

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GETTING TO OUTCOMES (GTO)

What is Getting To Outcomes (GTO)?

GTO is a planning model (or logic model), meaning it presents a systematic way for making planning, implementation, and evaluation decisions by using a series of 10 accountability questions. GTO could be used to plan an intervention or decide what to wear in the morning.

What are the GTO questions?

1. What underlying **needs and resources** must be addressed?
2. What are the **goals, target population, and objectives** (i.e. desired outcomes)?
3. Which **evidence-based approaches** can be useful in reaching the goals?
4. What actions need to be taken to the selected program so that it “**fits**” the community context?
5. What organizational **capacities** are needed to implement the program?
6. What is the **plan** for this program?
7. Does the program have high implementation fidelity? (**process evaluation**)
8. How well is the program working? (**outcome evaluation**)
9. How will **continuous quality improvement** strategies be utilized?
10. If the program is successful, how will it be **sustained**?

Do I have to go through the steps in order?

The steps lay out a logical progression, but they do not have to be used in order. If your organization has pre-determined the needs and target population to be addressed, you may not need to do Step 1. Or you may not even look at certain evidence-based approaches if you know you do not have the capacity to implement them (Step 5 before Step 3). GTO is also intended to work in a cycle because Step 9 asks you to periodically go back through Steps 1 through 8 to see if your earlier decisions are still the most appropriate ones.

Are there materials that go with GTO?

Yes. GTO has been updated by its developers (including a current professor and former doctoral students at the University of South Carolina) several times. The most recent version of GTO has a manual and a number of tools associated with the various accountability questions. Go to <http://www.rand.org/publications/TR/TR101/> for the materials. This site also has links to an underage drinking version and a Spanish translation.