



Questions to Consider Planning for Sustainability

Instructions

There are several factors to consider when planning for the sustainability of your health department's efforts to address the intersection of suicide, overdose, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Gather all staff members involved in suicide, overdose, and ACEs prevention work within your agency. Look at the Managed Resources section of the SPACECAT and review your capacity assessment results, and then use the following questions to guide your discussion. Assign a notetaker to capture the answers to each of these questions. By the end of this conversation, the group should be able to:

- Identify potential barriers to sustainability, and
- Articulate possible next steps to address these challenges.

Internal and External Support

1. Is there the necessary buy-in and support for this program or initiative, both internally within the local health department and externally within the community?

2. Who has influence on this issue internally? In the community? Are they aware, supportive, or involved?



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3. Which challenge(s) related to internal and external support most immediately threatens the sustainability of our efforts?

4. What can we do differently to overcome these challenges in the future?

Partnerships

1. Is there shared understanding of what is considered “success” for each partner?



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2. Are there potential partners who are key stakeholders of these issues that are not involved? Are current partners still engaged and active?

3. Do we need to secure additional resources from community partners?

4. Which challenge(s) related to partnerships most immediately threatens the sustainability of our efforts?



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5. What can we do differently to overcome these challenges in the future?

Internal Infrastructure and Organizational Capacity

1. Do we have the internal resources (staffing, time, funding, etc.) and infrastructure within the local health department to adequately support this program long-term?

2. Do we have a continuity plan in place to plan for potential staff turnover and to ensure the transfer of knowledge?



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3. Do we have clearly written policies, processes, and procedures for this work to train new staff or to replicate the model?

4. Which challenge(s) related to internal infrastructure and organizational capacity most immediately threatens the sustainability of our efforts?

5. What can we do differently to overcome these challenges in the future?



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Funding

1. Are the funding sources for this program or initiative stable? Flexible? Diverse?

2. What funding sources have other communities used for similar programs or initiatives?

3. Which challenge(s) related to funding most immediately threatens the sustainability of our efforts?



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4. What can we do differently to overcome these challenges in the future?

Program Impact

1. Do we use data to drive decision-making processes or program improvement?

2. Do we demonstrate value of this program via evaluation data?



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3. Which challenge(s) related to demonstrating program impact most immediately threatens the sustainability of our efforts?

4. What can we do differently to overcome these challenges in the future?
