

Preparing to Plan for Sustainability

Essential Program Components

Preparing to plan for sustainability is essential for laying the groundwork for effective long-term planning and will help the program navigate challenges. When preparing to plan for sustainability, the first step is to work with your state team to determine what components of your program need to be sustained. Determining the essential parts of your program may help to:

- Clarify sustainability goals and objectives.
- Align stakeholders to the program's purpose, goals, and expectations.
- Guide the planning and implementation of sustainability efforts.
- Guide the monitoring and evaluation of sustainability efforts.

When determining what components of your program to sustain, your team should first answer key questions on what sustainability might look like for your program. Answer the reflection questions that follow in the template below. Consider how your answers inform your understanding of sustainability.

Sustainability reflection questions	Answers
What core program components and services are integral to the program?	
What is the capacity of the program to maintain its operations and services?	
What is the program's capacity to adapt to changing circumstances (e.g., changes in funding, the labor market, or policy)?	
Who are the external partners and collaborators that can enhance the impact of sustainability?	