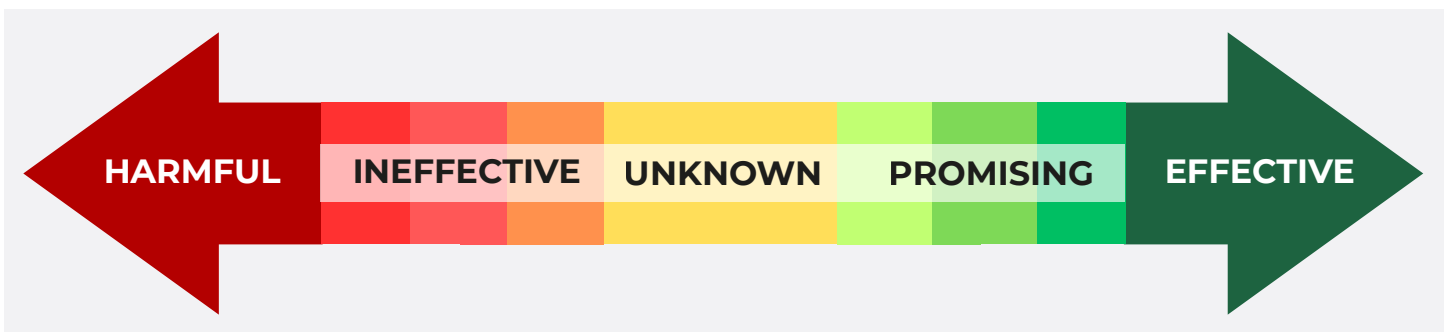




## WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN WE SAY A PROGRAM IS “EVIDENCE-BASED”?

Prevention scientists rate programs along a continuum of confidence:



Source: Bumbarger & Rhoades, 2012

✓	<b>Evidence-based</b>	This program has been rigorously evaluated and shown to work.
✓	<b>Research-based</b>	This program is based on sound theory informed by research.
✓	<b>Promising approaches</b>	This program is similar to other effective programs, but has not been rigorously evaluated.
✗	<b>Discouraged Approaches</b>	This program is similar to other ineffective or harmful programs, but has not been rigorously evaluated.
✗	<b>Ineffective</b>	This program has been evaluated and shown to have no positive or negative effect.
✗	<b>Harmful (Iatrogenic)</b>	This program has been rigorously evaluated and shown to be harmful.



Researchers review studies to determine whether a program:

- Demonstrated effectiveness in rigorous scientific evaluations including randomized control trials.
- Was assessed in large studies with diverse populations or through multiple replications by independent researchers (not the developer of the model).
- Resulted in significant and sustained effects for a minimum of 6 months, post program.

Programs that meet all three of these criteria tend to fall in the green, evidence-based end of the continuum.

## How to Identify Highly Rated Evidence-Based Programs

Several clearinghouses have already done the work of reviewing research studies and rating programs' effectiveness. Consult these resources to ensure that the programs you want to implement will be effective.

Rating Source and Link	Area of Focus
<a href="#">Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development</a>	Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice
<a href="#">Results First Clearinghouse Database</a>	Combines 9 national clearinghouses
<a href="#">California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare</a>	Child welfare
<a href="#">CrimeSolutions.gov</a>	Criminal justice
<a href="#">What Works Clearinghouse</a>	Education
<a href="#">What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse</a>	Criminal Justice
<a href="#">Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse (Family First)</a>	Child Welfare
<a href="#">Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness</a>	Military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families
<a href="#">OJJDP   Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention</a>	Juvenile Justice



## How to Navigate Evidence-based Clearinghouses


Are you looking to implement an evidence-based program but unsure where to start? The PLP offers a video and free eCourse experience designed to guide you through the process of identifying, comparing, and selecting programs that truly meet your community's needs.

In this learning experience, you'll explore how to effectively use Evidence-Based Program Clearinghouses through a simple, practical 4-step approach, equipping you with the tools to make confident, data-informed decisions.


Designed for child welfare professionals, educators, prevention specialists, and others serving children, youth, and families, this resource will help you:

- Understand what clearinghouses are and how they function within the continuum of evidence
- Navigate clearinghouses efficiently to find relevant programs
- Interpret ratings, research, and key information to assess program credibility
- Identify effective, safe interventions aligned with your community's needs
- Anticipate potential implementation outcomes and make informed recommendations

Whether you're new to evidence-based practices or looking to strengthen your decision-making process, this offering provides a clear path to selecting programs that lead to meaningful impact.



[Watch the Video](#)



**Clearing the Path: Effective Use of Evidence-based Clearinghouses**

[Take the eCourse](#)