When planning for the sustainability of grant-funded school safety programs, it is important to prepare for both foreseen and unforeseen challenges and develop methods for institutionalizing sustainability into your everyday, routine practices.

In this training, participants learn what sustainability plans are, why they are important to include in grant planning, and how to write them. Presenters discuss important considerations when crafting a sustainability plan and what resources can assist you in writing your own.

Learning Outcomes
» Define sustainability in program planning.
» Identify tools and resources to support sustainability in school safety program models.
» Outline steps to writing effective sustainability plans.

A sustainability plan should address program and financial sustainability and resources needed to support activities. It should include an action plan to acquire new resources or support the ongoing commitment of existing resources.

Sustainability is necessary because grant funders want to maximize the return on their investment by providing funding to organizations that have the capacity to deliver and sustain the greatest value/outcomes over time.

End Games: The Challenge of Sustainability
This resource from the Annie E. Casey Foundation provides an overview of why sustainability is important to funders and provides suggestions for achieving sustainability.

Program Sustainability Workbook - If you are just getting started on your sustainability plan, this resource from ASAP Connect includes self-assessments to highlight areas you should focus on.

Grant Writing for Dummies, 6th Edition - This book takes the intimidation out of grant writing and offers guidance on applying for funding.

Questions for Discussion
» How will you ensure that evaluation of sustainability efforts will occur throughout the project? What data will you collect?
» How will you sustain your work with partners? How can your partners share their expectations, resource needs, and requirements?
» How will your staff training contribute to sustainability? How will training be integrated into existing procedures to alleviate the effects of turnover?
» What outputs will be produced during the grant and how will they continue after the funding has ended?