

# Context Matters—How Can We Best Understand Challenges, Strengths, and Opportunities for Implementation?

## The Challenge

Every organization's **context** (e.g., leadership, culture, resources, and community) is unique.

Context impacts how interventions or new practices are implemented. But most ways of studying context are slow to gather, and hard to compare and track over time.

## The Solution

The **Inventory of Factors Affecting Successful Implementation and Sustainment (IFASIS)** offers a simple, structured way to understand an organization's context. It's a short, team-based survey that helps groups identify factors that may support or challenge putting new programs into practice.

Translating discussion into data gives organizations a clear picture of their challenges, strengths, and opportunities that can be acted on.

## What It Measures

IFASIS considers some of the conditions that shape whether the implementation of new programs may succeed or struggle.

Four key areas of context are:

-  **Outside the organization**  
Community support, external policies
-  **Within the organization**  
Leadership, resources, readiness
-  **About the intervention**  
Program fits and complexity
-  **About the people served**  
Their needs, values, and benefits

## How It Works



**Assemble a Team:** Bring together three to seven staff members with different roles and perspectives to complete IFASIS as a group.



**Discuss Each Item:** Review the 27 statements about your organization and talk through how they apply to implementing a new program or practice.



**Rate Status & Importance:** Use two simple scales—status (how true the statement is) and importance (how much the factor matters for implementation)—to reach a consensus score.



**View Results:** See an instant snapshot of your organization's strengths, opportunities, and challenges that can influence implementing a new activity. The process takes about 30–45 minutes.

## Why It Matters

Understanding context is key to making implementation work. IFASIS gives organizations a clear, consistent way to understand what to leverage for a successful implementation, what could get in the way, and what matters. By turning experience into data, it helps teams learn from one another, improve over time, and build a stronger foundation for lasting change.



## Access & Next Steps

- The IFASIS is free to use and available online at [IFASIS.org](https://ifasis.org).
- Teams can access the tool online, review the instructions, and start using it to guide planning, reflection, and evaluation.
- Future work will continue refining the measure and expanding its use across new programs and settings.