

## Applying the Principles of Empowerment Evaluation (EE) to Your Needs and Resources Assessment

The 10 EE principles represent a philosophy of evaluation that is designed to increase the likelihood that communities or states achieve their mission or goals—in this case, to prevent first-time perpetration and victimization of SV and/or IPV. The 10 EE principles are presented in *Making a Difference: Empowerment Evaluation and Getting to Outcomes*, an introductory chapter to this manual.

Each of the 10 EE principles is relevant to every step of GTO. However, there are a few EE principles that are especially relevant to each step. For Step 1, the principles of *inclusion, community ownership, democratic participation, community knowledge, and evidence-based strategies* are particularly relevant when conducting a needs and resources assessment.

EE Principle	How the principle is applied to a needs and resources assessment:
<i>Inclusion</i>	Ensuring stakeholder representation and participation from a variety of sectors and levels when conducting your needs and resources assessment increases the authenticity of the process.
<i>Community Ownership</i>	The members of the needs and resources assessment work group, the larger GTO Planning Team, and the broader community or state should be invested in the process and outcome of the assessment.
<i>Democratic Participation</i>	Prioritizing the needs of your community/state requires making important decisions. Valuing voices equally and willingness to collaborate to determine the needs and resources in your community will strengthen buy-in and ownership of the remainder of your GTO planning process.
<i>Community Knowledge</i>	Communities have members who are highly knowledgeable about the problems of IPV and SV within their community and about what IPV and SV prevention work has happened in their community. Therefore, knowledgeable community members are a key resource for interpreting needs and resources assessment data. Information collected from focus groups and surveys are another way to capture community knowledge.
<i>Evidence-Based Strategies</i>	Needs and resources assessments also need to consider what has been learned about SV and/or IPV from scientific studies and research. Information from research can be used to make comparisons with your local or state data and to help interpret state and local information and knowledge.