



# Program Assessment Tool

## Overview

The **TEIP Program Assessment Tool** is designed to support health promotion practitioners in the use of Evidence-Informed Practice principles to enhance local programs.

*Evidence-Informed Practice* has been defined as the “*best available practice or policy based on available evidence for a specific group*”. It replaces terms such as ‘Best Practice’, ‘Better Practice’ or ‘Recommended Practice’ to reflect current understanding that effective community-based health promotion and prevention programs must consider local contextual factors. This involves a dynamic process of weighing available evidence against what is known to work in your local setting.

### Evidence Supporting the TEIP Program Assessment Tool

The **TEIP Program Assessment Tool** is based on research by the University of Waterloo, Population Health Research Group. The Tool was pilot-tested in Ontario and underwent a rigorous and independent formative, process and outcome evaluation.

The aim of the Tool is NOT to label a program as ‘best’ or ‘promising’, but to strengthen the program along 19 evidence-informed criteria.

The Tool provides a template to plan, assess and enhance local health promotion and prevention initiatives, inviting outside eyes to review and provide suggestions for program improvement. In this regard, it is a quality assessment and capacity-building Tool. It can also be used to guide planning of new health promotion and prevention initiatives.

### Guiding Principles Informing Tool Development

- Effective programs, identified as ‘best practices’, employ common program planning elements (criteria) which can be applied to strengthen local programming initiatives.
- Program Assessment is a process which:
  - a. Identifies areas of program strength and weakness, as compared to established (evidence-informed) criteria
  - b. Develops a plan to strengthen areas of concern
- Program Assessment supports continuous program improvement. It respects local experience, wisdom and context.
- Program Assessment builds capacity for effective evidence-informed programs
- Better program planning processes lead to more effective programs



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## Steps, Worksheets and Outcomes

Steps	Worksheet	Outcome
1. Select program & assign roles	<i>Roles Worksheet</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Program needing improvement is identified</li><li>Appropriate program reviewers are identified</li></ul>
2. Gather program information	<i>Program Information Survey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complete set of program documentation available</li><li>Information on how program addresses 19 evidence-based criteria ready to forward to reviewers</li></ul>
3. Assess the program	<i>Program Assessment Worksheet</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Initial assessment of program against 19 evidence-informed criteria completed</li><li>Draft list of program improvements identified</li></ul>
4. Achieve consensus	<i>Consensus Summary Worksheet</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Areas for program improvement are agreed upon by all reviewers &amp; understood by program staff</li></ul>
5. Select suggestions to implement	<i>Program Enhancement Work Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Feasible plan to implement priority program improvements is developed</li></ul>

The purpose of the **TEIP Program Assessment Tool** is to identify areas for enhancement along *19 evidence-informed criteria* associated with exemplary community-based health promotion and prevention programs.

### For Further Information and Support

The *TEIP On-Line Learning Module - Improving Health Promotion Using Evidence – Informed Practice* is a web-based audiovisual learning tool which provides a self-paced guide to the *TEIP Program Assessment Tool*. It can be accessed from the TEIP website ([teip.hhrc.net](http://teip.hhrc.net)) or directly from the following URL:

[http://teip.hhrc.net/tools/learning/module\\_1/TEIP\\_LM1.html](http://teip.hhrc.net/tools/learning/module_1/TEIP_LM1.html)