



Illinois Braiding and Blending

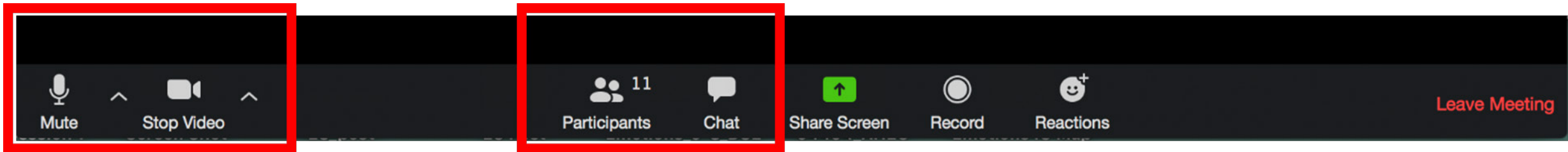
Community of Practice

November 4, 2021

Illinois State Board of Education

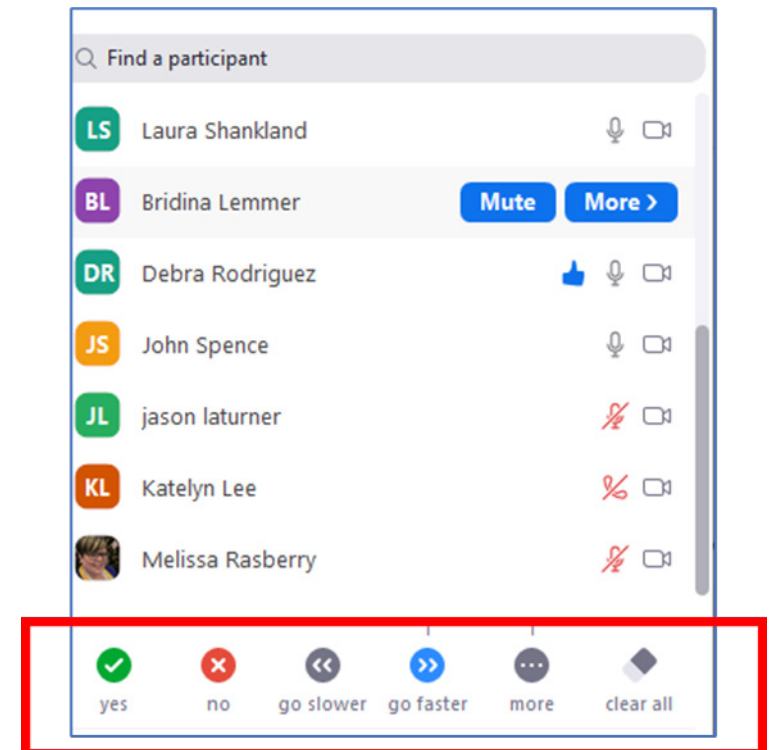
Region 9 Comprehensive Center

Using the Zoom Platform



- Use the black bar on your screen to control your audio and video, and to view the participant list and chat.
 - When you join, your audio will be muted. Please remain muted when you're not speaking.
 - We welcome you to turn on your camera and join us via video.
- Use the “Raise Hand” button on your participant feedback bar to volunteer to speak; the presenter will call on you.
- Use the chat to message Crystal Darby or Deirdre Magnum for tech support.

Participant List



Virtual Meeting/Conference Recording Notice

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AIR Inclusive Meeting Guidelines

Hosting and Participating in Meetings



ENGAGE EVERYONE



BE HEARD AND SEEN



ACKNOWLEDGE SPEAKER



MAXIMIZE MICROPHONES



MINIMIZE NOISE



MAXIMIZE VISUAL DISPLAYS

What's Fall to You?

In the chat box

- Your district and role.
- Write the number(s) of your favorite fall activity(ies) and why you like it!

1



2



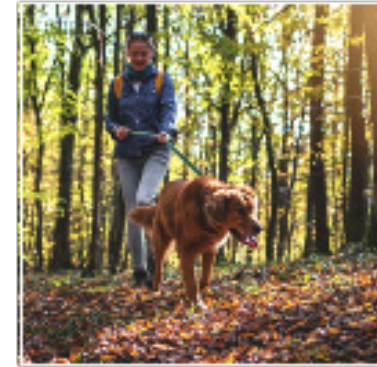
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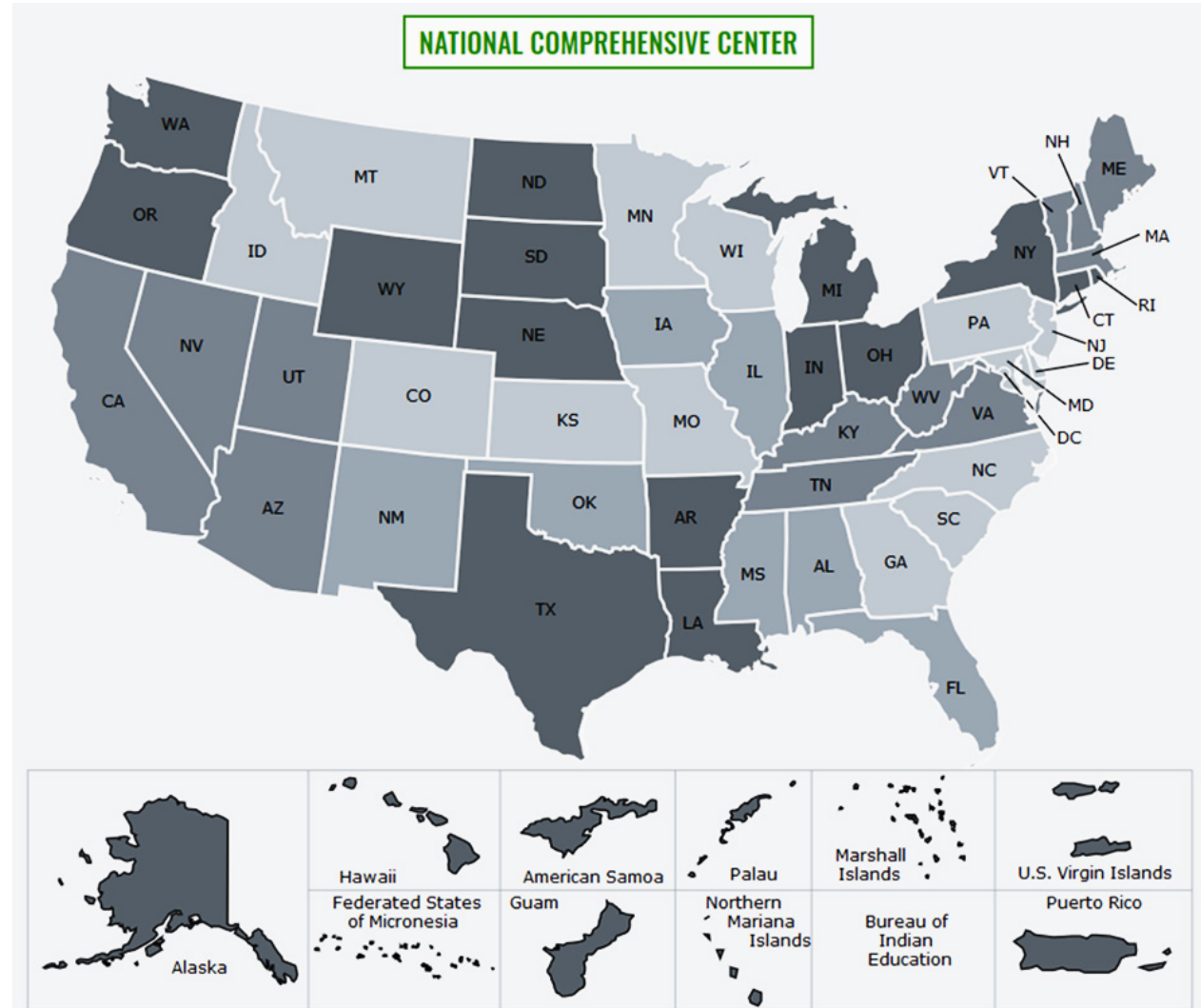
What Is the Region 9 Comprehensive Center?

- Provides capacity-building services to state, district, and school leaders in Illinois and Iowa.
- Operated by the American Institutes for Research through a U.S. Department of Education grant.
- Three focus areas:
 - **Support** the region in making measurable progress toward key education priorities.
 - **Connect** partners with expertise and evidence-based resources.
 - **Elevate** success stories from across the region.



We Are Part of the Comprehensive Center Network

- 19 regional centers and a national center that provide capacity-building services.
- Goal of improving educational outcomes and instructional quality for all students.
- Funded by 5-year grants from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Current grant cycle began in fall 2019.



Agenda

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- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - ISBE, Region 9 CC Team
 - Purpose and Objectives
- 10:15 a.m. **Comprehensive Needs Assessment**
- 10:45 a.m. **Breakout Rooms**
- 11:15 a.m. **Whole Group Sharing**
- 11:25 a.m. **Closing and Adjourn**

Purpose

ISBE is hosting a community of practice (CoP) for district leadership to:

- **Partner with other districts** to collaboratively navigate braiding and blending of federal and local funds.
- Identify **strategic considerations for mitigating common challenges** that may arise in braiding and blending federal and local funds.
- **Identify tools and resources** to support successful implementation of braiding and blending funds.
- **Contribute to a research-based resource** that can be shared with school and district leaders across Illinois and the nation.

2.2.3 Create an efficient and effective reporting system in collaboration with the field that encourages and fosters braiding and blending (i.e., integrated resource allocation system) and is supported by aligned agency mindsets and practices.

**By end of the
2020-21 school year**

Agency staff will be trained to understand and work with districts on blending and braiding.

**By end of the
2021-22 school year**

Up to 10 pilot districts will be selected and trained and will utilize blending and braiding.

**By end of the
2022-23 school year**

ISBE will increase by two the number of federal funds braided at the state level to maximize its resources to serve LEAs and will distribute all discretionary grants according to equity-based criteria.

Community of Practice Structure

- » Pre-Work Activity
- » Review of previous session content
- » Subject Matter Expert Presentation
- » Small Group Breakout Discussion
- » Community Sharing
- » Resources and Follow-up Communications

CoP Series

- November 4, 2021, 10:00 a.m. CT
The Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- **December 2, 2021, 10:00 a.m. CT**
Introduction to Braiding and Blending Funding
- January 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m. CT
Developing Best Practices for Resource Allocation
- January 26, 2021, 10:00 a.m. CT
How to Report Braiding and Blending

Expectations and Norms



This is an off the record conversation please no social media or tweeting about conversations.



Be present and actively contribute.



Complete pre-work assignments



Share ideas and resources.



Respect diversity of opinion and perspective.



Use cameras to help create sense of community.



Work to help develop community by attending sessions.

Objectives

- Participants should expect to:
 - **Reflect** on elements of a high-quality effective comprehensive needs assessment.
 - **Hear from peers** about how they conducted their comprehensive needs assessment.
 - **Identify actionable** steps to make use of information from comprehensive needs assessments that can inform planning for braiding and blending funds.



Poll Question

➤ Generally, how would you rate your knowledge/experience [pick one or the other] with braiding and blending?

- A great deal of experience.
- Some experience
- Not much experience
- No experience at all.

Why are we talking about Comprehensive Needs Assessments (CNAs), when our purpose for this series is braiding and blending funding?

- ✓ the CNA is an essential aspect of the braiding and blending
- ✓ the CNA helps with some of the decision-making that needs to occur for braiding and blending
- ✓ to focus on the connection/importance of using CNA to make decisions about programming and funding.



Comprehensive Needs Assessment



Marie Husby-Slater,
Senior TA Consultant, AIR

What Is a Needs Assessment?

- A needs assessment is, first and foremost, a ***process*** that can help educators at all levels successfully **identify, understand**, and better **address** education challenges.
- **A systematic examination** of the **gap** that exists between the current state and desired state of an organization, and the **contributing factors** to which this gap can be attributed.

What Is a Needs Assessment?

A needs assessment can be:

- Systemic
 - Satisfies ***a comprehensive list or set*** of program requirements (e.g., all Title programs)
- Targeted
 - Focuses on a single program or requirement (e.g., needs assessment requirements under Title I) *and/or*
 - Considers a single system component or an area of content (e.g., school climate)



Why Conduct a Needs Assessment?

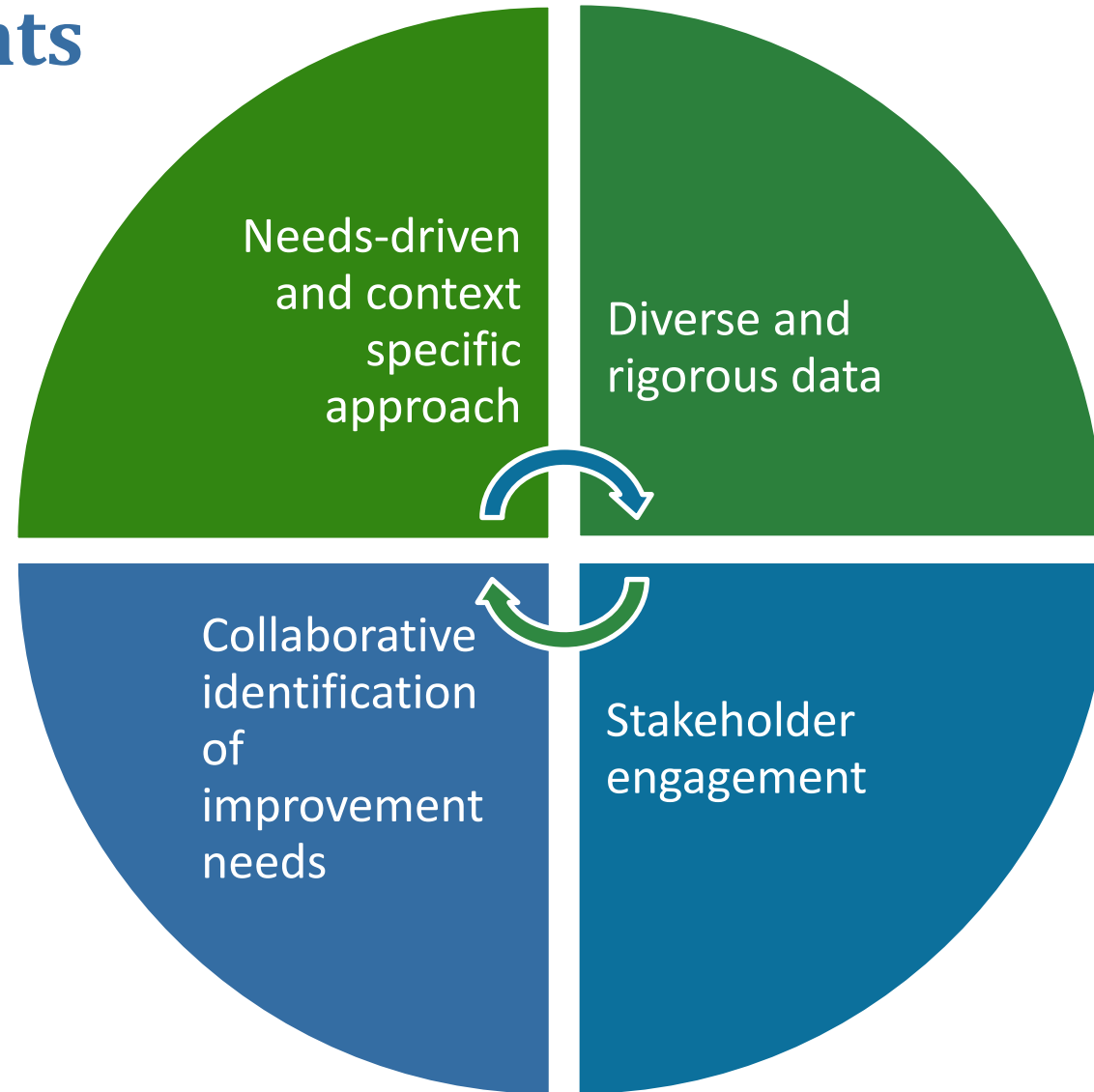
- » Helps local stakeholders and system leaders understand how the pieces of complex systems interact.
- » Uncovers strengths and challenges that will inform growth and improvement.
- » Aids in Identifying and selecting evidence-based practices.

Pause and Connect

- What from the definition and purpose of needs assessment resonates with you in reflecting on your own needs assessments?
- Did this raise any questions or ponderings you are hoping we are able to discuss during this session?



Success Elements



Needs Driven and Context Specific

>> Why use a framework?

- > Provides a core organizing structure
- > Formalizes priorities for investigation
- > Sets consistency and focus

Everything maps back to the priorities

>> Intentional Data Review Categories

- > Resource Distribution
- > Supportive Environment for Students
- > Teaching and Learning
- > Multi-tiered System of Support
- > Family Engagement
- > Data Use
- > Leadership

Diverse and Rigorous Data

>> Qualitative

- > Interviews
- > Focus groups
- > Plans/processes/reports

>> Quantitative

- > Student outcomes
- > Finance reports

>> Both

- > Survey
- > observations

>> Input

- > Plans
- > Training
- > resources

>> Output/Outcome

- > Performance
- > expenditure

>> Context/Demographics

- > Student populations
- > School culture

Engaging Stakeholders

- Builds ownership
- Builds trust
- Leverages implementation science
- Leads to action



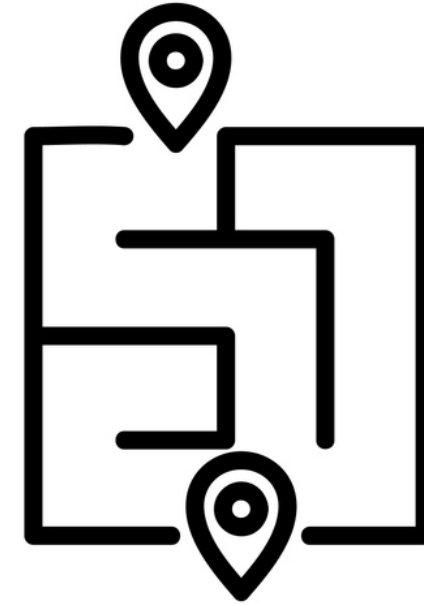


Collaborative Identification of Needs

- » Promotes transparency
- » Provides school communities with an authentic voice and a role in the process
- » Increases local capacity and knowledge
- » Increases utility of data

Connect to Implementation

- >> Needs assessment ends with priorities to move forward
- >> Results are used to drive meaningful, long-term change



**Begin with the end
in mind**

Needs Assessment Guidebook

- Elements of Success
 - Phases of a Needs Assessment
 - Supporting Resources
 - Quick Reference Guide
- https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/10/needs-assessmentguidebook-508_003.pdf



Additional Resources and Examples:

>> Needs Assessment Development Modules

- > <https://oese.ed.gov/resources/oese-technical-assistance-centers/state-support-network/resources/needs-assessment-development-modules/>

>> Georgia Comprehensive Needs Assessment

- > GA-DOE District-Level Template/GA-DOE School-Level Template:
<https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Pages/Identify-Needs.aspx>
- > Forsyth County/Chattahoochee Elementary:
<https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/cms/lib/GA01000373/Centricity/Domain/4997/Chatt%20CNA%20and%20SIP%20FY21.pdf>

>> Colorado Comprehensive Needs Assessment

- > https://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/documents/fedprograms/dl/consapp_na_guide.pdf



Breakout Room Procedures

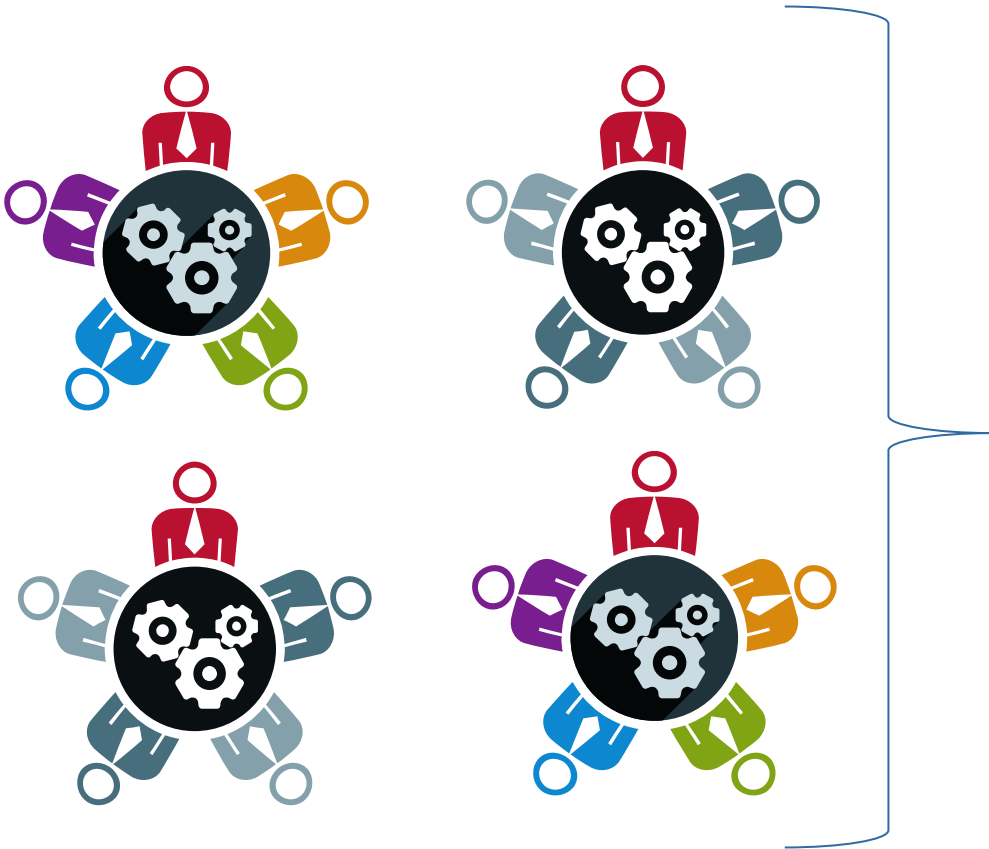
- Each group will have a facilitator and notetaker
- Group members will select roles for:
 - Timekeeper
 - Reporter
- The group will use the time allotted to discuss the CNA questions.



Discussion Questions: From CNAs to Braiding and Blending

1. Based on what we just discussed, what opportunities do you see to strengthen your district's CNA process?
2. What decisions about budgeting or use of funds have you been able to make in the past based on your CNA?
3. What additional information could you include to design your CNA to be more useful?
4. What support do you need to make better use of your CNA process?

Debrief Discussion – Whole Group



Session Reflections

1. What is one key takeaway you got from today's conversation?
2. What is one step you plan to take to be prepared to use your CNA for funding decisions?
3. What additional questions or comments do you have?

Next Steps

- Next Session: December 2, 2021
- Pre-Work Assignment
- Sign-up for the Region 9 CC Newsletter
- National Center Resources
- Follow-up email with resources
- End of Session Survey



Thank you!

End of Session Survey



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• region9cc.org

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Newsletter:

• [region9cc.org/
content/newsletter](http://region9cc.org/content/newsletter)



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