

How does our coalition decide where our community is on the continuum of “Community Readiness”?

Dimensions of Readiness	1	2	3	4	5
	Community Tolerance/No Knowledge	Denial	Vague Awareness	Preplanning	Preparation
A. Community Efforts	Nothing is being done -- no recognition of the problem.	No recognition that efforts addressing this issue are needed in this community or active resistance to efforts.	A few members may be thinking there might need to be efforts-- no immediate motivation to do anything.	Community members have begun talking about the need for efforts.	Efforts are being planned.
B. Community Knowledge About Efforts	No knowledge of need for efforts.	Community has no knowledge about efforts.	A few members may have heard about efforts, but extent of knowledge is limited.	Some members know about local efforts.	Members in community have basic knowledge about efforts.
C. Leadership	Leadership doesn't recognize need for efforts.	Leadership doesn't believe it is an issue that needs addressing locally.	One or more leaders may be beginning to recognize that it might be a problem for the community.	One or more leader(s) is/are trying to get something started.	Leaders are part of a committee or group that addresses the issue.
D. Community Climate	Prevailing attitude is problem isn't recognized.	Prevailing attitude is “Nothing we can do” or “We don't think it should change”.	Neutral, disinterested or believes the issue does not affect the community as a whole.	Attitude of community beginning to reflect interest, but generally don't know what should be done.	Attitude of community is “We're concerned about this” and community members are beginning to show modest support.
E. Community Knowledge About the Issue	Issue is not viewed as something people need to know about.	No knowledge about the issue.	A few in the community have some knowledge about the issue.	Some community members may recognize indicators of the problem, but information is lacking.	Community members recognize local problem and general information is available.
F. Resources Related To the Issue	No awareness of need for resources.	No resources available for dealing with this issue.	Community is not sure what it would take or where resources could come from to initiate local efforts.	The community has individuals, organizations, and/or space available that could be used as resources to better address this issue.	Some members of the community are looking for available resources to do something to address the issue.

From the Tri-Ethnic Center for Prevention Research, as published in the South Dakota SPF SIG Community Coalition Capacity Building Toolkit

Dimensions of Readiness	6	7	8	9
	Initiation	Institutionalization/ Stabilization	Confirmation/ Expansion	Professionalization
A. Community Efforts	Some effort(s) have been implemented.	Some effort(s) have been running for several years.	Several different programs, activities, policies in place. New efforts being developed based on evaluation data.	Evaluation data routinely used to update and improve efforts to better address the issue as things change.
B. Community Knowledge about Efforts	An increasing number of people know about local efforts and are trying to increase knowledge in the community at large.	Evidence the community has specific knowledge of efforts – contact persons, staff training, clients, etc.	Considerable community knowledge about different community efforts as well as of level of effectiveness.	Community has knowledge of program evaluation and benefits and limitations of the efforts.
C. Leadership	Leaders are active and supportive of the implementation of efforts.	Leaders are supportive of continuing basic efforts and are considering resources available for self sufficiency.	Leaders are supportive of expanding /improving efforts through active participation.	Leaders are continually reviewing evaluation results of the efforts and modifying support accordingly.
D. Community Climate	Attitude of community is “This is our responsibility” and there is modest involvement of community members in efforts.	Majority of the community generally supports programs, activities or policies. “We have taken responsibility”.	Some community members may challenge specific efforts, but general support and participation level is high. “We need to keep up on this and be sure what we’re doing is effective”.	All major segments of the community are highly supportive, community members actively involved in improving efforts and demand accountability.
E. Community Knowledge About the Issue	Majority of community members have knowledge of local incidence and some local data are available	Community members have knowledge of and access to detailed information about local prevalence.	Community members have background knowledge about causes, risk factors and consequences as well as local prevalence.	Community members have detailed information on local problem, its causes, risk factors, consequences, and the effectiveness of local efforts.
F. Resources Related To the Issue	Resources have been obtained and/or allocated for better addressing this issue	Considerable proportion of ongoing support for efforts is from local sources that should continue. Additional resources are being sought.	Diversified resources and funds are secured and efforts should be ongoing. There is additional support for further efforts.	There is continuous and secure support for programs and activities, evaluation is routinely expected and done. There are substantial resources for new efforts.

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