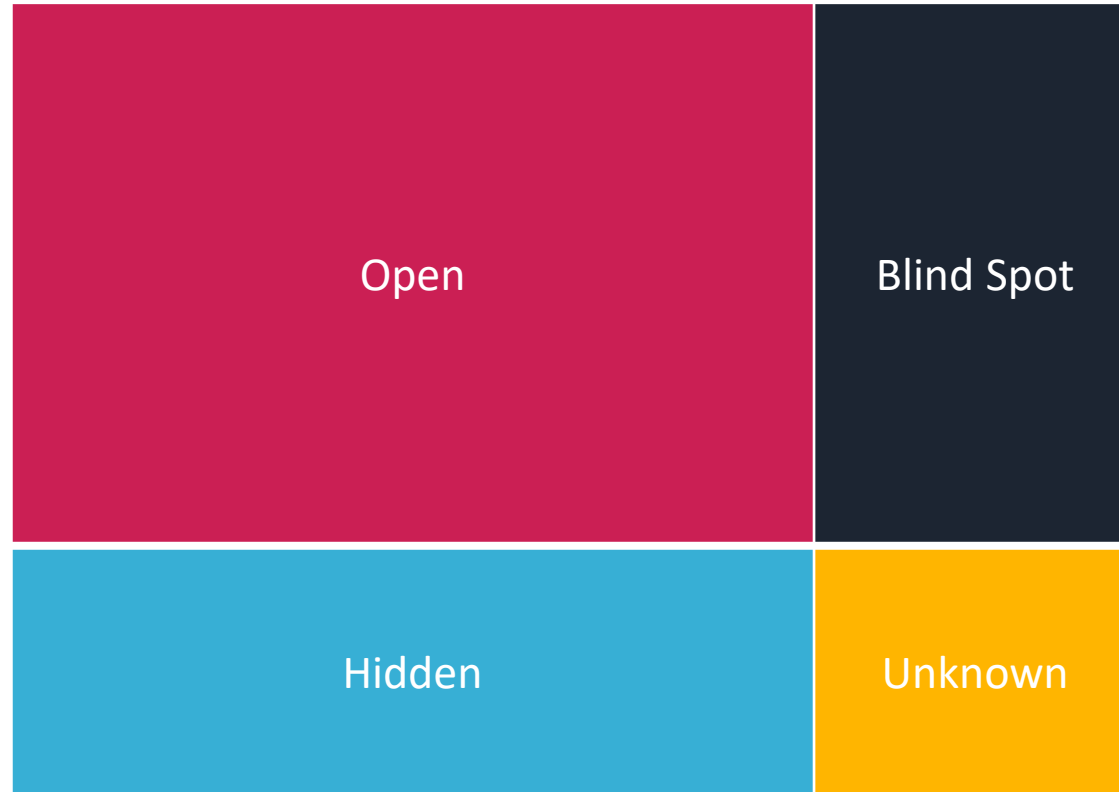
# Partnership Goal

# How do we get here?

enlarge **Open** area for a more effectual partnership

Open

Blind Spot

reduce **Blind Spot** through feedback from others

reduce **Hidden** area through disclosure to others

Hidden

Unknown

# Johari Window: AGEP Example

| Component | Description | AGEP Example |
|---|---|---|
| Open | skills and behavior known to all partners | Evaluation expectations that evaluators and PIs agree on |
| Blind Spot | skills and behavior that are known by your partners but not known by you | Evaluation expectations that PIs have that are not explicit or clear to evaluators |
| Hidden | skills and behavior known by you but unknown to your partners | Evaluation expectations that evaluators have that are not explicit or clear to PIs |
| Unknown | skills and behavior unknown to you and others | Evaluation expectations that neither Evaluators or PIs have (things there are questions about) |

# BREAKOUT ACTIVITY

# Full Group Discussion

- **What surprised you?**

- **What did you learn?**

- **What might you bring to your own Alliance evaluation?**

# EVALUATION PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE

**Communication and use**

# Communication in evaluation work

- Communication is ongoing – before, during, and after an evaluation

- Think back to the Johari window…
  - Do you have shared ideas about when and how the Alliance and evaluator(s) communicate with each other?
  - Do you know who needs to be included in communications? Who is responsible for communicating?
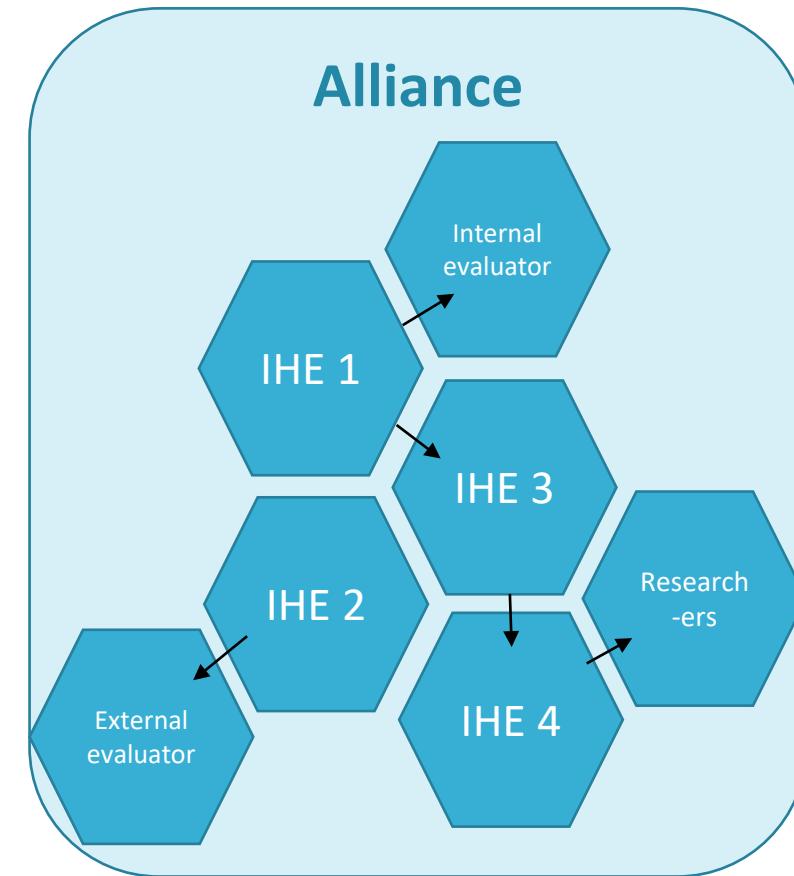


*The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.*
- George Bernard Shaw

# Effective communication supports high quality evaluations

- Builds acceptance of the evaluation among those whose participation is key

- Enables access to audiences for data collection and/or to other relevant data sources

- Allows for feedback on preliminary findings, including context and insights to help interpretation

"Intentional conversations and planning documents can help align expectations for evaluation activities, deliverables, and findings."

Source: http://evalu-ate.org/webinar/may19/?_ga=2 .160754109.1602058252.16753 59535-158551486.1675359535

# Evaluation Use

- Evaluation use is an extension of evaluator role and communication

- Evaluators can:
  - Facilitate dialogue to interpret findings
  - Communicate to a range of audiences and stakeholders
  - Co-create recommendations that are responsive and feasible

# Evaluation use through partnership

Partnership can help to avoid evaluation use pitfalls.

- Use does not have to wait until the end of an evaluation! Use can— and should--happen along the way and throughout an evaluation.

- A strong partnership helps ensure full use of findings, <u>including difficult or negative ones</u>.

- Evaluators are committed to and passionate about the goals of the AGEP program and want Alliances to succeed. Use them!

# Questions or Observations?
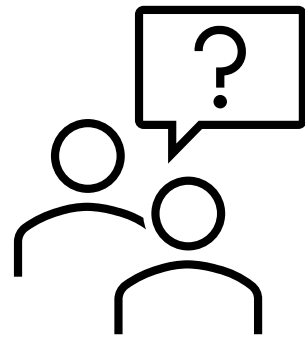
# Wrap-up and next steps

- This webinar recording and materials will be available on https://agep-ecbc.edc.org/ next week.

- We are working on a supplement to offer additional activities – stay tuned for more!

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# THANK YOU

Contact the AGEP ECBC team any time.
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