Sustainability Best Practices

These best practices were developed using the OPA Framework for Program Sustainability and Washington University's Program Sustainability Framework. Exhale participants are encouraged to consider the suggested best practices while building and implementing sustainability strategies. For additional tools and resources, visit the Community Tool Box website.

Strategic Planning

Evaluation & Adaptation

Funding Stability

Collaboration & Partnerships

Capacity Building

Communications & Marketing

exhale

THE FAMILY CAREGIVER INITIATIVE

Strategic Planning

- Develop a clear and comprehensive strategic plan that outlines the program's goals, objectives, and desired outcomes.
- Identify key stakeholders and engage them in the strategic planning process to foster collaboration and shared ownership.
- Set measurable targets and establish a timeline for achieving program milestones.
- Include a creative problem-solving mindset and skillset in strategic planning

Evaluation & Adaptation

- Implement robust evaluation methods to assess the impact and effectiveness of the respite program.
- Collect quantitative and qualitative data to measure outcomes, identify strengths and weaknesses, and inform program decision-making.
- Adapt the program to address lessons learned, changing caregiver needs, evolving best practices, and other evaluation findings.

Funding Stability

- Identify and secure diverse funding sources.
- Build relationships with donors, philanthropic organizations, and government agencies to secure long-term financial support.
- Develop creative strategies to generate revenue, seek grants, and engage in fundraising activities. For example, private pay options.

Collaboration & Partnerships

- Foster collaborations and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, such as healthcare providers, health plans, community organizations, county offices for the aging, and caregiver support networks.
- Leverage partner resources, expertise, and networks to enhance program effectiveness and reach.

Capacity Building

- Invest in staff and volunteer training to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver quality respite services.
- Continuously gather, assess, and incorporate caregiver (user) input on respite services.
- Continuously improve staff competencies through professional development opportunities and ongoing learning.

Communications & Marketing

- Use various communication channels, including traditional media, social media, and community outreach, to promote awareness of the program among caregivers, healthcare professionals, and the broader community.
- Highlight success stories and testimonials to showcase the value of respite care for caregivers, demonstrate the program's impact, and build support.