National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention Sustainability Self-Assessment Tool

The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention has identified eight capacities that can ensure Forum sites' success and sustainability. Site leaders need the capacity to

1. Develop and articulate a **shared vision of success**, and the scale and scope of that vision.
2. **Clearly define the desired results** and measure the impact of their efforts.
3. **Authentically engage youth** in all aspects of the effort.
4. Create a **leadership and governance** structure to support the multidisciplinary partnership.
5. Consistently and effectively **engage community stakeholders** in the collaboration.
6. Effectively **manage the operations** of a multidisciplinary partnership to achieve shared goals.
7. **Secure and leverage a broad range of financial resources** to support the capacities and functions needed to achieve and sustain the vision.
8. **Nimbly adapt to and strategically influence** the changing context in which they operate.

This tool will help site leaders self-assess strengths and challenges across these capacities. Each capacity includes specific elements for you to consider and rate according to this five-point scale:

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Following each item, there is a space for you to comment or ask questions. At the end of the assessment, there is space for you to reflect on key strengths and challenges, and make recommendations for top short-term (12 months) and longer-term (2 to 3 years) priorities for expanding and deepening our efforts.

Capacity 1. Develop and articulate a shared vision of success, and the scale and scope of that vision.	1	2	3	4	5
1. Site leaders have developed a shared vision for youth violence prevention with stakeholders, including residents and youth.					
Comments:					
2. Site leaders ensure that stakeholders involved in developing the vision reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of the community.					
Comments:					
3. Site leaders have developed a detailed plan that aligns vision, goals, strategies, and activities with measurable results.					
Comments:					
4. Site leaders regularly communicate their vision and goals to the larger community, government representatives, and others.					
Comments:					
5. Site leaders have aligned their vision, goals, and plan with other initiatives and efforts in the community.					
Comments:					
6. Within the plan, site leaders have clearly articulated what systems, policies, and practices must be sustained in the community to achieve their vision.					
Comments:					

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Capacity 2. Clearly define the desired results and measure the impact of your efforts.	1	2	3	4	5
1. Site leaders have an evaluation plan that clearly defines desired results and outlines how they will track progress toward those results. Plan identifies data sources and specifies how data collection and data sharing will occur.					
Comments:					
2. Site leaders have access to data necessary to measure progress toward their desired results and have a system to share and track data across partners.					
Comments:					
3. Site leaders use data to set priorities, make decisions and course corrections, and to continually improve efforts.					
Comments:					
4. Site leaders engage community stakeholders, including youth, throughout the evaluation process (i.e., from determining results and developing an evaluation plan to interpreting and making decisions based on the data).					
Comments:					
5. Site leaders regularly communicate the impact of the effort with stakeholders, policymakers, and the broader community.					
Comments:					

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Capacity 3. Authentically engage youth in all aspects of your effort.	1	2	3	4	5
1. Site leaders have clearly defined leadership roles and decision-making responsibilities for youth leaders.					
Comments:					
2. The site leadership team, including youth, is trained in youth–adult partnership and positive youth development.					
Comments:					
3. Site leaders have strategies in place for effectively engaging youth in all aspects of their work. The strategies are grounded in youth–adult partnership and positive youth development principles.					
Comments:					
4. Site leaders have a process for ongoing recruitment and training of young leaders.					
Comments:					
5. Site leaders tangibly support young people's ongoing engagement (e.g., through stipends, transportation assistance, and adult supporters/mentors).					
Comments:					

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Capacity 4. Create a leadership and governance structure to support the multidisciplinary partnership.	1	2	3	4	5
1. Site leaders have clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and expectations within the leadership and governance structure.					
Comments:					
2. Site leadership has representation from key community stakeholder groups—such as youth, residents, law enforcement, education, health, and the faith based—and the leadership reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the community.					
Comments:					
3. Site leaders regularly assess the influence, capacity, and level of participation of the leadership and make adjustments as necessary.					
Comments:					
4. City leadership (and county leadership, if applicable) has demonstrated commitment to the Forum (i.e., through filling leadership roles, garnering resources, and communicating youth violence prevention as a priority).					
Comments:					
5. Site leaders have an inclusive and well-defined decision-making process.					
Comments:					
6. Site leaders have a plan for recruitment and skill development within key community stakeholder groups to ensure ongoing representative leadership.					
Comments:					
7. Site leaders regularly communicate decisions to all stakeholders.					
Comments:					

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Capacity 5. Consistently and effectively engage community stakeholders in the collaboration.	1	2	3	4	5
1. Site leaders involve stakeholders at all levels of the initiative's decision-making and work.					
Comments:					
2. Site leaders have strategies to intentionally engage young people as a unique stakeholder group.					
Comments:					
3. Site leaders engage stakeholders who represent the racial and ethnic makeup of the community.					
Comments:					
4. Site leaders regularly scan the community for new partners and support ongoing capacity building to broaden the pool of resident leaders.					
Comments:					
5. Site leaders have mechanisms for ongoing communication with stakeholders. Stakeholders are kept well informed of decisions, progress, and challenges and have regular opportunities to provide input.					
Comments:					
6. Site leaders create opportunities to recognize and reward stakeholders for their contribution to youth violence prevention.					
Comments:					

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Capacity 6. Effectively manage the operations of a multidisciplinary partnership to achieve shared goals.	1	2	3	4	5
1. Site leaders have clearly defined management roles and responsibilities among the partnering organizations.					
Comments:					
2. City government (and county government, if applicable) and other critical partners have staff time and functions dedicated to youth violence prevention.					
Comments:					
3. An organization or government entity serves as the "backbone organization" and provides key functions such as planning, coordination, convening, communications, and implementation oversight.					
Comments:					
4. The backbone organization has strong management systems and appropriate staffing to manage the initiative. Its staffing reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the community.					
Comments:					
5. The backbone organization has communications processes that keep community stakeholders engaged and informed.					
Comments:					

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Capacity 7. Secure and leverage a broad range of financial resources to support the capacities and functions needed to achieve and sustain the vision.	1	2	3	4	5
1. Site leaders have developed a strategic financing plan with input from community stakeholders. The plan lays out an accurate projection of cost based on the site's goals and describes the financing strategies necessary to achieve those goals. The plan identifies both short- and long-term strategies to sustain the effort over time.					
Comments:					
2. Site leaders and partner organizations have clear roles and responsibilities related to the financial plan and are committed to its successful execution.					
Comments:					
3. Site leaders understand the level of current public and private investments related to their goals and have identified opportunities related to those investments (e.g., opportunities to shift funding upstream, and align or coordinate public and private funding).					
Comments:					
4. Site leaders have strategies in place to pursue a variety of funding sources to support youth violence prevention efforts (e.g., federal, state, and local public funding; private philanthropic funding).					
Comments:					
5. Site leaders regularly monitor current funding and are able to identify gaps in a timely manner.					
Comments:					
6. Site leaders regularly communicate with current and potential funders about the progress they are making toward their goals.					
Comments:					

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Capacity 8. Nimbly adapt to and strategically influence the changing context in which you operate.	1	2	3	4	5
1. Site leaders have strategies in place to improve and institutionalize the specific systems, policies, and practices necessary to prevent youth violence in their community.					
Comments:					
2. Site leaders contribute to efforts to improve the policy context at the local, state, and national levels.					
Comments:					
3. Site leaders regularly monitor and assess opportunities and threats within political, policy, and economic conditions.					
Comments:					
4. When opportunities or threats arise, site leaders use their decision-making process to respond in a strategic and timely manner.					
Comments:					
5. Site leaders work with emerging and existing initiatives to ensure alignment and coordination of goals, results, and activities.					
Comments:					
6. Site leaders have a communications plan in support of their systems improvement goals and strategies.					
Comments:					

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Sustainability Self-Assessment Summary

Among the eight capacities, what would you identify as your site's greatest strengths?
    1)
    2)
    3)

Among the eight capacities, what would you identify as your site's greatest challenges?
    1)
    2)
    3)

Given the challenges, what is your recommendation for the top three short-term (12 months) priorities for expanding/deepening your site's capacities?
    1)
    2)
    3)

What is your recommendation for the top three longer-term (2–3 years) priorities for expanding/deepening your capacities?
    1)
    2)
    3)

What knowledge or support, if any, will help your site expand/deepen its capacities?