

* Unit 7
* Needs-Based Program Planning, Theoretical Foundation, and Project Intervention

Introduction

Undergirding an action-oriented research project are the instrumentality frameworks such as programs, service delivery systems, projects, social interventions, policy actions, action plan implementations, social change agents, community crusaders, regulations, and government legislative arsenals. These are among the many mechanisms for which the public needs assessment and planning processes may be utilized to bridge the gaps that implicate systems changes.

However, the SAFs that implicate such systems changes may also reflect certain deficiencies, dysfunctions, or needs-based issues inherent within the instrumentality frameworks themselves. It thus follows that without an *etiological analysis* of the SAF, the factors associated with the condition inherent within the instrumentality frameworks can impede the context of responsive intervention strategy needed to bring about the systems changes.

The etiological analysis is conceived to be facilitated by two sets of sub-assumptions: (a) a hypothesis of etiology that delineates cause-and-effect relationships and (b) a working intervention hypothesis in which the interventions are based on the *causes* in the hope that their implementations can implicate the *effects* so as to bring about positive systems changes.

Ideally, because the instrumentality frameworks are embedded in theory-driven outcomes, the etiological analysis is also expected to be structured by at least two levels of theoretical foundations: (a) theory of and (b) theory in. Operating in tandem, the *theory of* is more focused on the processes, steps, strategies, interventions, or activities used in tackling the SAF while the *theory in* is mainly focused on gaining an understanding of the factors associated with the condition of the SAF and the problem-solving model intended to help better facilitate the processes or activities of the public needs assessment project.

However, the action processes must not only be facilitated by the theoretical foundations, but also be determined by needs-based planning processes associated with the instrumentality frameworks. Thus, although four types of planning processes have been identified—strategic planning, management planning, program planning, and asset planning or asset mapping/capacity building, each and all of the instrumentality frameworks can be aligned with their unique planning processes. The review of the literature is thus imperative to aid in identifying the theoretical foundations associated with the designing of the needs-based program planning processes, coupled with the description of the problem-solving model, and their responsive project intervention strategies.   
  
Typically, designing the needs-based program planning processes and responsive project intervention strategies, require the conceptualization of measurable action plan, which involve the description of the overall goal, outcome objectives, process objectives, program or project hypotheses, and activities. The action plan itself provides a depiction of the program or project concept, design, and description of the SAF as a basis for underscoring the resolution to the hypothesized needs-based issues or needs assessment planning issues. The overall goal is the desired systems changes of the SAF that you intend to achieve through the measurable action plan. Thus, the overall goal of a program or project will help determine where the program or project action is headed.

The program or project hypotheses are formulated by the use of *if–then* statements to provide the propositions or assumptions that underpin the predictable relationships between the means (that is, the process objectives and activities or strategies) and ends (that is, the outcome objectives and overall goal) structuring an *action* variable of interests. Outcome objectives (that is, the objectives structuring the *ends*) focus on results, expected changes in the condition of the needs-based SAF. The process objectives (that is, the objectives structuring the *means*) focus on the steps, expected action-oriented milestones hoped to help in bringing about the change in the condition of the needs-based SAF. The program or project activities (that is, the intervention strategies that are expected to be responsive to inducing the change in the SAF) focus on the things, processes, procedures, and systems, the strategic ways or means by which we hope to achieve the results.

Objectives

To successfully complete this learning unit, you will be expected to:

* 1. Understand the instrumentality framework of public needs assessment planning processes that can underscore an action-oriented research project.
  2. Examine how situational analysis frameworks can implicate the instrumentality frameworks on systems changes.
  3. Explore the theoretical foundations for determining the etiological analysis and problem-solving model that can underpin the public needs assessment and planning project.
  4. Apply validated needs assessment processes to ensure public participation in a government decision on a needs assessment project.
  5. Examine how the application of etiological analysis and problem-solving model can shape needs-based assumptions and planning processes associated with the instrumentality frameworks.
  6. Explore the formulation of program or project hypotheses, needs-based program planning processes, and responsive project intervention strategies.
  7. Apply the conceptualization of measurable action plan in designing and describing the overall goal, outcome objectives, process objectives, program or project hypotheses, and activities.

Studies

[**Steps for Program Planning**](javascript:void(open('http://media.capella.edu/CourseMedia/DRPH8212/StepsProgramPlanning/wrapper.html',%20'newWin',%20'menubar=0,%20toolbar=0,%20location=0,%20status=0,%20left=0,%20top=0,%20screenX=0,%20screenY=0,%20width=1000,%20height=700,%20resizable=1,%20scrollbars=1'));) **- TRANSCRIPT**

**Readings**

Note: Be certain to read the unit introduction, as it may contain important information and references pertaining to this unit's content and activities.

Use your *Designing and Managing Programs* text to complete the following:

* 1. Read Chapter 2, "The Contribution of Theory to Program Planning," pages 23–33.
  2. Read Chapter 6, "Selecting the Appropriate Intervention Strategy," pages 89–105.
  3. Read Chapter 7, "Setting Goals and Objectives," pages 107–128.
  4. Read Chapter 8, "Designing Effective Programs," pages 129–160.

**Multimedia**

Effective needs-based program planning is crucial and highly responsive to the project intervention strategies needed to bring about the systems changes. Needs-based program planning is a precursor for ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the instrumentality frameworks that undergird an action-oriented research project. It provides a framework for setting priorities and objectives, and establishing schedules for program activities by ensuring the best use of time for the facilitation of the public needs assessment and planning processes to bridge the gaps that implicate systems changes. Also, program planning can be used to focus on outcomes. The diagram in the Steps for Program Planning media provides a brief description of the program planning steps.

Click Steps for Program Planning to view the media.

**Article Search**

Because the literature search plays an essential part in this unit and your final assignment, search the literature to gather six additional [peer-reviewed](http://capellauniversity.libguides.com/peerreview) articles that can support the theoretical foundation of the topic for your public needs assessment project. You can use the [Databases A–Z](http://capellauniversity.libguides.com/az.php) library guide for searching the articles. You will use these articles in this unit's discussion and assignment as well as in the final assignment.

* [Toggle Drawer](https://courseroomc.capella.edu/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id=_99509_1&content_id=_6910935_1&mode=reset)

https://courseroomc.capella.edu/images/ci/icons/generic_updown.gif[[u07d1] Unit 7 Discussion 1](https://courseroomc.capella.edu/webapps/blackboard/content/launchLink.jsp?course_id=_99509_1&content_id=_6911016_1&mode=view)

Exploring Program Hypothesis, Design, and Intervention

Based on the six peer-reviewed articles you located in this unit's study, determine the etiological analysis of the SAFs and identify at least three problem-solving models that can underpin your public needs assessment project. Provide a rationale and justification as to which of the identified problem-solving models is an appropriate model for the facilitation of the etiological analysis you would use in tackling the SAF for your public needs assessment project.

Then, briefly describe how information derived from the articles can help you in designing the conceptualization of measurable action plan for your public needs assessment project. Be sure to draft an example of the overall goal, at least one outcome objective, one process objective, one program or project hypothesis, and at least two activities.

**Response Guidelines**

Review the posts of at least one peer and respond to the rationales on the problem-solving model and the overall goal, outcome objective, process objective, program or project hypothesis, and activities described. If you agree, explain why, and if you have other ideas, share those too.

**Resources**

U7 ASSIGNMENT Planning, Designing, Foundation, Tools, and Strategy

**Action Planning, Designing, Theoretical Foundation, Data Gathering Tools, and Intervention Strategy**

In this unit's studies, you were asked to gather six additional peer-reviewed articles (literature) and started exploring relevant program or project theories, hypothesis, and intervention strategies for your public needs assessment project. Now is the time to incorporate the information gathered including the feedback received on your post for this unit's discussion to aid in completing this assignment. This assignment forms the second basis and crucial components for the final assignment in this course on the needs-based program you are designing to deal with your chosen problem or condition. It describes the action-oriented research framework of the intervention strategy components for your public needs assessment project.

Assignment Instructions

Complete the following:

* 1. Introduction: Identify an area of interest for the instrumentality framework of your public needs assessment planning process that can support your action-oriented research project. (0.5–1 page.)
  2. Etiological analysis and SAF: By applying an etiological analysis approach, explain how the SAF of your public needs assessment implicates the action-oriented research project for the instrumentality framework chosen. Based on the review of the literature searched, provide a rationale and justification as to which identified problem-solving model is appropriate in facilitating the etiological analysis you would use in tackling the SAF for your public needs assessment project. (1–1.5 pages.)
  3. Theoretical foundations of needs-based program planning processes: Remember that the review of the literature is imperative to aid in identifying the theoretical foundations for designing of the needs-based program planning processes, coupled with the description of the problem-solving model, and their responsive project intervention strategies. Now, based on the review of the literature, identify and describe two levels of theoretical foundations constituting the (a) *theory of* and (b) *theory in* that can serve as the backbone of your action-oriented public needs assessment project. Be sure to integrate the six peer-reviewed articles to demonstrate how the two levels of theories are in alignment with their unique planning processes and can support your action-oriented public needs assessment project to bring about systems changes. (2–2.5 pages.)
  4. Description of conceptualization of measurable action plan: Using the assigned readings and by incorporating feedback received on your post in this unit's discussion, it is about time to provide a revised design of the conceptualization of measurable action plan you will use for your public needs assessment project. Be sure that this includes descriptions of the overall goal, two outcome objectives and two corresponding process objectives, as well as their realistic program or project hypotheses, and their suitable program or project activities. (2–2.5 pages.)
  5. Summary or conclusion: Be sure to summarize each of the areas covered in this assignment. Start with a restatement of the purpose statement (verbatim) and tie this to the areas covered. (0.5–1 page.)

**Other Requirements**

Your paper should meet the following requirements:

* 1. Written communication: Written communication should demonstrate an academic writing style.
  2. Resources: At least six peer-reviewed resources supporting your design and description.
  3. APA format: Be sure to format your paper using current APA style and formatting guidelines.
  4. Length of paper: 6–8 pages, excluding the cover page and references list.

 Submit your paper as a Word document to the assignment area.

Folder iconPortfolio Prompt: You may choose to save this learning activity to your ePortfolio.

TRANSCRIPT

**Steps for Program Planning**

**Introduction**

Effective program planning is very important and highly valued in our public health system. Program planning is a key for improving our effectiveness as educators. It provides a framework for setting priorities and establishing schedules that make the best use of time for our system and for individuals. Also, program planning can be used to focus on outcomes. The diagram that follows provides a brief description of the program planning steps.

**STEP 1**

**Needs Assessment: Identify primary health issues in your community**

Employ a systematic method for reviewing a population's health issues, leading to agreed priorities and resource allocation that will improve health and reduce inequalities.

**STEP 2**

**Develop Measurable Objectives**

Complete specific and measurable steps or outcomes that lead to the goal. A well-written and clearly defined objective is aS.M.A.R.T. objective:

**S**pecific.**M**easurable.**A**chievable.**R**elevant.**T**ime-bound.

**STEP 3**

**Select Effective Interventions or Programs**

Based on the information in your needs assessment and measurable objectives, select applicable interventions that would address you target audience.

**STEP 4**

**Implement Selected Interventions or Programs**

Implement the selected strategies and interventions that are required to achieve your objectives.

**STEP 5**

**Evaluate Interventions or Programs**

Use the objectives and goals to evaluate your interventions or programs for success.

After completing Step 5 you may return to steps 1, 2, or 3.

**References**

* Sillick, T.J., &Schutte, N.S. (2006). Emotional intelligence and self-esteem mediate between perceived early parental love and adult happiness. E-Journal of Applied Psychology, 2(2), pp. 38–48.

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