

# FORMATIVE EVALUATION

# Three Parts

- Program-level evaluation
- Community-level evaluation
- Fidelity assessment

# Program-Level Evaluation

- **What are we asking?**

- *What is the program theory?*
  - Logic model

- *Is the program being implemented as planned?*

- Program eligibility, Referrals, Service offerings, Housing options, Strengths, Areas for improvement

- **How are we answering the question?**

- *Document review*
- *Key informant interviews with program managers*
- *Focus groups with staff*
- *Focus groups with young people*
- *Landlords*

- **When does this occur?**

- *Once the program has its footing*

# Community-Level Evaluation

- **What are we asking?**

- *How does the program fit within the greater community?*
- *What contextual factors are impacting service delivery?*
- *How has the program developed over time*

- **How are answering the question?**

- *Key informant interviews with a variety of stakeholders (e.g., municipal, community, agency) at regular intervals (every two months)*
- *Document review of meeting minutes, program documentation, etc.*

# Fidelity Assessment

- **Fidelity assessments** help to determine if a program is **adequately following** its **intended program design**.
- **Similar** to an implementation evaluation, but a fidelity assessment often includes a **checklist** that allows for a **numerical value** to be assigned to a **program's adherence** to various principles of its intended program model
  - **BUT** a fidelity assessment also includes *qualitative* components, which accompany the numerical scores!

# Fidelity Assessment

- **What does the process look like?**
  - *Occurs once the program has its footing*
  - *One - two day site visit*
  - *Team of assessors include experts in the program model, including individuals with experience in delivering the model*
  - *The site visit includes:*
    - Attending a team meeting
    - Interviewing staff
    - Interviewing young people
    - Chart reviews
    - Interviews with community partners
    - Informal feedback to the program at the conclusion of the site visit

# Fidelity Assessment

- After the site visit, the team of assessors convene to discuss the ratings
- What does the rating system look like?
  - Follows the five domains of HFfY
    - Choice over range of housing options
    - Choice over range of supports
    - Separation of housing and support
    - Support philosophy and practice
    - Program features

# Fidelity Assessment

		1	2	3	4
1	<p>IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO HOUSING WITHOUT READINESS PRECONDITIONS. Extent to which program participants are not required to demonstrate housing readiness to gain access to housing units.</p>	<p>Participants have access to housing only if they have enough income, and/or have successfully completed a period in transitional housing or outpatient/inpatient/ residential treatment.</p>	<p>Participants have access to housing only if they meet several readiness requirements such as sobriety, income, abstinence from substances, medication compliance, symptom stability, or no history of violent behaviour or involvement in the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Participants have access to housing with minimal readiness requirements, such as willingness to comply with program rules or a treatment plan that addresses sobriety, income, abstinence, and/or medication compliance.</p>	<p>Participants have access to housing with no requirements to demonstrate readiness.</p>

# Fidelity Assessment

- Total score is calculated, as well as domain specific scores
- A fidelity report is provided to agencies, which includes the scores and qualitative findings to contextualize the scores
- Agencies have opportunity to provide feedback on the report and discuss the findings
  
- Current tool is being tested and modified
  
- Self-report adult fidelity tool currently being tested internationally – something to consider for youth programs!

# Fidelity Assessment

- Where are the sticking points?
  - Housing affordability
    - Rising rental costs
  - Mental health supports
    - Availability of psychiatric supports in the community
  - Peer support
- Community integration
- Cultural connections
- Involvement of young people in the program
- Case load
- Documentation