

## **Iowa Partnerships for Success—Questions to Consider for Sustainability**

*The following information was reviewed over the past two sustainability webinars and may be used to glean ideas and direction from your coalition or Collaboration Council in creating the sustainability plan. These are just some discussion starters/prompts. This is not an exhaustive list, nor will all of these questions need to be answered. Talk with the local coalition/stakeholders/target audience and figure out what is working well with the process and strategies to be sustained and what components are necessary for implementation and success (including those that have been happening but are not captured formally). This will require lots of asking "how" and "who" or "who could?"*

### **Part One: STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK ELEMENTS TO BE SUSTAINED**

**I. How will sustainability of a data-driven county planning process be ensured? (page limit: one and half pages)**

How can you encourage stakeholders to continue to review and gather assessment data? How can you keep them engaged? What ideas do you have? Who can you bring to the table to help answer this question? How will ensure the SPF process continues to happen in the county?

Address each step, with specifics. Give examples of what this would look like, for example, consider what data was most helpful in making decisions? Where did it come from? Who gathered it, who interpreted it? How will you ensure these pieces can happen beyond the funding? What processes ensured fidelity to core components? What did that look like? How will you sustain this?

**II. How will the county sustain and grow prevention capacity? (page limit: two pages)**

Since your last Capacity Workbook update, what areas need strengthened? Who do you need at the table a year from now? 2 years? Is keeping this document updated part of your sustainability plan? Reminder that this is not just about sector representation through the coalition. Engage target population and disparate populations. How will capacity planning happen? Who will lead, monitor, implement?

**III. How will the county sustain continued strategic planning? (page limit: one page)**

What are the needs in your county? Is the disparate population getting reached? Who is your disparate population? Do you foresee changes in the strategic plan in the future? What are they and why? How will the community be a part of planning for substance abuse prevention? services? It would help to be specific, create a timeline, summary document, template. Get MOUs signed identifying the person to lead this effort ongoing

**IV. How will the county ensure effective implementation, continued administrative structures and formal partnerships to sustain prevention outcomes? (page limit: one page)**

How are you going to ensure fidelity after the grant--fidelity of both implementation and the SPF steps? Who will help build partnerships? How will the county know what effective implementation is?

**V. How will the county continue to evaluate and monitor prevention outcomes? (page limit: one page)**

Who/what will be in place to track progress and outcomes since you will not be using the CCB?

**VI. How will the county ensure cultural competence-related policies exist? (page limit: one page)**

What is your understanding of cultural competence-related policies? Are there any policies in place? If not, what policies are needed and who will oversee the policies?

**Part Two: STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES TO BE SUSTAINED**

**Coalition Efforts (page limit: one page):**

What is your coalition doing to prepare for the end of the grant? How is the coalition determining the outcomes to sustain? What issues may arise? Are these outcomes sustainable at the current level the strategies are implemented? How is your coalition going to monitor/measure/evaluate and report on the outcomes? What additional skills may be needed? What training needs may be anticipated for the coalition ?

**Pending Items (page limit: half page to one page):**

What still needs to occur to support these outcomes? Do MOU's need signed? Are there community members who have been identified to step up to help? Do you have all of the SPF steps and the process accounted for once the grant has ended? what outcomes may not be met? How will progress continue?

**Criteria to help determine which strategies to continue (page limit: one page):**

How are you determining the strategies to sustain? What are the key factors? What are the current outcomes? Challenges and success? Are they a good fit with the members and the community once the grant has ended? Is there still momentum?

**Strategy Selection (page limit: half page):**

Summarize the strategies that were selected and why. Help stakeholders connect the dots here. Why are these chosen (and maybe why others were not)? What will the impact be?

**Part Three: STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS (page limit: one page)**

**What will the partners, collaborators and IPFS countywide coalition/Collaboration Council need to support each strategy and positive outcomes after IPFS funding ends?**

Review each strategy and consider best practices and best outcomes and establish a checklist to review with your coalition/Collaboration Council. Include items such as funding--where is the money coming from? Who is going to plan the implementation of the strategy and the timing? How is follow-through going to happen? How will outcomes be tracked? Who will be responsible for reporting back to the coalition/Collaboration Council? Who will keep everything on target? Who is the backup if the lead sustainability person or strategy champion no longer can do it? If sustainability focuses on policy change, these steps need to be very clear. It is more than the passing of the policy. Include details or county resident education, enforcement/loophole review, who will manage these components and how often?

**What partners have not yet been engaged in the IPFS project that could help sustain each selected strategy and positive outcomes after IPFS funding ends?**

Who is new in the community? How can you find new contacts? Contact other coordinators who are sustaining the same strategy--do they have partners they are reaching out to who you have not considered? Are there emerging partners focusing on related topics (like mental health or opioids) to be engaged?

**How will the countywide coalition/Collaboration Council engage these new partners between now and when the IPFS funding ends? (The Capacity Workbook may be helpful in completing these questions).**

Set up goals and timelines to reach out to new partners. Discuss specific ways to engage each group as there may not be a one size fits all approach to engagement.

**Part Four: RESOURCE ANALYSIS**  
**(page limit: one page)**

**Which components of each strategy will the county sustain after IPFS funding ends?**

Understand the core components of each strategy and what it takes to make a change when approaching your coalition/Collaboration Council members. For instance, Dosage--how much--and Frequency--how often a component of the strategy should occur? It's important to try to stay at the same level you are at now. Just because the grant is ending does not mean dosage and frequency should be waning. It's important to keep up momentum. Include capacity building and media advocacy core components.

**What are the specific costs to sustain each strategy and their positive outcome after IPFS funding ends?**

How much will it actually take to sustain a strategy? Consider all aspects--advertising, law enforcement strategies, curriculum, training, copies, placement, etc.

**What resources are available to continue to support each strategy and their positive outcomes after IPFS funding ends?**

How will the county continue to support efforts after the grant has ended? What aspects will need to be overseen? How will you monitor outcomes and ensure they are occurring? Consider if your agency should only be responsible for sustainability. Some coordinators have asked if the

strategies can be just written into a new grant. It is best if the county through the coalition decides how the strategies will be sustained.

**What other kinds of support (in-kind support, funding, donations, etc.) will help sustain each strategy and their positive outcomes after IPFS funding ends?**

Can the county or city or school budget for the strategy costs? Have you asked? Are there county grants available? Will businesses help support your efforts? What big donors or supporters are in your area?