

Understanding the Role of Program Assessment in Child Abuse Prevention: Tools for Peer Review and Beyond

Understanding the Role of Program Assessment in Child Abuse Prevention: Tools for Peer Review and Beyond is a resource designed for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) programs providing direct services for children, youth, and families. The introduction includes information on the background of program assessment in CBCAP and outlines the role assessment has in supporting evaluation, parent involvement, and protective factors. It also includes a brief section on implementation science.

The assessment tool is divided into sections structured around the various topical areas listed in the sidebar. Each section of the assessment is designed to be a stand-alone instrument, allowing programs to focus only on the area(s) that are consistent with their evaluation plan and needs.

The assessment sections include questions throughout that address culturally responsive practice, which includes acknowledging differences in cultures, understanding how one's own culture colors one's perceptions, developing an appreciation of other cultures, and shifting practice styles to meet the needs of the clients' cultures whenever possible.

The FRIENDS tool may be used internally or in an external peer review. Both processes rely on a diverse team made up of representatives from a cross section of the agency staff and stakeholders. The internal review generates the primary data from staff within the agency, while a peer review assessment is completed in partnership with a peer agency.

FRIENDS has created an Access database for each assessment tool that allows organizations to compile the results and generate reports. Learn more about this resource at: www.friendsnrc.org/program-assessment.

The FRIENDS Self-Assessment tool is free and available to the public at www.friendsnrc.org. Click on the link for "Program Assessment" under "Outcome Accountability" for more information. Free training and technical assistance are available to CBCAP funded programs only.

FRIENDS Program Assessment Tool

Program Administration

- General Information
- Boards/Councils
- Staff Roles and Capacities
- Staff Training

Program Services and Activities

- General Information
- Parenting Education
- Child Development
- Home Visiting
- Center Environment

Community Collaboration

Continuous Quality Improvement – includes sections on:

- Understanding of Participant Needs and Desires
- Evidence-Based (EB) and Evidence-Informed (EI) Programs and Practices
- Logic Model
- Evaluation Activities
- Standardizing Policies and Procedures
- Trained and Supported Staff
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Safe and Supported Environment
- System-wide Support of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

Engaging, Retaining and Supporting Families

- Parent Leadership
- Working One-on-One with Families
- Valuing and Supporting Families
- Responding to Families in Crisis
- Engaging and Retaining Fathers