

Strategies to Build Capacity and Increase Implementation Fidelity

An ecological lens is helpful when reviewing factors associated with an organization's capacity to implement programs with fidelity. In this context, an ecological perspective is one that considers the effects of community, organizational, instructional, and intervention level factors on implementation. Level of preparation, degree of investment, and available resources within each level of influence can also impact fidelity. To ensure implementation fidelity, program planners and investigators must consider factors at all levels of influence.

Strategies for Building Capacity and Increasing Implementation Fidelity

Community-Level Strategies

- Select programs that target relevant risk and protective factors of children, youth, and families
- Include community members, elected officials, practitioners, teachers, parents, and students in program selection and planning processes

Agency-Level Strategies

- Maximize organizational stability
- Increase receptivity to evidence-based programs and interventions
- Promote organizational involvement in decision-making and planning
- Enhance and reward leadership that supports evidence-based programs

Instructional-Level Strategies

- Secure a commitment from teachers and practitioners to use evidence-based programs and interventions
- Provide training before implementation
- Provide opportunities for technical assistance and support during implementation

Program-Level Strategies

- Use manualized curricula
- Provide adequate time and structure for programming
- Make minimal changes to evidence-based programs
- Track and monitor necessary adaptation or program changes