

Health System Assessment Categories and Subcategories

Leadership: The ability of the system to develop, communicate, and carry out a vision for the common good based on mutual trust and respect, and collaborative, inclusive and effective methods.

Vision and mission: Members share a common vision, mission, and belief that the system is capable of making a difference.

Conceptual clarity: Members have developed common definitions, language, and understandings across sectors.

Political will: Members have public support and the ability to generate political will to create positive change.

Inclusion: Leadership is inclusive, shared, and transparent and reflects demographics.

Influence: The system is able to influence its members and others within the external environment to achieve its outcomes.

Strategic planning: Members engage in coordinated planning that is based on data and guides resources and action across sectors.

Sustainability: The system is able to adapt and evolve according to changing conditions. It focuses on achieving and proactively sustaining outcomes into the future through a flexible array of approaches, rather than simply maintaining current strategies.

Accountability: System actions are guided by collective—rather than individual—needs. Activities, use of resources, and outcomes are reported regularly to system members and other stakeholders.

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Capacity: The combination of knowledge, experience and ability that gives an individual, organization or system the ability to solve problems and implement change.

Organizational structure: Members have clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The organizational structure includes specialized, multi-sector workgroups to carry out assessment, capacity development, mobilization, planning, implementation, and evaluation functions of the system.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities: Members have access to resources; needed discipline-specific knowledge, skills, and abilities; and core competencies in performance management processes.

Funding and other resources: The system is able to leverage, “braid,” and allocate financial and nonfinancial resources from multiple sources—including member budgets—to support priorities.

Cultural competence: The system operates with a deep understanding of—and responsiveness to—the cultural and contextual conditions of its environment.

Sustainability: The system engages in ongoing planning for capacity development that will enable it to sustain positive outcomes into the future, and has developed an organizational development plan.

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Effective Processes: Practices or actions that have been documented to produce desired results, which are performed to achieve a given purpose.

Collaboration and communication: Members communicate and share information and data regularly and openly across sectors and organizational boundaries.

Operating procedures and protocols: The system has well-defined procedures and protocols that guide its actions, including procedures for decision making and conflict resolution.

Evidence-based planning and practices: The system uses strategies and approaches that are supported by research.

Training and technical assistance: The system and its members regularly utilize high quality training and technical assistance that allows them to work to maximum effectiveness.

Monitoring and evaluation: The system conducts ongoing monitoring and evaluation, and adjusts processes as needed, to ensure continuous improvement and progress toward goals.

Sustainability: The system engages in ongoing sustainability planning to leverage resources needed to sustain outcomes into the future and has developed a strategic financing plan.

Marketing/recognition: The system and its members share information regularly on activities and outcomes with one another, stakeholders, and decision makers and reward and celebrate accomplishments.

Accountability: The system and its members are results oriented and accountable to each other and stakeholders for achieving outcomes that meet individual and overarching needs. Resource allocations are based on objective analysis of data and identified priorities through bias-free allocation processes that minimize duplication of services and address service gaps.