

# Understanding Capacity Building Assistance

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## Objectives

- ❑ Describe underlying perspectives for understanding capacity building assistance (CBA)
- ❑ Discuss relationship between CBA and technical assistance
- ❑ Set the stage for brainstorming options for types of CBA activities

## Context for CBA

- **Capacity is an outcome or condition to be achieved, whereas capacity building is the process by which capacities are acquired**

## **Definition of CBA**

- ❑ The methods and strategies by which knowledge and skills are transferred to recipients to sustain or improve system, organizational, community or individual processes and competencies**
- ❑ The science and art of building capacity through training, technical assistance (consultation and services) , technology transfer, information transfer, and funding**

# Methods for CBA Delivery

## □ Information Transfer

- Collection, packaging and dissemination of information to recipients
- May be disseminated through newsletters, technical reports, conference announcements, list serves, webinars, and maintenance of hotlines

## □ Training (skills building)

- Enhancement of skill sets of key personnel whose activities contribute to increasing the capacity of an organization and the delivery of essential public health services
- Delivered through training of staff, board, trainers, volunteers, community members, opinion leaders

# Methods for CBA Delivery

## □ Technical Services

- Provider carries out a technical task or series of tasks for the recipient that result in increased capacity of the recipient
- May relate to facilitating or implementing operational, managerial, technological, programmatic, administrative, or governance systems

## □ Technical Consultation

- Provider delivers expert advice to key personnel on how to accomplish a task or series of tasks with the intent that the activity will be carried out by the recipient of the advice
- May be provided telephonically, on-site, electronically, or written documents

# Methods for CBA Delivery

## □ Technology Transfer

- Provider facilitates recipient access to and utilization of new products, methodologies, or techniques that increase capacity
- May be supported by skills building, technical consultation, and/or technical services

## □ Funding

- Capacity is dependent upon funding, which enables staff hiring, equipment purchases, appropriate space and increases in services and outcomes.

## **Relationship of CBA to Public Health**

- ❑ OSTLTS mission: Improve the capacity and performance of the public health system**
- ❑ Process for CBA: to assist individual, community and organizational systems in improving and sustaining performance**
- ❑ Outcome for CBA: an increase in the quality, quantity or cost effectiveness of the public health system and its related parts**

## **Relationship of CBA to Public Health**

- ❑ CBA increases potential for sustained or improved performance**
- ❑ CBA is an investment to ensure the delivery of the essential public health services in a more effective and efficient manner.**

# Differences between CBA and Prevention Services

	Recipient	Result
Capacity Building Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Public health workforce<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Health department staff</li><li>- Non-profit organizations' staff</li><li>- Community leaders</li><li>- Boards of health</li></ul></li><li>❑ Systems and Organizations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Improved capacity for prevention</li><li>❑ Increased service delivery (quantity)</li><li>❑ Improved quality of services</li><li>❑ Improved systems, organizational or workforce performance</li></ul>
Prevention Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Persons at risk for exposure or transmission</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Risk reduction for persons at risk for exposure or transmission</li></ul>

## **Elements of Effective CBA Practice**

- Aims to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public health services through strengthening public health systems, organizational infrastructure and workforce competencies**
- Must be conceptualized and delivered using a sound framework that considers culture, recognizes importance of consultants and trainers with competence in specific subjects, and supports a variety of strategies and models**

## **Elements of Effective CBA Practice**

- Influenced by organizational factors, infrastructure (technical, material or physical resources), and environmental factors**
- Must emphasize strategic collaborations to maximize resources, minimize duplication, and ensure culturally and technically proficient services**

## **Elements of Effective CBA Practice**

- ❑ CDC-funded capacity building assistance must support CDC and OSTLTS' priorities and key initiatives**
- ❑ CBA Providers must have access to a pool of experts with a wide range of skills related to FOA identified program strategies**
- ❑ CBA providers must provide timely, culturally appropriate, cost effective, and technically proficient assistance that meet the needs of the recipient**

## **Elements of Effective CBA Practice**

- ❑ Must involve a long term and comprehensive strategy**
- ❑ Process and outcome evaluation of the CBA program are key**
- ❑ CDC plays a pivotal role in providing coordination and guidance to ensure consistency and quality of services**

## **Lessons Learned in the Provision of CBA**

- ❑ Need to respond to on demand requests for assistance**
- ❑ Need to serve CDC funded public health service delivery entities (health departments, CBOs, public health laboratories, etc...) as primary constituency**
- ❑ Need for interagency collaboration**

## **Lessons Learned in the Provision of CBA**

- ❑ Need for CBA providers to be guided by recipient needs**
- ❑ Need to increase recipient access to local experts**

# Questions?

**For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

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