

## Choose Shortcut

**Evidence matters.** Choosing policies and programs that have been shown to work in real life and that are a good fit for your community will maximize your chances of success.

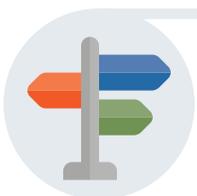
Here is a step-by-step guide your community can use to explore and select evidence-informed strategies.



### Step 1: Where Do You Want to Go?

What do you want and why do you want it? Answering these questions will help you define your goal and guide you toward the best strategy for your community.

As you start, think about who should benefit from your efforts. How will you engage those most affected?



### Step 2: Explore Different Routes

Explore policies and programs that have worked in other communities and strategies recommended by experts. What Works for Health at [countyhealthrankings.org/what-works-for-health](https://countyhealthrankings.org/what-works-for-health) is a great place to start.



### Step 3: Consider the Impact and Context

As you choose between different strategies, think about the potential impact each option will have on the outcomes that are important to you.

Ask:

- Can we expect it to do what we want it to do?
- Is it likely to work here?
- How will it affect those with the greatest needs in our community?



### Step 4: Consider Your Community and Stakeholders

Understand what is important to your community. How can you help all stakeholders be ready for change?

Stakeholders are people who care about your issue—not just supporters. There are three type of stakeholders:

1. Community members
2. Decision makers and those who influence them
3. Implementers



### Step 5: Select the Best Strategy

To decide which strategy to implement:

1. Generate a list of your top choices
2. Prioritize those choices based on all you've learned
3. Decide on the best strategy for your community

