

## IS SHIELD RIGHT FOR YOUR AGENCY?

Before deciding to adopt and implement *SHIELD*, you should determine *SHIELD* is right for your agency and the population served. This section will help you think through the organizational structures, processes, and resources needed to successfully implement *SHIELD* activities.

Below is a checklist of questions you need to answer before deciding whether to implement *SHIELD*. The purpose of this checklist is to stimulate thinking and stimulate dialogue to guide decision making.

Goodness of Fit	No	Yes	I Don't Know
1. Are the risk-reduction goals of this intervention appropriate for your agency?			
2. Are the risk-reduction goals appropriate for your target population?			
3. Are the intervention objectives suitable for your agency? (i.e., SMART-specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic, and time based)?			
4. Are the intervention objectives appropriate for your target population (i.e., SMART)?			
5. Is this intervention culturally appropriate for your drug-related target population?			
6. Does this intervention address, or have the capacity to address, the drug- and sex-related risk factors of your target population?			

In addition to thinking through the preceding questions in detail, answer the questions below to determine whether your agency has the capacity, or can build the capacity, to implement *SHIELD*. After answering these questions, you should be able to determine whether *SHIELD* is the right intervention for your agency and community.

<b>Agency Readiness</b>	<b>No, we do not have this capacity</b>	<b>We do not currently have the capacity, but can build it in time</b>	<b>Yes, we have the capacity</b>
7. Does your agency have the capacity to implement HIV prevention and offer a range of risk reduction options?			
8. Does your agency have management committed to implementing each core element with fidelity?			
9. Does your agency have staff committed to implementing each core element with fidelity?			
10. Does your agency have sufficient financial resources to implement each core element with fidelity?			
11. Does your agency have the ability and capacity to recruit former and current drug users (i.e., users of heroin, cocaine, or crack) who frequently interact with other drug users?			
12. Does your agency have staff members who can recruit potential participants?			
13. Does your agency have access to a large room in which to conduct the small-group intervention sessions?			
14. Does your agency have at least 1 (preferably 2) staff members who can deliver the SHIELD intervention session?			
15. Does your staff have knowledge of, and access to community resources and referrals regarding HIV risk reduction and testing?			
16. Does your agency have the capacity to conduct process monitoring activities			

*SHIELD: A group-level Intervention for former and current drug users  
SELF-ASSESSMENT READINESS TOOL*

(i.e., staff evaluator or funding for an external evaluator)?			
17. Does your agency have access to photocopier, television/VCR/DVD, newsprint and markers, safe sex and needle hygiene kits?			