PREP Federal Benchmarks: Getting Started

What are the PREP performance measures benchmarks?

The PREP performance measure benchmarks are tools grant recipients and the Program Office can use for supporting continuous quality improvement (CQI). Grant recipients can use these standards to identify and set goals for program performance.

What is the purpose of the benchmarks?

ACF has long encouraged grant recipients to use performance measures for CQI. As the result of years-long planning efforts involving many sources of information, including feedback provided by grant recipients, ACF concluded that introducing performance benchmarks as a tool could help advance grant recipients' CQI efforts.

To support grant recipients in adopting the use of benchmarks for CQI, ACF has identified an initial set of five federal PREP benchmarks. Each is a combination of a specific performance measure and a set target for that measure. Benchmarks are not punitive, but a tool for CQI. The table below provides the category, performance measure, and target for each benchmark.

Category	Performance measure	Target
Support for implementation	Percentage of PREP facilitators trained in delivering core curriculum	At least 95%
Support for implementation	Percentage of PREP facilitators observed at least once	At least 75%
Cost	Percentage of funding obligated for direct service provision	At least • 50% for State and Competitive[a] • 40% for Tribal and PREIS
Dosage[b]	Percentage of youth who completed at least 75 percent of the intended program dosage	At least 75%
Program Content	Percentage of youth served by evidence-based programs	• At least 90% for State and Competitive • N/A for Tribal and PREIS

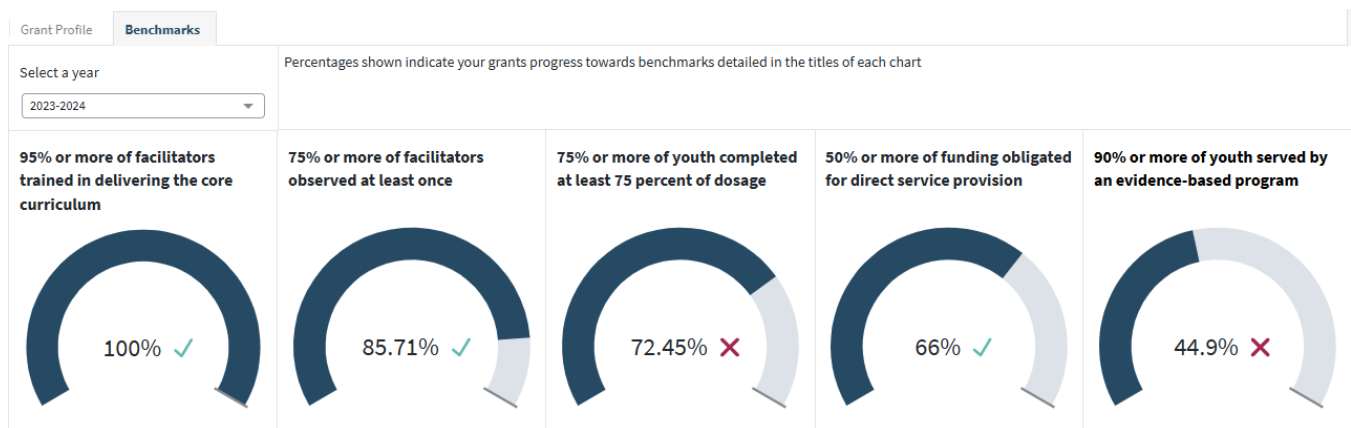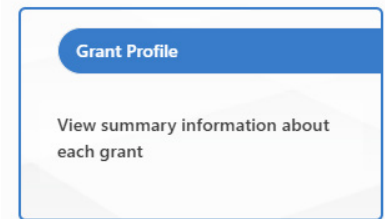[a] State and Competitive PREP grant recipients conducting local evaluations have a 40% target.

[b] Dosage is the only benchmark performance measure grant recipients report to ACF twice a year.

How were the specific target percentages set?

ACF considered past grantee performance on these measures along with existing guidance based on FYSB policies and notice of funding opportunities to determine the specific target percentages. The targets are rooted in several years of existing data and intended to be attainable. Because they are set as percentages, the selected performance measures allow for standardization across PREP grant recipients within each funding stream.

How do grant recipients access their benchmark information on the PREP dashboard?

Grant recipients can see their benchmark data on a single screen on the PREP dashboard. Within the Grant Profile, users can select the Benchmark tab to view tiles corresponding to each measure. The tiles present a visual indicator of the percentage for each measure and how it compares with the benchmark target. Grant recipients only have access to their own data. Data will be uploaded to the dashboard annually.

Grant Profile

View summary information about each grant

| Grant Profile | **Benchmarks** |

Select a year

2023-2024

Percentages shown indicate your grants progress towards benchmarks detailed in the titles of each chart

| 95% or more of facilitators trained in delivering the core curriculum | 75% or more of facilitators observed at least once | 75% or more of youth completed at least 75 percent of dosage | 50% or more of funding obligated for direct service provision | 90% or more of youth served by an evidence-based program |
| 100% ✓ | 85.71% ✓ | 72.45% ✗ | 66% ✓ | 44.9% ✗ |

What are some examples of how a grant recipient may use the dashboard for monitoring their benchmarks?

The dashboard provides information about program performance for past data submission periods. This information can be used to inform CQI efforts in several ways:

- For measures that have fallen short of benchmark targets for past data submission periods, grant recipients can talk with their staff and Federal Project Officers about whether changes to existing program design or implementation could enhance future program performance.

- For measures that have met or exceeded benchmark targets for past data submission periods, grant recipients can reflect on possible reasons for success and how they can sustain it.

For more information about PREP performance measures benchmarks, search for "benchmarks" on the Resources page of the PREP website: [Search Resources | PREP Performance Measures](#).*For further support, contact the Mathematica PREP Performance Measures technical assistance team at [PREPPerformanceMeasures@mathematica-mpr.com,](#) or call toll-free 1-855-267-6270.*

Mathematica
Progress Together