

IDENTIFYING AND SELECTING EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES: QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

This document is a tool for facilitating discussion and decisionmaking about evidence-based programs and practices (EBPs). It is intended to help administrators, program directors, and clinicians charged with choosing EBPs that meet the needs of their target population and community.

KEY QUESTIONS



Outcome Identification

- ▶ What is the issue you are trying to address?
- ▶ What variables contribute to the issue?
- ▶ Why or how did the issue develop?
- ▶ What is being done to address the issue?
- ▶ What are the strengths in the community?
- ▶ Where are the gaps not being addressed by the community?
- ▶ What are the desired outcomes (individual, organizational, and system)?
- ▶ Who is the target population(s)?

EBP Identification

- ▶ Have you researched relevant EBPs and accessed program registries to obtain information on population fit, needed training, and implementation materials?
- ▶ What is the intended reach and scope of the EBP (e.g., individual behavior change, population-level behavior change)?
- ▶ Have you spoken with others familiar with the EBP and its implementation requirements?
- ▶ Have you considered content, activities, dosage, setting, participant information, outcomes?

Evidence for Effectiveness

- ▶ What outcomes has the EBP achieved?
- ▶ Does the EBP have evidence of effectiveness with the specific intervening variables and issues identified?
- ▶ Has the EBP been implemented successfully with a similar setting and population (age, gender, ethnicity)? If not, are the differences likely to compromise the results?
- ▶ Has the EBP been evaluated with a research design including a comparison or control group, with significant findings?
- ▶ Have there been independent reviews of results (e.g., systematic reviews, inclusions in registries, recognition by government agencies)?
- ▶ Have the results been replicated in other studies?
- ▶ Have evaluation(s) found the EBP to be effective compared to other EBPs?

Organizational and Community Fit

- ▶ Is the EBP feasible for your site, taking into account organizational policies, procedures, and structure?
- ▶ What leadership will support the EBP implementation and sustainability?
- ▶ Is the EBP culturally feasible, taking into account the mission, vision, values, and culture of the community or organization?
- ▶ Is the EBP politically compatible with local leadership and priorities?
- ▶ Which individuals, inside or outside the organization, are able to champion the EBP?

Capacity and Resources

- ▶ What are the EBP's logistical requirements (e.g., space, equipment)?
- ▶ Is the EBP financially feasible, taking into account costs to purchase implementation materials or provide technical assistance?
- ▶ How much will it cost to recruit, train, and fund additional staff to ensure staff competencies and skills match the EBP requirements?
- ▶ Is the required training sufficiently available and affordable to accommodate unexpected staff turnover and implementation scheduling demands?
- ▶ Do the benefits outweigh the costs of implementing the new EBP?

Monitoring and Sustainability

- ▶ Have the developers of the EBP measured the rate of success in sustaining their model with fidelity?
- ▶ What monitoring or evaluation tools are available to help track implementation quality (e.g., fidelity measures)?
- ▶ What resources and staff are needed to ensure such tracking?
- ▶ Who will make decisions about the need for midcourse corrections?
- ▶ What are the long-term costs associated with maintaining the EBP and the organizational infrastructure required for implementation?
- ▶ What funding sources are available for continued support of the EBP?
- ▶ What mechanisms are built into the implementation process (e.g., train-the-trainer models) to ensure sustainability?

Considerations Throughout the EBP Selection Process

Does the EBP **align** with identified outcomes and target populations?

Is there sufficient **evidence** that the EBP will lead to improved outcomes?

What is the **capacity** for implementing the EBP? Capacity affects the EBP's quality, delivery, results, and sustainability.

Have you obtained **stakeholder** input and buy-in to facilitate implementation, efficiency, and sustainability?

References

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Resources

- A Road Map to Implementing Evidence-Based Programs*, National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, <http://nrepp.samhsa.gov/LearningModules.aspx>
- A Framework for Effectively Implementing Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (EBPs)*. National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention, <http://sshs.promoteprevent.org/ebpframework>
- The Guide to Community Preventive Services: The Community Guide*, <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html>
- Links to Databases of Best Practices*, The Community Toolbox, http://ctb.ku.edu/en/promisingapproach/Databases_Best_Practices.aspx
- Principal Considerations in Selecting Evidence-Based Programs*. Philip Uninsky, Youth Policy Institute, Inc., http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YQPn_zVIWM

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