

**Recommended Strategies for Building the Evidence and Funding Community-Defined Practices
Findings from the 2014 Building the Evidence Summit**

Evaluators and funders of community-defined practices provided the following recommendations:

Recommendations for building the evidence for community-defined practices		
1. Evaluation should come from the community and be for the community	a. Identify the will for building the evidence	some communities do not want their practices to be evaluated for validation by outsiders because of past traumatic history with outsiders
		some communities are not interested in broad dissemination/replication of their practices
		it is important to try to build the evidence only when there is the will for it
	b. Identify traditional ways of knowing whether something works or doesn't work	all communities have ways of knowing what works and have an interest in making sure a practice will benefit the participant
	c. Practitioners and community members help design the evaluation	helps ensure evaluation activities and methods fit the practice instead of outside evaluators forcing the practice and practitioners to fit the evaluation
	d. Cultivate a relationship of mutual respect between the practitioners and evaluators/scribes of the practice	both have something important to offer the community and are skilled at what they do
		identify a common goal and foster a mutual understanding of the value of both practitioner and evaluator

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	e. Weave the evaluation into the practice	evaluate in a way that is respectful of the practice, practitioners, and community members
	f. Ensure assessment tools are culturally-congruent and appropriate to the practice and target community	assessment instruments should fit community member language, worldview, knowledge, experience, etc. instead of using assessment instruments designed for use with other populations with a different worldview, language, etc.
2. Clearly articulate the theory of change for the practice	a. List the situations and people the practice is intended to address (target population) and the expected outcomes	
	b. Identify what are the necessary components of the practice and any required sequencing of what happens when	
	c. Outline the reason why practice components cause the expected outcomes	the explanation should be done within the particular cultural worldview of the practice and does not need to be interpreted in a Western cultural framework (e.g., the explanation could be spiritual, could reflect non-Western beliefs, etc.)
	d. Draw from existing knowledge when appropriate	when asking the practitioners and community members about how and why the practice works, can also look at any existing literature on the practice and on similar practices to see how the theory of change has been articulated for those practices in case it is helpful and relevant

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3. Build Capacity for building the evidence as needed	a. Increase evaluator capacity to partner with practitioners and use congruent evaluation methods, if needed	
	b. Increase practitioner and community capacity to collect, interpret and use data, as needed	
Recommendations for funding community-defined practices		
1. Clearly articulate the practice	a. Identify:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • target population • interventions • theory of change • outcomes • any data on outcomes
2. Identify and document existing community-defined practices	a. Identify clearly articulated community-defined practices (not agencies, but the practices)	
	b. Document these practices so they can be considered for funding	
3. Use existing funding for EBP adaptations to build the evidence for culturally-relevant approaches	a. Adapt an EBP for a specific community by incorporating applicable community-defined practices when appropriate	Some EBP adaptations could involve the incorporation of a traditional practice so can fund building the evidence for the traditional practice in the context of testing the adaptation