



finding  
what  
works  
evidence2success

## Matching Your Needs to Proven Programs

Evidence2Success makes what's proven possible by helping partners match children's strengths and needs to appropriate programs. Programs designed to improve the lives of children and families must meet rigorous standards to earn the designation "evidence-based program." The Annie E. Casey Foundation helps Evidence2Success communities identify programs to meet the priorities that communities have chosen by supporting the Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development database, a searchable collection of scientifically proven programs with a track record of promoting children's health and development.

### Blueprints Criteria

Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development is developed and managed by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado Boulder's Institute of Behavior Science. It was created in 1996 to aid the state of Colorado in identifying and funding evidence-based programs and has reviewed more than 1,300 programs.

Blueprints began with a focus on youth programs to prevent violence, delinquency and drug use. Its scope has expanded to include programs to improve mental and physical health, self-regulation and educational achievement outcomes. Each program listed on Blueprints has been reviewed by Blueprints staff and an external advisory board of prevention experts that examine the evidence for each program.

Blueprints programs are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Evaluation quality: Can we be confident in a program's evaluation?
- Intervention impact: How much positive change in key developmental outcomes can be attributed to the intervention?
- Intervention specificity: Is the intervention focused, practical and logical?
- Dissemination readiness: Does the program have the necessary support and information to be successfully implemented?

Blueprints also provides critical information about the staff, training and financial resources organizations often need to include when applying for federal and state grants, developing school improvement plans

or seeking funding for community initiatives. Blueprints also includes benefit and cost information for programs where the information is available.

Blueprints programs are rated as either Promising or Model. Model programs meet a higher standard and provide greater confidence in the program's capacity to change behavior and developmental outcomes.

### Finding Programs for Your Community

Blueprints' interactive website at [blueprintsprograms.com](http://blueprintsprograms.com) walks users through several search options designed to match their needs with the Blueprints registry. You can start using Blueprints by searching by the outcome your community wants to achieve; the target population; the type of program; or by keyword.

### Other Resources

Documenting and confirming evidence that a program works can take years and many steps of review. Other organizations list youth prevention programs according to different standards than Blueprints. [SAMHSA](#), the [Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy](#), [Child Trends](#) and the [Department of Justice](#) rate programs for youth. [The Results First Clearinghouse Database](#), a resource offered by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the MacArthur Foundation, describes and compares standards of many national program databases. Evidence2Success communities are encouraged to use Blueprints as well as databases such as these to identify the most effective and appropriate programs to address their community priorities.

### Learn More

To learn more about tools and technical assistance for Evidence2Success communities or to inquire about becoming an Evidence2Success community, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org) or contact the Foundation's [Evidence-Based Practice team](#).

*Evidence2Success promotes healthy child development by helping communities and public systems work together to use data to understand how children are doing; select proven programs to enhance strengths and address needs; and develop financing and action plans to support the ongoing use of those proven programs. The framework was developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a private charitable organization dedicated to building a brighter future for children and families, and several partner organizations.*