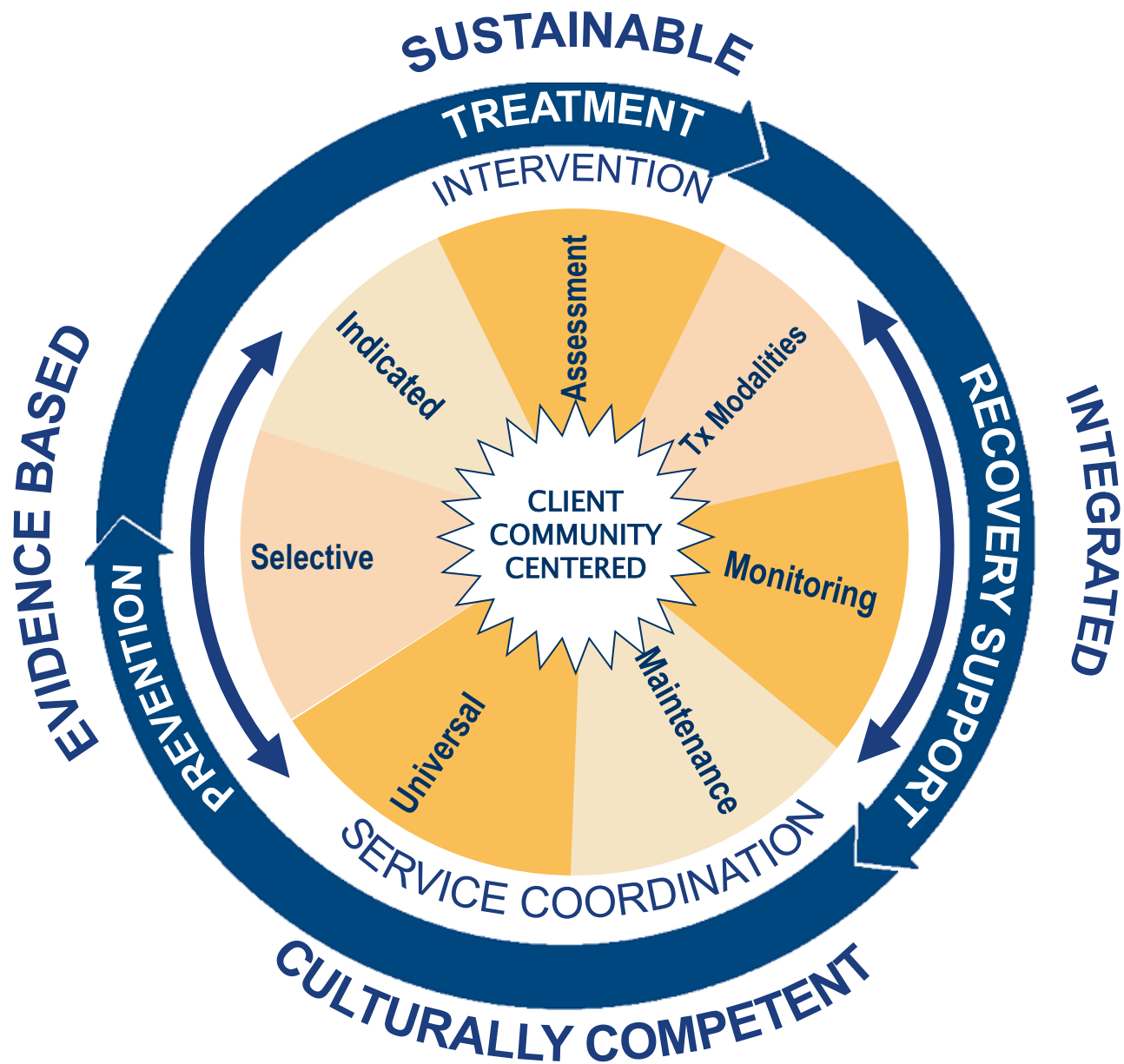




The Prevention Landscape

Opportunities for Cross-System Partnership



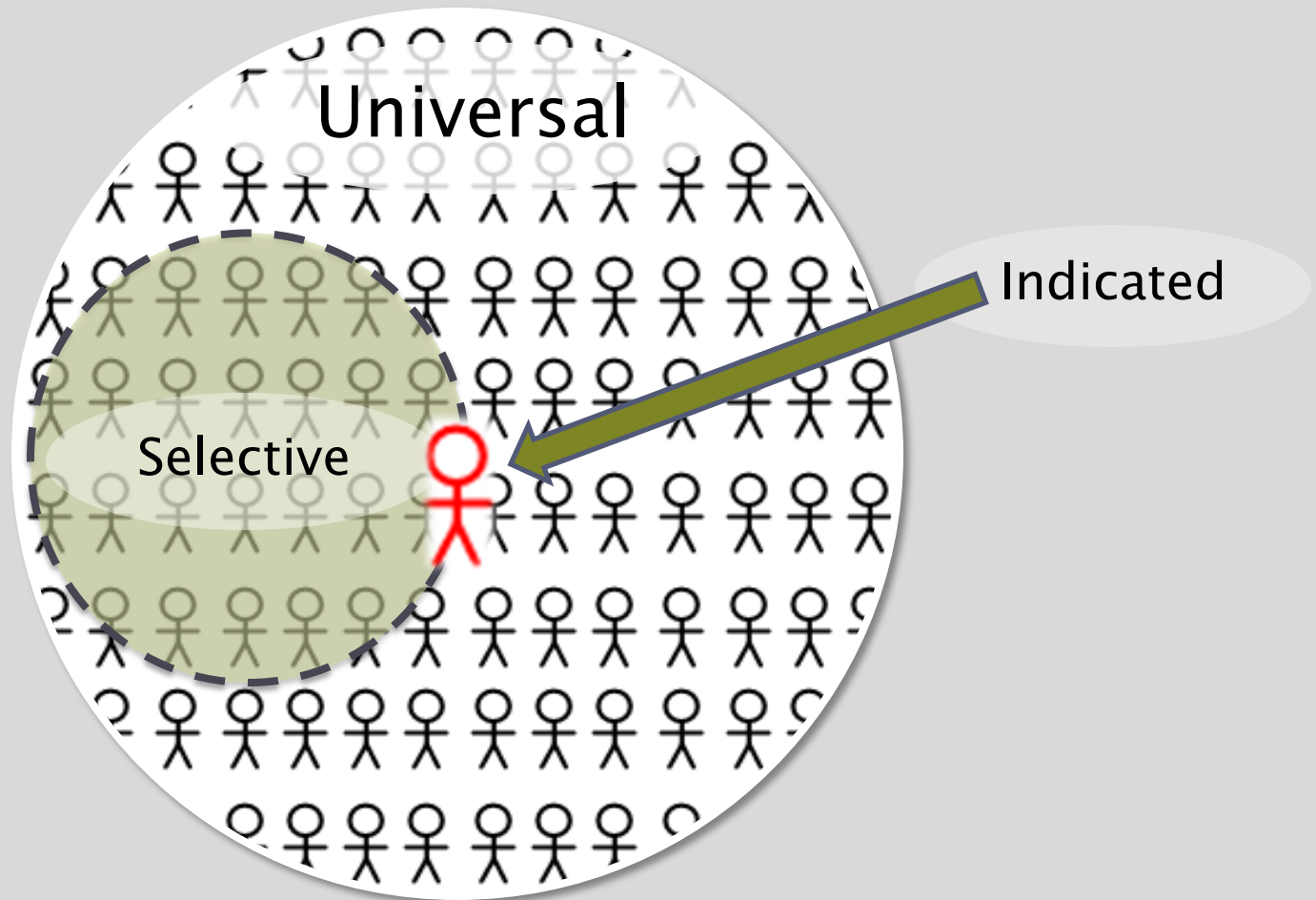




Bridging the Gap

Prevention Treatment Recovery

IOM Categories



Environmental

STRATEGIES

Selective and Indicated



Substance Abuse Prevention's Use of:

- Evidence Based Practice
- Data Driven decisions

prevention *Tactics*

A Paradigm Shift in Selecting Evidence-Based Approaches for Substance Abuse Prevention

By David Sherman, M.Ed.

The term "evidence-based" has become both popular and necessary in the field of prevention services. Popular, because it is used liberally to describe prevention interventions¹, and to prove their appropriateness. Necessary, because without this label, interventions have not been recognized (or funded) by government agencies, or adopted for use by prevention providers.

Defining Evidence-based

The nature of evidence is that it is both continuous and contextual. The quality of evidence can be judged along a continuum, from strong to weak. To determine the relative strength or weakness of a research study, for example, one must consider the rigor of its design and the appropriateness of the methods used to collect and analyze data.

Evidence is contextual because the quality of the evidence depends on the extent to which findings can be generalized to similar populations and settings. Strong evidence that an intervention program for rural Native Americans had positive outcomes may not be relevant when deciding if this program is appropriate for an urban Hispanic population. The evidence, and what it says about a given intervention, must be viewed in light of contextual factors such as place, population, and culture.

The terms evidence-based, research-based, research-informed, science-based, blueprint programs, model programs, promising programs, and effective programs are often used interchangeably. There is no single, universally accepted definition of 'evidence-based program.' The determination of whether a program, practice, or policy is evidence-based varies across government agencies, research institutions, and other

¹ The term "intervention" is used broadly in this document to reference the terms: programs, practices and policies, each of which have a more discrete definition.

This Prevention Tactic will:

- review the recent history behind the designation of "evidence-based" to describe prevention approaches;
- examine the evolution of the use of evidence-based in the National Registry of Effective Programs & Practices (NREPP);
- explore how the recent changes to NREPP have impacted the process that providers use to select interventions to meet the needs of the community they serve; and
- describe, compare, and contrast the three categories of evidence-based interventions required by the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) program.

organizations dedicated to promoting evidence-based policy and practice. Some definitions are more stringent than others. In 2001, for example, the Institute of Medicine offered this definition:

Evidence-based practice is the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values.

In 2005 the American Psychological Association established this definition for its members¹:

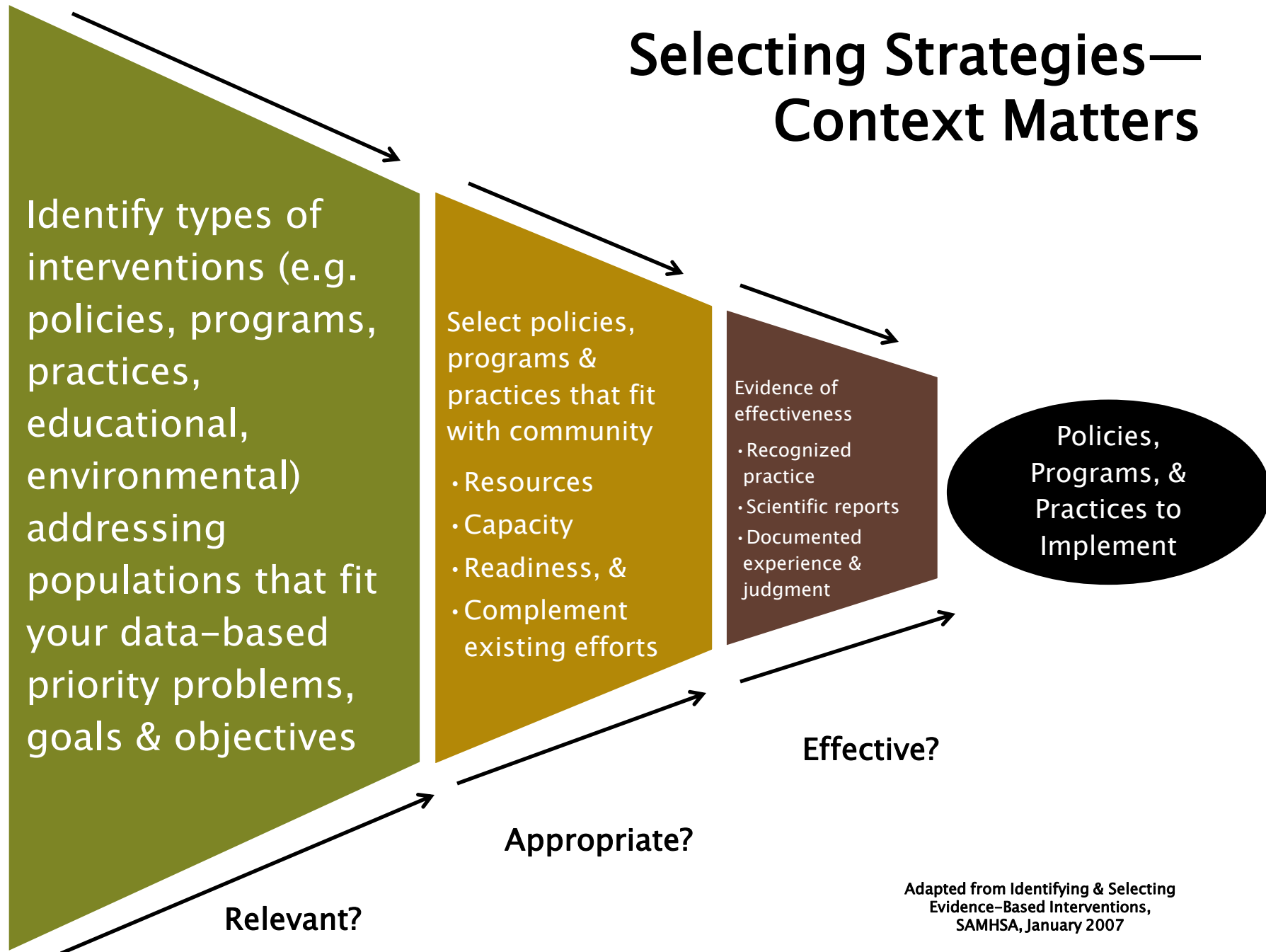
Evidence-based practice in psychology (EBPP) is the integration of the best available research with clinical expertise in the context of patient characteristics, culture, and preferences.

prevention *Tactics* 9:6 (2010)

Tactics (Tak'tiks) n. 1. a plan for promoting a desired end. 2. the art of the possible.



Selecting Strategies— Context Matters



Adapted from Identifying & Selecting
Evidence-Based Interventions,
SAMHSA, January 2007

Mentoring

Working with
Specific
Populations

Conditional
Use Permits
(CUP)

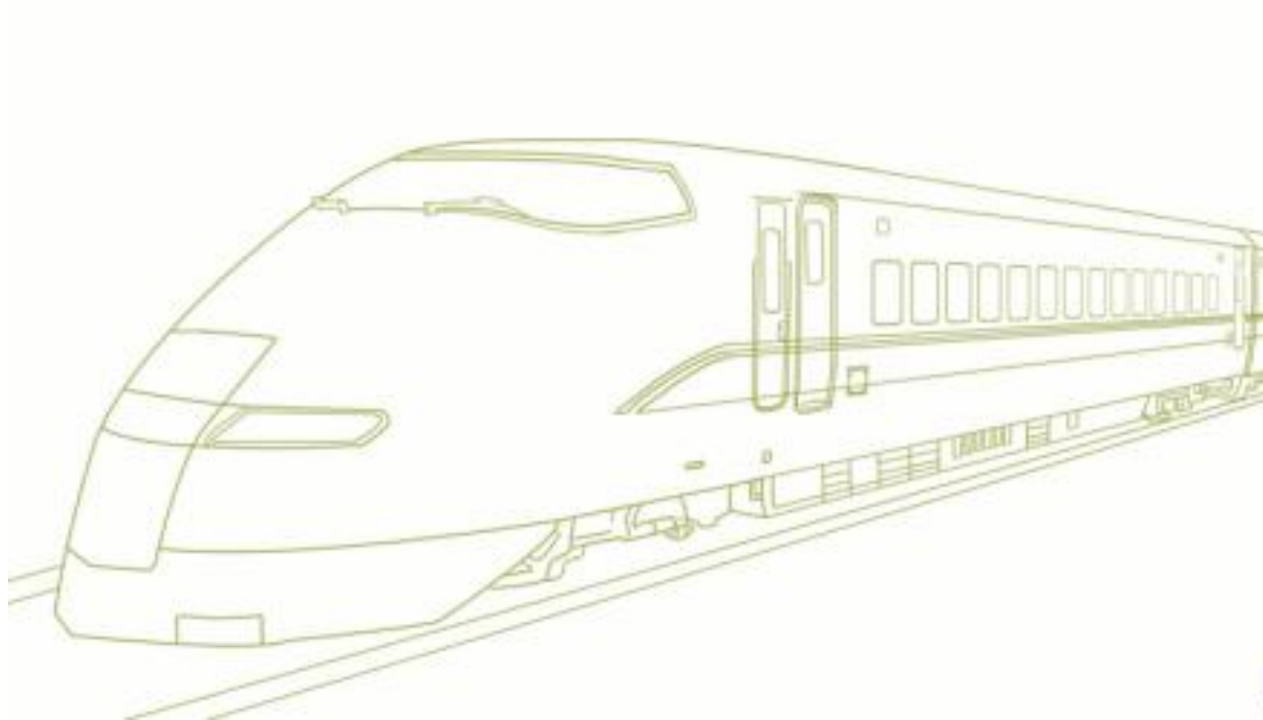
Screening and
Brief
Intervention

Student
Assistance
Programs

Youth Development

Social Host
Ordinances

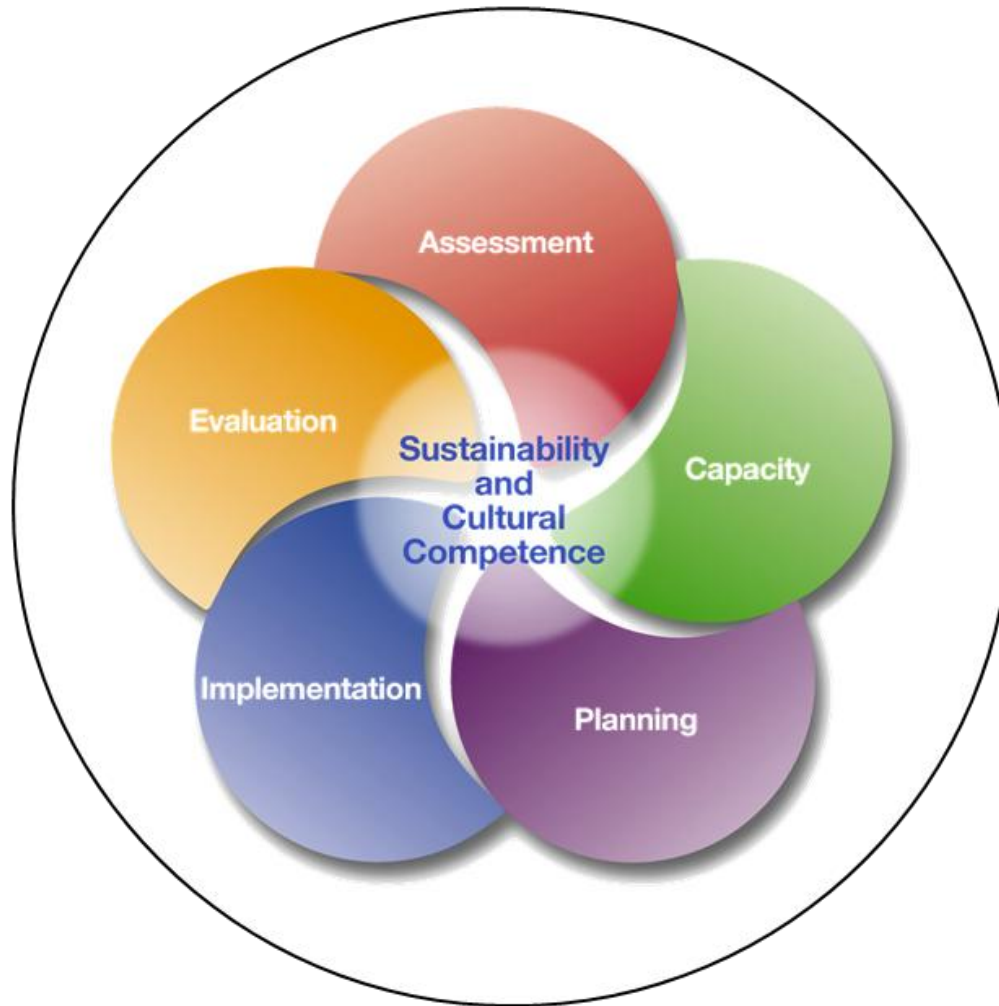


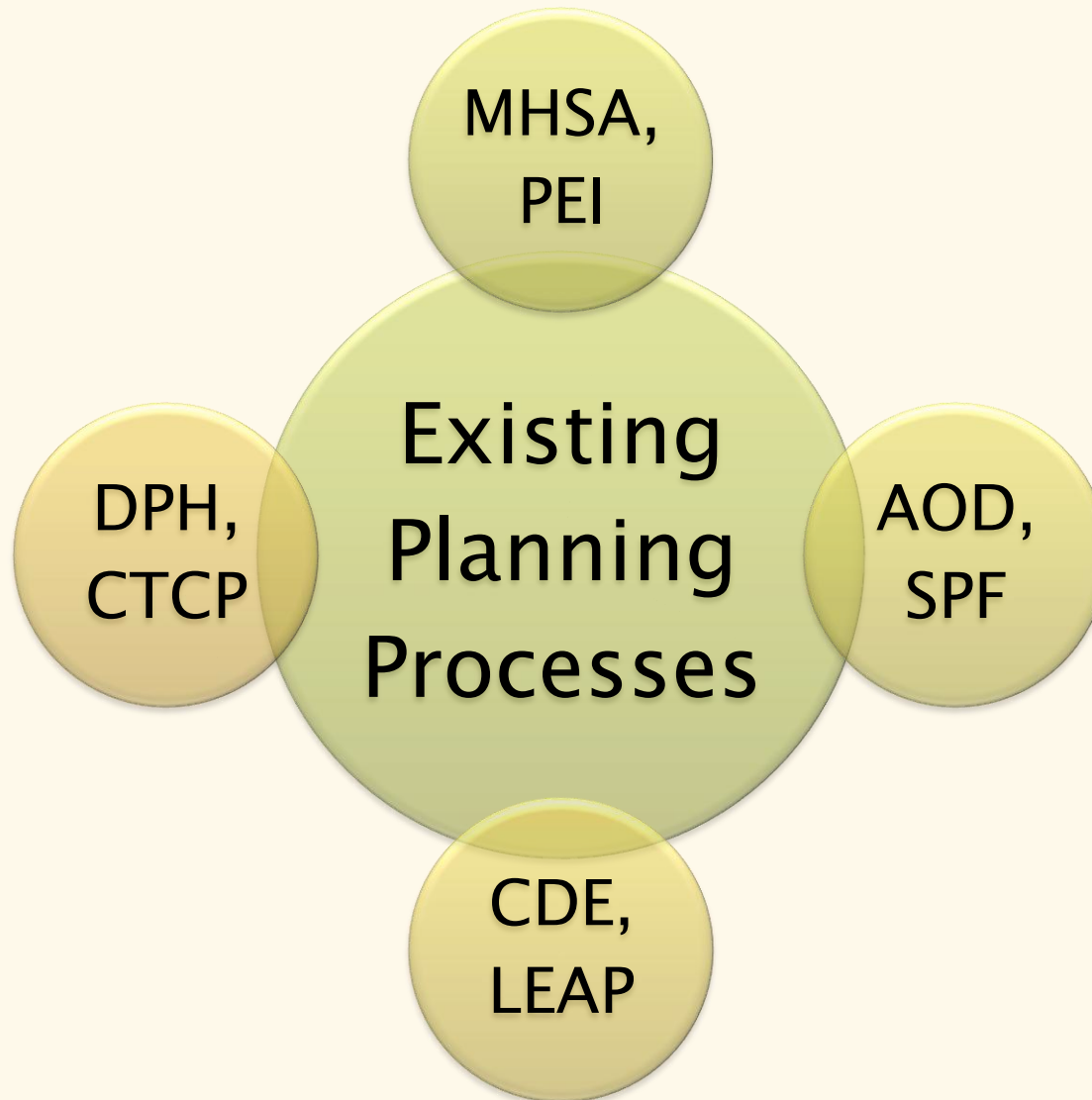


Opportunities for partnership across
systems

MOVING FORWARD

SAMHSA'S Strategic Prevention Framework





C
r
o
s
s

S
y
s
t
e
m



P
a
r
t
n
e
r
s
h
i
p

