

THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

checklist

Service providers, researchers, and communities are starting to actively embrace technology as another way to reach out and support the positive mental health and well-being of vulnerable children and youth. Use the following checklist to help your child- and youth-serving organization create, review, or revise use of technology plans or policies. It is also intended to support policy development by all levels of government.

1) Youth are capable users of technology, and programs should consider it as a useful tool for contributing to the mental health and well being of the young people they work with.

We use, or are exploring the use of technology to engage and support children and youth in challenging contexts.	
There are leadership roles that youth can fill in our organization to identify and develop the use of technology.	
We follow standardized guidelines for ethically sound practices that protect children and youth in challenging contexts.	

2) A broad view of who your program stakeholders are will increase your reach in the community and improve the services reaching young people. This partnership building takes time, but it is worth the effort.

Our plan/policy was created with the involvement of people and organizations who will be impacted by the program and who have expertise to share. This includes young people, parents, staff, volunteers, researchers, industry experts, funders, and members of the community.	
The people and organizations who helped develop the plan reflect the cultural and context diversity of the children and youth who are the target users of the service.	
Our plan builds on the strengths and assets of the children, youth, families, and communities where the program will be rooted.	

3) A technology plan or policy can guide your organization on using technology. It can help you create safeguards to protect young people, and your organization, against safety and security threats.

We have developed a use-of-technology plan.	
Youth have been meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of this plan.	
Our plan identifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The gaps in service that will be addressed by using technology. » The type of technology that will best serve the purpose of the program. » The systems and supports needed to use this technology. » How the program will be marketed. 	

<p>We have access to the expertise needed to implement the plan effectively. This expertise comes from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mental health professionals. » Cultural leaders. » Technology specialists. 	
<p>Our plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A risk management plan that includes conducting regular risk assessments and procedures for addressing any security concerns such as breaches of and threats to security. » A protocol for checking that children and youth from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds can understand the information that will be provided through the use of technology. » The need to use a parent/guardian information protocol. » The consideration of time and resources for training staff and serviceusers in order to maximize the technology's impact. 	
<p>Our plan has a set schedule for review and adjustment of current practices.</p>	

4) Program monitoring and evaluation are important to overall program and organizational effectiveness.

<p>A monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed. It is integrated into the design and delivery of the program. Children and youth are engaged in the evaluation.</p>	
<p>A Logic Model is developed that will help us identify if we are making progress on reaching our objectives.</p>	

5) The long-term success of the program can be strengthened by developing a sustainability plan. This plan addresses funding sources and other elements.

<p>The sustainability plan should (where possible):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Align program objectives with federal research priorities. » Identify diverse partners in the private and non-profit sectors and how they can be involved. » Identify how monitoring and evaluation will be integrated and completed. » Ensure the program is well-documented and identify how what is learned will be shared with others to inform future projects. » Commit to using open-source technology/software to support the ongoing development of the field. 	
<p>The sustainability plan is being followed and regularly revised as needed.</p>	

