

KEY TOOL #6

POLICY AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION



This tool details several sources of policy and dimensions of implementation. *Sources of Policy* identifies the levels at which policies originate and, therefore, the primary levels and points of intervention for change. *Implementation Dimensions* are the multiple program components that shape the ways that policies are implemented and, hence, the ways programs directly and indirectly affect families.

SOURCES OF POLICY (Levels and Points of Intervention)

Law	Federal, state, and local statutes and ordinances
Court Rulings	Interpretation and application of laws
Regulations	Requirements that are promulgated in the executive branch (at federal, state, and local levels) to implement laws
Budget	Allocations of money to different programs
Administrative and Professional Practices	Memoranda and decisions that have no statutory or regulatory base; professional and bureaucratic procedures and traditions

IMPLEMENTATION DIMENSIONS

Governance	Who makes the implementation decisions and how the decisions are made
Mission and Goals	Statement of philosophy, goals, and objectives
Financing	Nature and type of funding (e.g., open-ended entitlement, matching grants)
Administration	Contract, procurement, and personnel systems; accountability and supervisory structure
Staffing	Qualifications and training of staff; job descriptions; staff development plans
Service Models	Assumptions, targets, and models of service delivery
Data Collection	Planning, monitoring, and accountability; what data are collected, how they are used, and how they coordinate with other related data
Program Evaluation	What family members are included; what family benchmark and outcome measures are collected