



Advancing the Use of Core Components of Effective Programs: Suggestions for Researchers Publishing Evaluation Results

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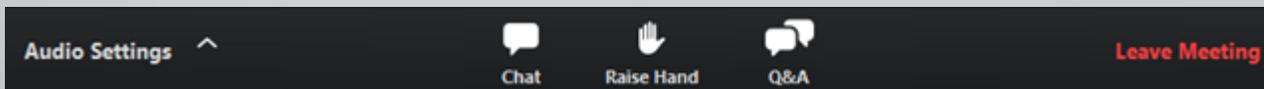
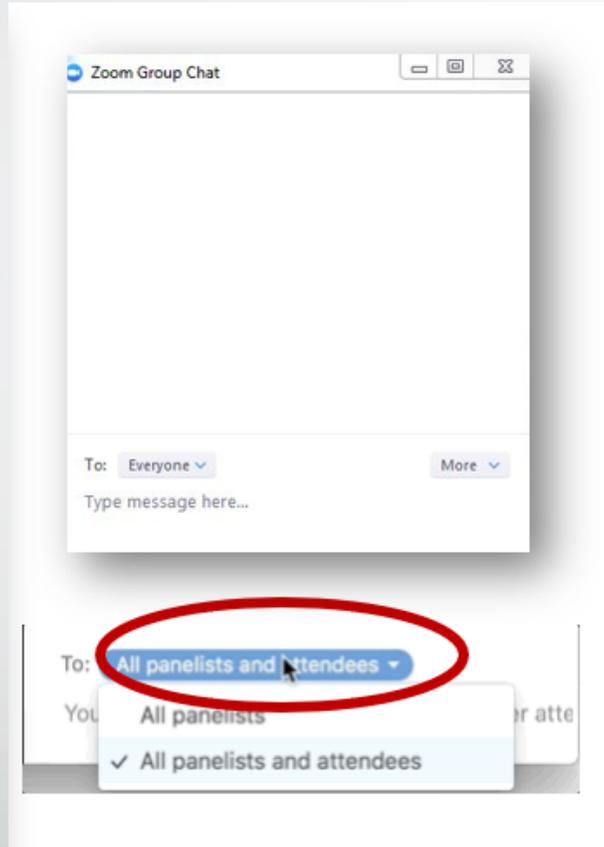
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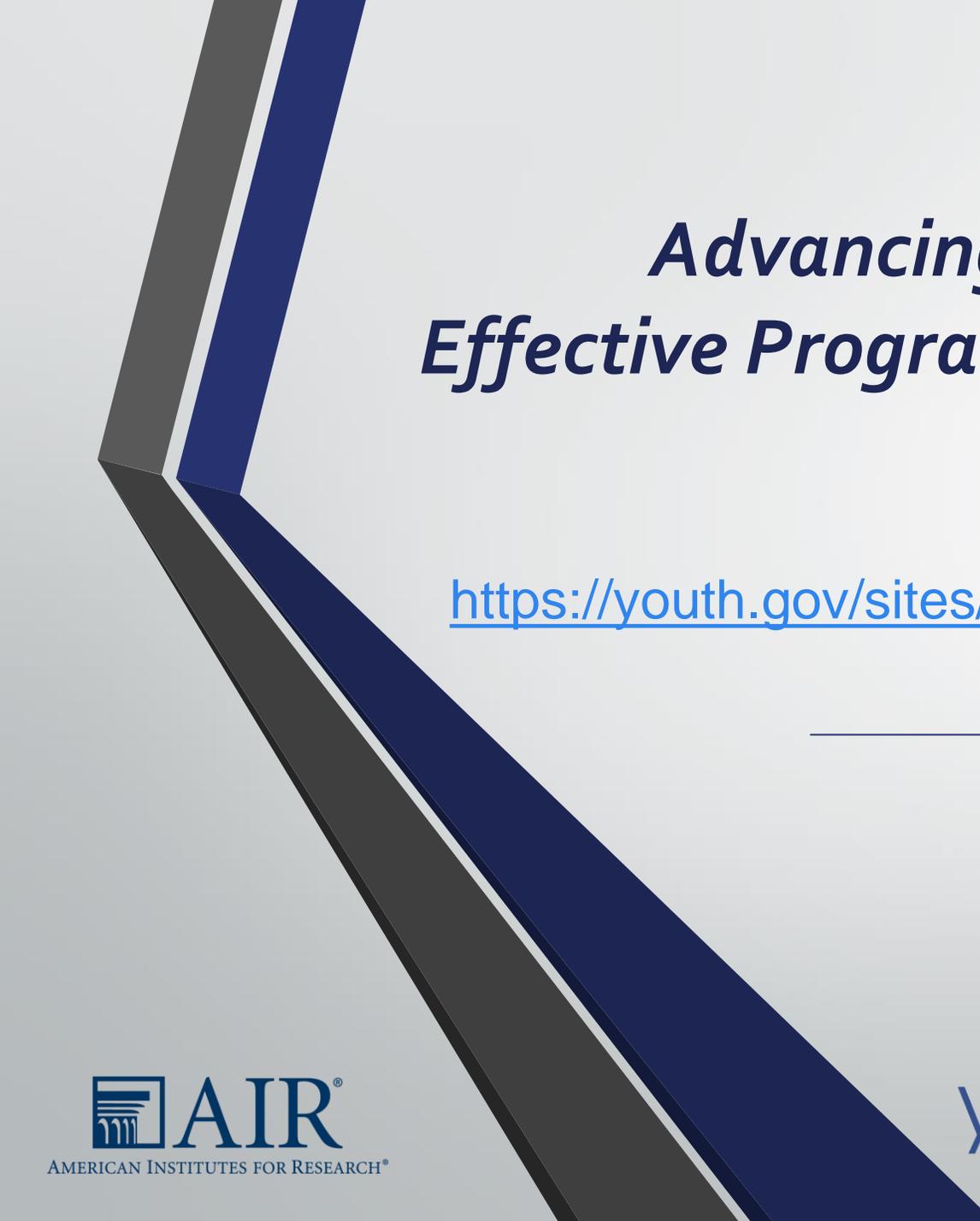
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*Advancing the Use of Core Components of
Effective Programs: Suggestions for Researchers
Publishing Evaluation Results*

https://youth.gov/sites/default/files/ASPE-Brief_Core-Components.pdf

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What are Core Components?

Core Components are the parts, features, attributes, or characteristics of a program that research suggests influences its success when implemented effectively (*Ferber, Sileo, and Wiggins, 2019*).
<https://forumfyi.org/knowledge-center/advancing-core-components/>

Core components of effective programs can:

- serve as the unit of analysis that researchers use to determine “what works” and eventually “for whom” and “under what circumstances”
- become the areas practitioners and policymakers seek to replicate within and across a range of related programs and systems.

1. Identifying: “We think these are core components ...”

Developing theories about which identified components of programs might be instrumental in helping targeted populations achieved desires outcomes

2. Testing: “Do the data say these are the core components?”

Winnowing the identified components based on which ones empirically predict the targeted population's improvement in desired outcomes across multiple contexts and subpopulations

3. Empowering: “Can we create supports to help people use these?”

Creating guides, tools, assessments, protocols, techniques, and processes that facilitate the translation and dissemination of core components for use by practitioners

4. Validating: “Did the supports work?”

Testing the tools and methods to see if they increased the use of the core components and if this led to better participant outcomes

5. Scaling: “Can we implement these supports on a broader scale?”

Implementing a strategy to scale up the use of the tools and methods that were proven to increase practitioners’ use of the core components

**Five Steps for
Advancing the
Use of Core
Components of
Effective
Programs**

Overview of “Suggestions for Researchers”

- Second in the series of working papers designed to increase awareness, understanding, and use of the “core components” approach
- Purpose is to encourage researchers to conduct and publish research in a way that it can be used to inform the kinds of meta-analysis crucial to a core components approach.
- Provides examples of the information researchers should routinely collect and report from program evaluations and outcome studies

How Did We Develop the Suggestions?

Gathered input from federal and nonfederal experts over two years

The suggestions build on existing resources in the field:

- *The **CONSORT-Social Psychological Interventions (SPI)** was adapted from CONSORT so that behavioral and social scientists report randomized controlled trials transparently.*
- ***TIDieR** is a guide and reporting checklist developed to improve the completeness of reporting, and ultimately the replicability, of interventions done in clinical settings.*
- ***BCT Taxonomy** is a reliable taxonomy that could be used across behaviors, disciplines, and areas of interest to understand “active ingredients” of behavior change interventions.*
- *The **Oxford Implementation Index** is a methodology designed to develop and test methods for assessing implementation fidelity that can be applied to many domains.*

What Kind of Information is Needed?

Reporting on full breadth of data in research and evaluation can facilitate systematic reviews and meta-analyses that identify and test core components

Information about the following types of characteristics need to be collected and reported:

- Setting
- Participant
- Program
- Implementation