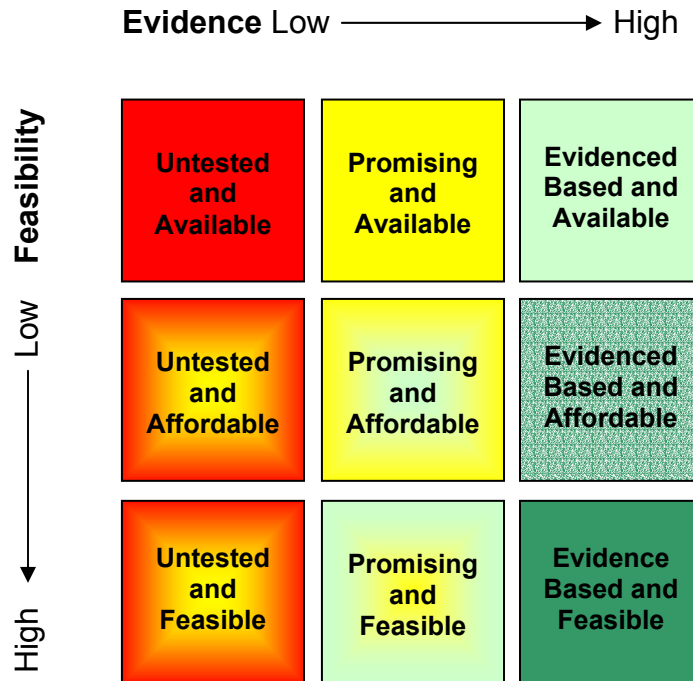


## Evidence and Feasibility in Program Selection

### Calculating the Results

Locate which block of the decision-making matrix corresponds with your evidence and feasibility score. Use the descriptions that follow to guide your decision.



### Evidence Based and Feasible

Obviously, it does not get any better than this. If you find a program in this category, you definitely have the green light to implement this program. Your decision to proceed with the identified program then rests on whether there are any other programs with a higher evidence score or lesser cost. If the evidence points are less than 9-10, you will want to monitor and/or participate in on-going research into the program's efficacy. Even though the program has been extremely effective for others, you will need to monitor its effectiveness for your organization. If it is not effective over time, you may not be implementing the program as designed.

### Evidence Based and Affordable

If you find yourself evaluating a program in this category - you have a good program and the resources to implement it, but do not have internal congruence - then it is time for some organizational soul-searching. This is particularly true if the program is designed to improve behaviors that are central to your mission.

### Evidence Based and Available

This category means you have identified a good program but you lack the resources to implement it. In this case, you have a couple of options: continue to look for an equally effective program with less associated costs or create a plan to generate the needed resources and to make associated organizational changes.

### **Promising and Feasible**

If the process leads you to this category, your first task is to make sure that you have not overlooked any programs that score higher on the evidence scale. Your decision to proceed with the identified program rests on whether there are any programs with a higher evidence score and lesser costs. Programs in this category require a significant commitment to monitoring and rigorous evaluation. You are relatively certain that the program can be implemented as designed, but you are taking a calculated risk in terms of whether or not the program will have the impact you expect. Evaluate this risk very carefully.

### **Promising and Affordable**

Programs that you can afford, but have only the promise of effectiveness should be implemented with extreme caution. Your organization has reservations about the program's feasibility, and there is less than concrete evidence that the program "will work." There may be times when such uncertainty is acceptable, but there should be very few of these instances.

### **Promising and Available**

Programs that fall into this category can be described in two ways. 1) They are of little value unless you are very uncertain about what your current investments, and are working in an area where very little programming is available. 2) They are of little value unless low cost variations of the program can be proven to be at least as promising.

### **Untested and Available**

Generally, do not consider programs in this category. There are two possibilities here. You have identified a program that is untested, that requires no curriculum, and no training. The program could be based on a good idea, and/or clever marketing. However, the probability that it will yield a positive result is low. In fact, the approach may do more harm than good. Many programs in this category may be packaged and promoted in a very positive way. Be careful and skeptical.

### **Untested and Affordable**

If you find yourself in this category, keep looking. There may be an idea or two that are untested yet worthy of investment. However, this idea (regardless of its potential value) isn't even a good fit within your current organization (else it would fall into the "feasible" category). The testing of this idea's value should fall to someone else.

### **Untested and Feasible**

If you find yourself evaluating a program in this category, keep looking. This program may have good "face validity" for your organization, but absolutely no evidence that it would work. The pondering of such programs should be limited to organizations whose mission is creative thinking (most likely research centers or universities), not implementation of programs for high-risk youth.