

Root Cause Prioritizing Criteria

Use the following criteria to prioritize a set of powerful and feasible root causes for strategy design.

POWERFUL Root Causes...

- have a big influence on the SharedVision goals
- represent multiple system characteristics (see examples below)
- affect or involve multiple settings and/or individuals (especially those experiencing targeted problems or inequities) at different ecological levels in the community
- play a unique role in influencing other root causes and outcomes in the system
- affect inequities in the community related to the SharedVision

FEASIBLE Root Causes...

- are within the scope of work
- motivate local stakeholders to take action
- are seen as important by local residents
- can shift quickly

Example System Characteristics:

Mindsets

Attitudes, values, and beliefs that shape behavior

Connections

Relationships and exchanges between and across different actors, organizations, and system characteristics

Resources

Human, financial, community, and social resources that are used within the system

Regulations

Policies, practices, procedures, and daily practices that shape behavior patterns of individuals, groups and organizations

Components

Range, quality, effectiveness, and location of services, supports, and opportunities

Power

How decisions are made/who participates, whose voice matters, and the structures to support inclusion