

Getting Started: Is MAPP Right for You?

The first step is to decide whether MAPP is the right framework for your community. You will do a Starting Point Assessment in Phase I, but for now consider the following questions and characteristics of MAPP to determine if MAPP is a good fit.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MAPP	MORE QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
Is health equity part of our vision?	
<p>The goal of MAPP is to achieve health equity. This handbook will help your community examine what inequities exist, determine what drives them, and dedicate resources to advance health equity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do our values align with those of MAPP?• Are we ready to talk about equity?• Are we willing to let go of old priorities?
Are we interested in partnering with organizations across sectors?	
<p>MAPP involves the LPHS of organizations, agencies, and groups across sectors. It includes groups that may not be familiar with local public health. Part of your role will be to help all partners see their place in achieving the community's vision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How extensive are our networks with organizations across sectors?• Do our partner organizations have the capacity to engage in MAPP?• Could we join any community initiatives already occurring?
Are we committed to authentic community engagement?	
<p>The community should be engaged in every phase of MAPP. Community members can take leadership roles and provide guidance and feedback. Prioritizing this will require resources (to the extent possible) to help community members participate (stipends, vouchers, childcare, meals, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is our relationship, and our partners' relationship, with the community?• Are we ready to give decision-making authority to the community?• Can we prioritize community engagement and dedicate resources to support it?
Can we dedicate the necessary time?	
<p>A MAPP cycle can take up to two years, before applying the CHIP. This requires significant energy, investment from partners, clear vision, and project management. After completing one cycle, parts of MAPP can be updated rather than redone completely.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is our collective capacity to complete a MAPP cycle?• What might prevent us from completing a MAPP cycle?• What resources can we use?

If your answer to many of these questions is “No,” you might use these questions to guide conversations about what is needed to prepare for a successful MAPP cycle.

If your answer to many of these questions is “Yes,” then MAPP is the right framework. Keep reading to begin *Phase I: Build the Community Health Improvement Foundation*.