TIPS FOR INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY[1]

Tips for increasing sustainability include the following:

- Think about sustainability from the beginning. Too often, practitioners wait until the 11th hour to begin thinking about sustainability. But building support, showing results, and ultimately, obtaining continued funding all takes time. So it's critical to think about who needs to be at the table, from the beginning.
- Build ownership among stakeholders. The more invested stakeholders become, the more likely they will be to support prevention activities for the long term. Involve them early on and find meaningful ways to keep them involved. Stakeholders who are involved in assessment activities are more likely to support prevention activities that stem from the assessment. They are also more likely to sustain these activities, over time.
- Track and tout outcomes. A well designed and executed evaluation helps you determine which activities to keep and which to get rid of. It can also help demonstrate effectiveness. Then share outcomes with community members so that they can become champions of your efforts.
- Identify program champions willing to speak about and promote prevention efforts.
- Invest in capacity--at both the individual and systems levels. Teach people how to assess needs, build resources, and effectively plan and implement prevention programs and create the systems necessary to support these activities, over time.
- Identify diverse resources, including human, financial, material, and technological. Be sure to identify and tap as many of these as possible.

For more information:

SAMHSA. (2015, September 25). *Sustainability.* Retrieved from
http://www.samhsa.gov/capt/applying-strategic-prevention-framework/sustainability

---

[1] This tool was originally borrowed directly from a 2013 SAMHSA document. This exact document is no longer available on the SAMHSA website, but the following site contains very similar information: http://www.samhsa.gov/capt/applying-strategic-prevention-framework/sustainability