

SUSTAINABILITY

While ADRC grants assist states in designing and implementing ADRCs, the initiative also strives to sustain the key activities of the ADRCs in the long term. According to Mary Anne Scheirer, program sustainability comprises several elements including: 1) continuing to deliver project outcomes beyond the termination of the project; 2) maintaining the program or its components in an identifiable form; and 3) maintaining the capacity to deliver program activities following project implementation. Sustainability is a key focus for ADRCs; grantees are working to implement systems change goals that improve the delivery of services over the long term and involve multiple stakeholders, depend on diverse partnerships, and impact state and local systems in both the public and private sectors.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Plan specifically for sustainability from the beginning, what do you want to sustain and how.
- View the ADRC as a part of the state's broad systems reform effort – not an isolated grant program.
- Commit to make every policy and procedure “consumer-centered” and consumers will support the sustainability of the program.
- Involve consumers and stakeholders in meaningful ways so they become advocates of the ADRC.
- Use diverse partnerships to create “information bridges” to the community.
- Selecting staff with considerable experience serving target populations and who share ADRC vision and values.
- Commit to continuous staff training, cross training, and quality improvement.
- Meld grant activities with other community initiatives and priorities.
- Cultivate private partnerships and support to leverage and combine resources in creative ways.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ADRC Profiles In Sustainability. This report was developed by the ADRC-TAE in 2006 and includes case studies about the ADRC programs in Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and South Carolina. These profiles include information about what strategies grantees are using to achieve sustainability and what they have found to be facilitators and challenges to sustainability.

<http://www.adrc-tae.org/tiki-index.php?page=Sustainability>

ADRC Legislation and Funding. This page of the ADRC-TAE website includes information about states that have passed legislation related to ADRCs or contributed state funding to their ADRC initiatives.

<http://www.adrc-tae.org/tiki-index.php?page=Legislation>

Is Sustainability Possible? A review and commentary on empirical studies of program sustainability by M.A. Scheirer. *American Journal of Evaluation* (2005) 26:320-347.