

Taking action to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Ohio

## Choosing ACEs prevention strategies worksheet

Use this worksheet to prioritize strategies for action. It is designed for local organizations or community groups and can also be used by state-level organizations. Modify as needed to meet the needs of your community.

### Overview

Step  
1

#### Engage and explore

- Engage community partners, including Ohioans most at risk of experiencing ACEs, to review and consider prevention strategies.
- Discuss the relevance of the strategies for your community, organization and sector.
- Review data related to strategies of interest, including cost-benefit analyses. HPIO's [Sources of publicly available data](#) resource may be helpful.
- Review HPIO's [ACEs Impact Project](#) publications to learn more about the policy environment related to each strategy.

#### Guidance for engaging community members

It is important to engage community members when selecting, advocating for and implementing strategies to address ACEs. Community members have firsthand experience that can guide your work on how to best implement policies or program interventions and benefit the most people. Considerations for engaging community members include:

- **Build relationships and trust early in the planning process.** Establish strong connections and trust early in the planning process to avoid pitfalls or missed opportunities later.
- **Extend and share power.** Invite and involve people from communities most at risk of ACEs in each aspect of decision-making, including making sure they have the background information needed to fully participate.
- **Recognize current and historical community context.** Be aware of successes and challenges from previous engagement efforts, including prior issues or conflicts that may have contributed to ongoing mistrust and disengagement. Listen to concerns from community members. Understand that rebuilding trust may take time, and the profound effect that racism and other forms of discrimination have had on communities.
- **Resolve barriers to engagement.** Assess and address any barriers that may prevent community members from participating in engagement efforts, including safe and accessible meeting locations, accessible meeting times, compensation and the provision of meals, translation services, child care and/or transportation.

Step  
2

## Select strategy(ies)

Work with partners in your community, including those affected by and at greatest risk of ACEs exposure, to identify which of these 12 evidence-informed and cost-effective strategies to prioritize for action.

- 1. High-quality early childhood education
- 2. Early childhood home visiting
- 3. Medical-legal partnerships
- 4. Family income supports
- 5. Community-based violence prevention
- 6. School-based violence, bullying and intimate partner violence prevention programs
- 7. Parent/caregiver and family skills training
- 8. School-based social and emotional instruction
- 9. Mentoring programs
- 10. Drug courts
- 11. Trauma-informed care
- 12. Behavioral health treatment

The following are example criteria to consider when making selections:

- **Scope and nature of the problem.** Which strategy(ies) could have the largest impact on your community?
- **Potential equity impact.** Which strategy would most likely address inequities and disparities in your community?
- **Political feasibility.** How realistic is it to successfully implement the strategy in your community? What barriers may you encounter when implementing the strategy?
- **Administrative or organizational feasibility.** Does your organization have capacity to implement the strategy?
- **Evidence of effectiveness.** How likely is it that the strategy will help you effectively reach your goals?
- **Alignment with existing initiatives and partnerships.** What existing efforts or momentum is there for implementing this strategy?
- **Other criteria important to your community:** \_\_\_\_\_

See HPIO's [Publicly-available data sources](#) tool for ideas of where to access relevant data.



Learn more about HPIO's

# Ohio ACEs Impact Project

[hpio.net/our-work/projects/ohio-aces-impact-project](https://hpio.net/our-work/projects/ohio-aces-impact-project)

