Research and Evaluation Capacity Self-Assessment Tool

Why You Need This

This self-assessment and discussion toolkit, developed for the Administration for Children and Families, helps agency staff to reflect on organizational strengths and gaps and set priorities to improve research and evaluation capacity.

What You'll Find

This tool provides:

- Self-assessment scales to rate perceptions of an organization's research and evaluation capacity across seven domains:
    1. Valuing research use
    2. Having an organizational commitment to research and evaluation
    3. Making use of decision-making processes for research
    4. Having program managers participate in research and evaluation activities
    5. Defining indicators and data sources for performance measurement
    6. Having knowledge and technical skills
    7. Using effective communication mechanisms
- Scoring rubric to compare results across domains.
- Checklist to guide reflections on the organization's goals for improving research capacity and use.
- Set of questions to guide the next steps to address organization gaps and goals.

How to Use

First, organize a multidisciplinary team to participate in the self-assessment process and assess each domain. Then, calculate the scores and discuss strengths and gaps. Use this information to establish goals and priorities to build research and evaluation capacity!