KEY FACTORS IN DATA COLLECTION

#1 Develop a timeline for data collection that is applicable across states.
- Data are collected according to different schedules state-by-state. Data collection should begin by establishing a baseline of common data across states.

#2 Make sure data elements are universal.
- Data should be clearly defined so that they are reliable collected, and should be relevant to all states collecting those data.
- Examine existing data collection across states, and across programs and partner agencies, and identify commonalities and differences.

#3 Consider cultural sensitivity, relativity and competence when selecting and/or developing tools.

#4 Keep data collection simple, relevant, and useful.
- Use existing data, and make sure elements are simple, and quickly and easily collected.
- Don’t “over collect” data that will not be used.
- Attend to who will collect, analyze, and disseminate data.
- Consider the universality and utility of measures used today and how they will apply to future (anticipated) needs.
- Examine the value and meaning of data collected.

#5 Data should measure and support systems change.
- Find ways to demonstrate that coalitions and planning groups work in ways that help achieve collective goals.
- All data collected should clearly map onto aspects of programs and systems about which we wish to learn.
- Data should be analyzed and shared with consideration of contexts that influence or explain those data.

#6 Data should be person-centered and shared with care.

#7 Data collection procedures should be developed to ensure ease and accuracy.
- Consider using mobile apps.
- Data collectors should be trained and supported.