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**Dedicated Public Funding Streams:**

**An essential element of fiscal support for children, youth and their families**

**Where do dedicated public funding streams fit into a fiscal sustainability framework?**

Foundational elements of fiscal sustainability for a service delivery system

* Strong programming and evaluation
* A community-level common set of values and priorities
* Comprehensive assessment of need and service gaps
* Fiscal mapping demonstrating current expenditures and fiscal shortfalls

Strategies for maximizing existing funding

* Program and organizational efficiencies resulting in cost savings
* Building partnerships to share resources
* Increasing flexibility in use of funds to better meet community needs

Strategies for generating new revenues

* Fully accessing public funds at all levels of government
* Garnering philanthropic support – individual, foundation, business
* Billing for services rendered
* Creating revenue generating businesses, social entrepreneurships, events
* **Enacting measures to create new sustainable public funding streams**

This strategy is the least explored, as well as the most challenging. However, it often has the greatest potential for generating ongoing significant resources and for mobilizing a constituency of support for children, youth and families.

**What are the characteristics of a strong dedicated public funding stream?**

* Provides sufficient resources to meet the goals of the measure
* Addresses a priority community need and resource gap
* Is predictable and sustainable
* Protects current levels of funding from cuts so new funds do not supplant existing funds
* Ensures accountability and evaluation
* Builds in transparency in decision-making regarding funding allocations
* Balances flexibility in use of funds with assurance that funds are targeted as intended
* Requires a strong community voice in implementation, including parents and youth
* Mandates a planning process that engages all stakeholders and develops a coherent approach to the expenditure of funds
* Ensures new funding is aligned with existing funding

Note: This framework draws on the work of The Finance Project in Washington, D.C.