

## **Overview of Criteria and Ratings: National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP)**

Many of the “programs with evidence of effectiveness” found in [SPRC’s Resources and Programs](#) were included because they were reviewed and listed by the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP), a past program of the U.S. [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA).

***Please note: NREPP was discontinued as of January 2018 (please read Assistant Secretary McCance-Katz’s [statement](#) about NREPP and evidence-based practices). Because some SPRC program listings still include NREPP ratings, the information below summarizes historical information about the NREPP review process to help put these ratings in context.***

### **About NREPP**

NREPP was an evidence-based repository and review system designed to provide the public with information on mental health and substance abuse interventions. Its purpose was to help people learn about the evidence for specific programs and practices so that they could determine which, if any, might best meet their needs. NREPP was an informational resource only. It did not endorse or approve programs.

### **Changes to NREPP**

In 2015, NREPP changed its process for identifying, reviewing, and rating programs. Some of the programs included in SPRC’s Resources and Programs were reviewed under the old (pre-2015) process, and some were reviewed using the new (post-2015) process.

Note that NREPP has always rated *individual outcomes*, not whole programs. Many NREPP programs had multiple outcomes with different ratings.

- **“Legacy programs”** were reviewed and rated using the pre-2015 process.
  - Interventions had to meet a set of minimum requirements to be eligible for review.
  - The evidence for each outcome was reviewed and scored on a **scale of 0–4**, with 4 indicating the highest quality of evidence and 0 indicating very poor quality of evidence.
  - The overall evidence rating for each outcome was based on ratings of six criteria: 1) reliability of measures, 2) validity of measures, 3) intervention fidelity, 4) missing data and attrition, 5) potential confounding variables, and 6) appropriateness of analysis.
  
- **“New reviews”** were reviewed and rated from 2015 to 2018 using the revised criteria.
  - Interventions had to meet a revised set of minimum requirements to be eligible for review. See the [July 7, 2015 Federal Register Notice](#) for changes to the minimum requirements. Some previously listed programs were removed from NREPP because they no longer met the minimum requirements.
  - The evidence for each outcome was reviewed and rated on four dimensions (rigor, effect size, program fidelity, and conceptual framework), each with multiple elements.
  - A score was then calculated and each outcome was assigned an evidence rating of **Effective, Promising, or Ineffective**.

### **Additional Resources**

- See [Evidence-Based Prevention](#) on SPRC’s website to learn more about creating suicide prevention programs using the best available research and data throughout the process.
- See [Finding Programs and Practices](#) on SPRC’s website for links to program registries and lists and guidance for using these resources effectively in decision-making.