



Planning for Sustainability: Framework and Process

LifeSkills Training

Webinar Series

October 27, 2010



About The Finance Project

- Specialized nonprofit policy research and technical assistance organization serving leaders nationwide
- Mission: To support decision making that produces and sustains good results for children, families and communities
- Our Work:
 - Technical assistance on financing and sustainability issues
 - Policy tools and materials



Goals for this webinar series

1. Share a framework and process for sustainability planning
2. Provide information, guidance and tools to support sites in creating a sustainability plan
3. Create opportunities for dialogue and peer learning across LST grantee sites
4. What are your goals?

What is Sustainability Planning?

- Developing *specific strategies* and an *action plan* to help ensure the long-term sustainability of LST
- Considering a full range of resources and competencies (financial, administrative, managerial, political) needed to meet long-term goals



Reflecting on Sustainability Planning

1. Does your school/school district have a sustainability plan for the Life Skills Training work?
2. What other plans does your school/school district have (e.g. school climate plans, school improvement plans?)
3. For those that have plans, what are the benefits to having a structured plan?



Why Do Sustainability Planning?

- To clarify where you are and where you want to go
- To develop strategies for long-term success
- To provide benchmarks to measure progress
- To demonstrate the value of your LST work



A written plan can provide overarching guidance for LST over time

The Value of Sustainability Planning: Evaluation Results

1. 90% of clients generated funding as a result of sustainability planning:
 - Nearly \$11.5 million in one-time grants
 - \$6.9 million in annual allocations
2. 90% of clients changed the policy or practice of public/private sector agencies as a result of sustainability planning

"The sustainability planning process was very helpful, especially with regard to bringing stakeholders to the table. The planning process engaged partners that otherwise may not have come to the table."

- Site Coordinator, South Carolina After School Network

Key Elements of Sustainability

1. Vision
2. Results orientation
3. Strategic financing orientation
4. Adaptability to changing conditions
5. Broad base of community support
6. Key champions
7. Strong internal systems
8. Sustainability plan



Eight Elements

Sustainability Planning Process



Getting Started:

What will your planning process look like?

○ Goals:

- Clarify scope of your planning effort
- Determine a planning group and structure
- Develop a realistic workplan for completing the process





Getting Started: Steps in the Process

1. Clarify planning parameters (e.g. geographic – school/school district; timeframe)
2. Decide whose input you need and how that input should be structured and managed
3. Develop a workplan



Who to Include in Planning

○ Internal

- Staff – site directors, teachers, principals, school district administration; school board
- Students, parents/families

○ External

- Those with influence
- Those with information
- Potential partners



Reflecting on Sustainability Planning

1. Who might be useful to include in a planning process in your school/school district?
2. Are there any “unlikely” candidates that could offer useful input?
3. Whose input is essential to this process, even if it might be difficult to obtain?

Next Steps

○ Participants:

- Complete webinar evaluation
- Identify prospective members for your sustainability planning group

○ The Finance Project:

- Send follow-up e-mail including sustainability planning tools: workplan template, planning team worksheet





Contacting Us

The Finance Project
1401 New York Avenue, Suite 800
Washington DC, 20005
(202) 628-4200
www.financeproject.org

Shawn Stelow Griffin, Senior Program Associate, sstelow@financeproject.org

Jenifer Holland, Senior Program Associate, jholland@financeproject.org