

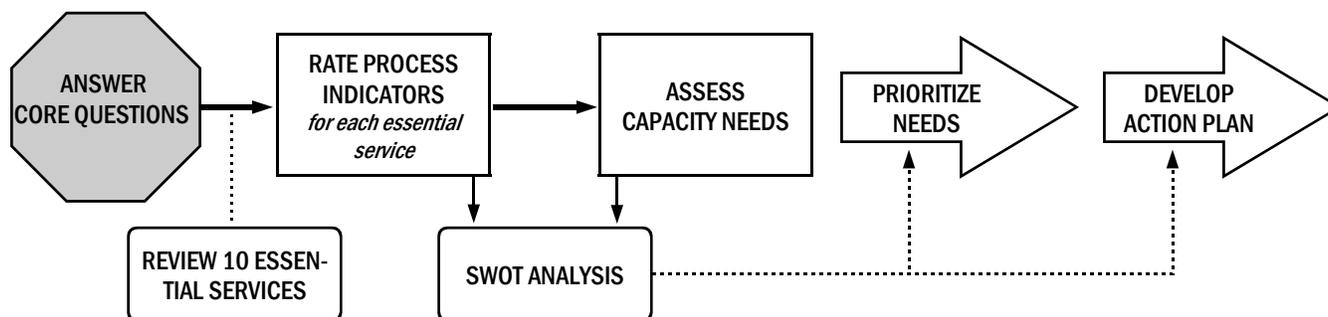
Core Questions

CAST-5 Second Edition

A collaborative project of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and the Johns Hopkins Women's and Children's Health Policy Center

Capacity Assessment for State Title V (CAST-5) is a set of assessment and planning tools for state Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant programs interested in examining their organizational capacity to carry out key MCH program functions. For more information on CAST-5, visit www.amchp.org/cast5.

The CAST-5 Process



The Core Questions represent the fundamental level of Title V program functioning.

Instructions

The Core Questions will prompt you to determine if your program is meeting some basic operational requirements. They also provide a context for responses in the subsequent CAST-5 tools.

When using this tool in a group setting, it is helpful for all participants to think about their answers to the Core Questions in advance. You may wish to refer to your program's most recent Title V Block Grant report and application for help in answering the Core Questions. This tool also lists potentially useful resources for information, consultation, or training relevant to undertaking the steps outlined in the Core Questions.

The answers to the Core Questions should be posted for easy viewing and discussed with all assessment participants. It is helpful to refer to the Core Questions responses throughout the CAST-5 process, but particularly before prioritizing Capacity Needs and developing action steps for capacity development.

The CAST-5 Core Questions

1) Have you described the vision and goals for the maternal and child health population?

YES Describe the vision and goals and go to #2.

NO

2) Given the Title V needs assessment, have you identified the priority health issues and desired population health outcomes?

YES List the priority health issues and desired population health outcomes and go to #3.

NO

3) Have you identified the political, economic, and organizational environments for addressing the priority health issues?

YES Describe these environments and go to #4.

NO

4) What are the “macro-level” strategic directions for the Title V program in light of the responses to questions 1, 2 and 3 above?

YES Describe the strategic directions and go to #5.

NO

5) Have you identified the programmatic organizational strategies you will use to implement the strategic directions identified in #4 and to achieve the desired population outcomes identified in #2?

YES List these strategies and go to #6.

NO

6) Have you identified the capacity you need to implement the strategies?

YES Use CAST-5 as part of a strategic planning process to strengthen and/or reorient the program’s mission, goals, and operations; to periodically monitor the status of program performance and capacity; or to enhance understanding of program capacity needs and develop a plan for meeting them.

NO Use the remaining CAST-5 tools to identify the capacity needed for targeted programmatic needs or for a broad assessment of program performance and capacity.

These resources may be helpful:

Understanding Title V of the Social Security Act (<ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/mchb/titlevtoday/UnderstandingTitleV.pdf>)

MCH Leadership Skills Training Institute (www.soph.uab.edu/mch-leadership)

Maternal and Child Health Bureau Strategic Plan (mchb.hrsa.gov/about/stratplan03-07.htm)

Achieving and Measuring Success: A National Agenda for Children with Special Health Care Needs (mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/specialneeds/measuresuccess.htm)

Program Planning and Monitoring Self-Instructional Manuals, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research (www.shepscenter.unc.edu/data/peoples)

Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Guidance (<ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/mchb/blockgrant/bgguideforms.pdf>)

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (see in particular the sections on Forces of Change Assessment and Visioning; mapp.naccho.org/MAPP_Home.asp)

The Institute for Leaders in State Title V CSHCN Programs (cshcnleaders.ichp.edu)

Public MCH Program Functions Framework: Essential Public Health Services to Promote Maternal and Child Health in America, (www.jhsph.edu/WCHPC/Publications/pubmchfx.pdf)