

Key Steps for Finding the Balance Between Program Fidelity and Adaptation

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ASSESS community needs and assets related to substance abuse prevention

- 1 - CHOOSE DEFINITION of fidelity/adaptation balance, and share your definition with everybody who's collaborating on the program's implementation.
- 2 - ASSESS INITIAL COMMUNITY CONCERNS about fidelity/adaptation issues with everybody who's collaborating on the program's implementation.
- 3 - Conduct a DUE DILIGENCE REVIEW of the program to identify fidelity/adaptation challenges more precisely.
- 4 - Examine SCIENCE-BASED ELEMENTS of the program to increase understanding of fidelity/adaptation issues - its theory of change, logic model and core components.

BUILD community capacity to implement a program successfully

- 5 - Determine what RESOURCES may be needed to deal with fidelity/adaptation issues, and how to present need for these resources to funders.
- 6 - Look at what INITIAL TRAINING the program developer or others offer that might help you address fidelity/adaptation issues.
- 7 - Define how you'll DOCUMENT fidelity/adaptation aspects of program implementation, including possible use of Pathways to Effective Programs and Positive Outcomes and/or a fidelity instrument.
- 8 - Determine whether an individualized TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE on fidelity/adaptation issues, by the program developer or others, might be feasible and useful.
- 9 - INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY in addressing the fidelity/adaptation issues you've identified.

SELECT the evidence-based program that's right for a community, and get it (and the community) ready for implementation

- 10 - Weave results from all these steps into a PLAN FOR ADDRESSING FIDELITY/ADAPTATION BALANCE, and make this part of your overall implementation plan.

IMPLEMENT the program, and get ready to evaluate it

- 11 - Include fidelity/adaptation issues in designing the EVALUATION strategy for this implementation of the program.

COMPLETE EVALUATION, and promote long-term sustainability of the program when appropriate

- 12- Set in place an ONGOING PROCESS for addressing fidelity/adaptation issues that are likely to come up after the program has been implemented, and throughout its lifetime in the new setting.