**Resource Stability**

Sustainability research clearly identifies stable and adequate financing as a pillar of sustainability.[[1]](#footnote-1) Sustaining school health programs without dedicated federal or state funding is a consistent challenge; paired with the reality that the education system does not always embrace health as a core function. Building strong partnerships and securing sustained funding go hand in hand for any community program. Many successfully sustained community programs report that sustained funding was a result of connecting with broad array of partners and policymakers and being in the “right place at the right time.”[[2]](#footnote-2) However, leveraging strategic partnerships may be even more important for sustaining school health work, given the economic climate in which they operate. Capacity for school health is an often-cited barrier to successful implementation and sustainability.[[3]](#footnote-3) As such, we recommend funding strategies that translate into staff positions that are explicitly focused on coordinating school health work. Furthermore, demonstrating and communicating results of successful programs to gain new funding and sustain current funding is imperative.

Key components of resource stability include:

* The program exists in a supportive economic climate
* The program implements policies to help ensure sustained funding.
* Program is funded through a variety of sources.
* The program has a combination of stable and flexible funding.
* The program has sustained funding.

1. Johnson K, Hayes C, Center H, Daley C. Building capacity and sustainable prevention innovations: a sustainability planning model. *Evaluation Program Planning* 2004, 27(2), 135-49. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Cornerstone Consulting Group. End Games: The Challenge of Sustainability. Annie E. Casey Foundation. 2002. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Basch, CE. Healthier students are better learners: High-quality, strategically planned, and effectively coordinated school health programs must be a fundamental mission of schools to help close the achievement gap. *Journal of School Health*. 2011; 81(10): 650–662. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)