

How Can We Sustain Our Efforts?

Sustainability Self-Assessment

The following questions explore the key concepts of the [3 Bold Steps](#) as they relate to sustainability.

Partnership and Leadership	Yes	No	Don't Know
Has the leadership's vision for your efforts clarified which elements of your efforts are most important to sustain?			
Have you considered how each partner might assist in sustaining your efforts?			
Are there additional partners that you should consider as you think about sustaining your efforts?			
Have you articulated how each partner will benefit by remaining in the partnership?			
Do you have an understanding of the role of a change agent and of how change happens in an organization/community?			
Have you included the goal of systemic change as you thought about what elements of your efforts you want to sustain?			
Do you know which decision-makers in your community should be involved as you decide which elements of the efforts you will sustain?			
Have you created a strategic plan to sustain various elements of your efforts?			
Have you considered some key aspects of your community-for example, the political context of the kind of work your program does and a map of its existing resources-as you have thought about what elements of your efforts you want to sustain?			
Do you have the tools/skills you need for strategic planning?			
Have you considered which policy-makers may be able to influence the sustainability of your efforts?			

Partnership and Leadership	Yes	No	Don't Know
Do you know how to determine policymaker's priorities and have you considered these policy-makers' priorities in sustaining your efforts?			
Have you created plans to communicate, involve, and educate policymakers about your objectives---and your success in achieving them---in order to sustain your efforts?			

Implementation	Yes	No	Don't Know
Have you developed internal mechanisms and support (e.g. infrastructure; policies, or procedures) for your efforts either within its home organization or your partners that will help sustain it?			
Have you trained staff or partners to use skills that will achieve your program's intended outcomes?			
Have you thought how you should change your program to adapt to changing conditions in order to sustain it?			

Evaluation	Yes	No	Don't Know
Have you designed your evaluation with sustainability in mind?			
Have you used your evaluation to make decisions, including mid-course corrections?			
Have you considered how to best select and present your evaluation data to enhance sustainability efforts?			

Communications/Marketing	Yes	No	Don't Know
Have you developed a clear, consistent message about the importance of your goals and success in reaching them that will help sustain your efforts?			
Have you identified which audiences you need to reach to sustain your efforts?			
Have you considered what strategies you might use to market your efforts in order to sustain them?			

Financing	Yes	No	Don't Know
Have you considered fee or revenue development in increasing funds to sustain your efforts?			
Have you made contacts with businesses or foundations that can help you sustain your efforts?			
Have you considered leveraging other existing resources to sustain your efforts?			
Have you sought out other community-based organizations with similar missions/visions in order to consolidate community's resources?			
Do you have an understanding of financial planning?			