

STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION



About the Stages of Implementation

For each strategy funded during the fiscal year, local governments will be asked to select the Stage of Implementation that best describes the progress made for each strategy as part of the Annual Impact Report. When selecting the stage of implementation that best describes the progress made during the fiscal year, use your best judgement – there are no “right answers”.

CORE-NC Stages of Implementation

- Exploration & Planning
- Preparation
- Initial Implementation
- Full Implementation
- Further Expansion

If the stage of implementation evolved during the course of the fiscal year, please use the stage of implementation that best describes your situation at the end of the year.

If multiple sub-recipients were funded for the same strategy during a fiscal year but are at different stages of implementation, please select the stage that best represents the majority of the work completed across all sub-recipients during the fiscal year. Remember: The Impact Report collects information at the NC MOA strategy level (not at the organization, program, or project level).

The next page offers definitions and examples of each stage. Though these stages show a natural progression, we recognize that implementation is not always a linear process. There may be times when implementation may “regress” due to adjustments made from year to year. This is expected and normal.

For questions regarding the stages of implementation – contact opioidsettlement@ncacc.org or opioidsettlement@unc.edu for assistance.

The CORE-NC Stages of Implementation were modified from the [National Implementation Research Network](#).



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Exploration & Planning

At this stage, you are in the process of determining which strategy or program is the best fit by examining the degree to which a particular program meets the community's needs. Activities related to this stage may include:

- Identifying areas for growth or assets within a community or demonstrating the need for a program.
- Growing relationships with practitioners, organizational leaders, or community partners.
- Selecting a program that matches demonstrated needs, is acceptable to leaders/staff, or is feasible to implement.

Preparation

At this stage, you are preparing for program implementation by putting building blocks in place that are needed to initiate the program selected during the Exploration and Planning stage. You are developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of practitioners who will implement the program. Activities related to this stage may include:

- Assessing, securing, or developing necessary infrastructure to implement the program (e.g., hiring staff, purchasing materials, etc.).
- Ensuring the team has the appropriate knowledge, skills, functions, or authority to support infrastructure development or improvement of the program (e.g., training staff, etc.).
- Soliciting feedback from community partners, practitioners, or other community stakeholders, or establishing ways to receive such feedback in the future.

Initial Implementation

At this stage, you are initiating and refining the new program and making adjustments to its implementation before the process progresses. Activities related to this stage may include:

- Beginning to implement a new program in the community.
- Gathering data and feedback through multiple sources to check in on how the program is going.
- Communicating with leadership and community partners about ways to refine or improve implementation.

Full Implementation

At this stage, you are fully implementing the program and achieving desired outcomes. Lessons learned from the initial implementation period become integrated in day-to-day operations. Activities related to this stage may include:

- Implementing the complete program as intended within the community.
- Communicating with and gathering feedback from leadership and community partners about implementation progress and successes.
- Collecting and analyzing quality and outcomes data.

Further Expansion

At this stage, you are expanding the reach of the program by increasing the program's capacity and ensuring the sustainability of the program. Activities related to this stage may include:

- Securing necessary resources to further expand the implemented program.
- Increasing the program's capacity to provides services to a broader population.
- Launching additional program sites.

