

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT USE WORKSHEET

For: _____

This worksheet is designed to help walk through how a model can be used throughout a research study. This exercise can also help inform if the model should be adapted or combined.

Section of Grant Proposal

Aims

Describe how the selected model helps in shaping your aims, study questions, and/or hypotheses.

Does your model include constructs relevant to both internal¹ and external validity²? If so, how does it address both internal validity and external validity?

In one sentence, describe why you choose this model?

1. Internal Validity - The degree to which the inference drawn from a study is warranted when account is taken of the study methods, the representativeness of the study sample, and the nature of the population from which it is drawn.
2. External Validity - The degree to which results of a study may apply, be generalized, or be transported to populations or groups that did not participate in the study.

Significance

Is there previous literature showing the use of your model that will help you in developing the rationale for your study and use of your model? If so, where were studies conducted and how was the model used?

Are there parts of your model (particularly contextual variables) that have been used in one or more previous studies?

Is there a quality gap or void in the literature that is illustrated and explicitly addressed in your model?

Why is your selected/adapted model better for this issue than others you could have chosen?

Innovation

Does adaptation and/or use of your model advance D&I science? How? The D&I contribution could be adaptation and empirical use. This is covered in more depth in the Adapt section.

Are you using innovative methods to adapt and use your model? This might involve engaging a new set of stakeholders to develop and apply your model. From a research perspective, as long as model adaptations do not become a weakness of the proposed study (when drastic changes are made to a model), it provides an excellent opportunity for model testing.

Are you using a model from a field different from your own (e.g., taking a model from business or engineering and applying it to a health issue)? This could add additional innovation to the study.

Are you applying a model from D&I science to advance a substantive/content area? Even if the model application does not advance D&I science, it may advance science in your substantive/content area.

Approach

How does the model inform your study methods?

- Is it linked to the constructs you are measuring (e.g., context, determinants, implementation or client outcomes)? If so, how?
- Are you using measures of concepts and/or constructs in your model? Often, a table or figure is helpful in conveying the linkages between your D&I model and your measures
- Are you using mixed-methods³? And if so, how do these methods map to your D&I model?

- Do your analyses assess the relationships postulated in your model and highlighted on your aims page? For example, how does your model inform the relationships between contextual variables, D&I strategies, and outcomes?
- In what ways does your study balance internal and external validity?

Other Notes:

3. Mixed-Methods - An approach for collecting, analyzing, and mixing both quantitative and qualitative data in a single study or series of studies to understand an evaluation problem.