

What does evidence mean for Extension Programming?

After our first conversation, we conducted a content analysis of the group's discussions around the topic. Below are the content categories that gather the participants' contributions and are organized based on the frequency of concepts and assumptions.

1

Grounded in clinical research

Evidence was associated with randomized controlled trials, medical models, and evidence hierarchies: evidence-based, research-based, and practice-based themes were identified.



2

Data-driven programs

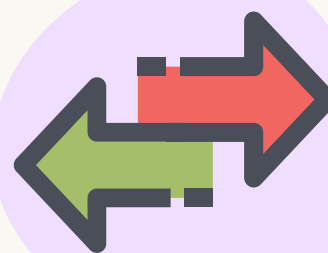
Evidence-based programs were described as "programs that have proven to work," have years of research to back up their claims, and are achieving specific outcomes.



3

Conflicting definitions and standards

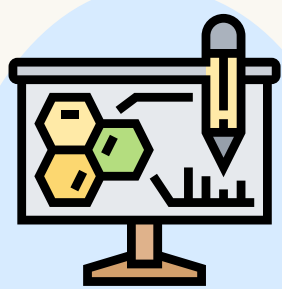
Participants discussed the challenges of implementing EBP for different fields in Extension. For example, EBP was described as being rooted in an expert and fidelity model, conflicting with community engagement and equity models.



4

Underlying program theory

Participants recognized EBP as having strong theoretical and research foundations. Also, EBP addresses critical needs, has explicit logic models, and tracks progress towards expected outcomes over time.



5

Limitations of evidence-based

Strict evidence-based processes establish control groups which are aspirational but not always practical for Extension programming where everyone receives information.



6

Why seek evidence-based programming?

High yielding funders and stakeholders are requiring evidence validation in supported projects and outreach while creating a clear path forward for CES.

