

Determine Feasibility of Opportunities

With your partners, determine which opportunities are viable options at this time. Use the rating worksheet to help assess the relative feasibility of pursuing new (or strengthening existing) opportunities based on a variety of factors, such as available resources, including personnel (time and energy), funding, space, and supplies and materials. In making your ratings, consider the opportunity costs—relative costs; if you expend resources moving forward with one initiative, will another have to give? Also factor in timing, as a number of ECE-related programs and policies happen on a regular schedule or have a narrow window of opportunity for change.

Taken together, the information gathered to complete the Spectrum of Opportunities Assessment and Rating Worksheets should help answer several key questions, such as:

- What are the gaps in current policies and programs?
- Are there fixed timelines or funding cycles that make an opportunity timely to pursue now? For example, state licensing regulations may be up for review on a specific schedule, such as every 5 years.
- What resources are currently available or might be reasonably obtained in the near future? Is there one opportunity for change that requires the least amount of resources but may provide a big yield?
- What is the political will in your state? Are some opportunities off-limits from the standpoint of current political and agency leadership?
- Are key stakeholders interested in making improvements focused on one specific area, such as breastfeeding, or in changes that encompass nutrition, physical activity, breastfeeding, and screen time reduction comprehensively?

[Type here]

Spectrum of Opportunities Rating Worksheet

For each opportunity identify the specific option(s) that might be pursued in your state and then rate each option on the following dimensions: timeliness, cost, effort, commitment, and reach. Rate each on a scale from 1 to 5 using the chart below. Higher scores suggest the opportunities that may be better options for pursuing now. Use the notes column to document equity considerations for each option relative to your state's equity goals. Keep in mind that some options may have mixed results.

Add additional columns to the chart if there are other dimensions that should be taken into consideration in your state. If the dimensions are not equally important for you, be sure to change the suggested scoring appropriately so that more important factors are weighted more heavily. For example, if reach is most important to your stakeholders, consider doubling the reach score before summing across dimensions.

Keep in mind that this worksheet is designed to help determine what is feasible at the present moment. Low scoring options should not be dismissed out of hand. Rather, examine why their scores are low to determine what actions would need to be taken to help improve the viability of these options.

Timeliness: How timely is this opportunity right now? Take into consider any inherent time cycles, as well as political will.

Cost: How expensive would it be to plan and implement this opportunity?

Effort: How much effort and time would be needed to pursue this opportunity?

Commitment: How enthusiastic would people be about implementing the opportunity?

Reach: How many children would be impacted by this opportunity if successfully implemented?

[Type here]

	Description of potential option(s) to pursue	Timeliness 1= low 3 = moderate 5 = high	Cost 1= high 3 = moderate 5 = low	Effort 1= high 3 = moderate 5 = low	Commitment 1= low 3 = moderate 5 = high	Reach 1= low 3 = moderate 5 = high	Total Points	Notes on Equity Considerations
Statewide Technical Assistance Networks								
Statewide Access to Initiatives (Farm to ECE)								
Early Learning Standards								

