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.