



# Program Assessment Tool

## Alternative Applications of the Assessment Tool

Practitioners have asked TEIP to provide alternative options for applying the TEIP Program Assessment Tool. The options outlined below have not undergone the same rigorous evaluation as did the original TEIP Program Assessment process. However, depending on your goals, some options may better meet your needs and be easier to implement.

### 1. Assess One Aspect of Your Program (e.g. Evaluation, Content or Need)

If you are interested in strengthening evaluation skills and building evaluation capacity within your organization, begin by assessing current evaluation practices (Criteria # 14 - 19). Staff will develop a better understanding of the differences between formative, process, outcome and economic evaluation. Staff may also, as demonstrated in the TEIP pilot communities, develop greater interest and motivation to engage in useful and relevant program evaluation. Program evaluation can be an intimidating process - this can be an easier, gentler way to begin.

### 2. Use as a Checklist for Planning New Programs

The *TEIP Program Assessment Tool* was originally designed to strengthen existing programs. Practitioners tell us that it also serves as a useful checklist to ensure they have addressed all 19 of the evidence-informed criteria when planning new initiatives.

### 3. Conduct a Mini Program Review

Health promotion and prevention programs continue to be significantly under funded. This problem is compounded by the tendency to take on new initiatives without weeding out less effective or obsolete ones. The TEIP Program Assessment Criteria can be used as a mini program review to determine whether a program is worth keeping, enhancing or retiring.

### 4. Initiate a New Relationship with a Community Researcher/Academic

Closer relationships between academic researchers and community practitioners promote knowledge exchange. But how does one get started? Inviting a local community researcher to participate in a Program Assessment is a low risk way for both parties to get to know each other. In the TEIP experience, academics agree to participate in a TEIP Program Assessment in order to provide graduate students with 'real world' experience and to scope out potential new areas for research collaboration.

### 5. Omit Reviewers - Use Criteria to Set Goals for Level of Program Achievement

This option avoids the use of Program Reviewers and the fear of having your program 'evaluated' by others. Instead, practitioners examine the criteria and decide what level of achievement they will work towards. This process can be very motivating for staff; however you lose the benefit of advice gained from independent and/or expert program reviewers.