

WHY DO SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING?

Sustainability planning is critically important for initiatives serving children, families and communities. Many funding sources supporting these types of initiatives are short-term in nature, requiring initiative leaders to think creatively about how to marshal the fiscal resources needed to sustain their work. Moreover, initiative leaders operate in a rapidly changing environment that includes political transitions, economic shifts and demographic changes in the communities they serve. Sustainability plans help initiative leaders identify and respond to such changes in ways that will increase their chances of long-term success.

Sustainability planning helps you to:

- clarify where you are and where you want to go;
- develop strategies for long-term success;
- provide benchmarks to measure progress; and
- demonstrate to partners and other stakeholders the value of your work.

OVERVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING PROCESS

	Key Questions to Address	Tools
Module 1: Building a Sustainable Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the key elements of sustainability? ▪ What are your initiative's strengths and weaknesses? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainability Self-Assessment
Module 2: Developing a Vision and Results Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What do you want to sustain? ▪ What do you mean by sustainability? ▪ How will you measure progress towards those results? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Logic Model
Module 3: Creating a Strategic Financing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How much will it cost to accomplish your sustainability goals? ▪ What resources do you currently have? ▪ What additional resources do you need? ▪ How do you access those funding sources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiscal worksheets
Module 4: Building Organizational Capacity and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What resources related to community support, key champions and organizational capacity do you need to accomplish your sustainability goals? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Scan ▪ Strategy design worksheets
Module 5: Developing and Writing the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Over what timeframe will you implement your plan? ▪ How can you best present all of your analysis in a convincing written plan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sample formats ▪ Sample plan