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Planning what's next: GAINNS Model

GOAL STATEMENT: What are you trying to accomplish?

ASSETS: What are the resources, skills or tools you currently have that will help you reach your goal?

ISSUES: What are the barriers or obstacles you might face? What is making it harder for you to reach your goal?

NEEDS: Looking at your Assets and Issues – what do you need to keep Assets strong and address Issues? What resources, tools, knowledge or people could help you achieve your goal?

NEXT STEPS: Organize your needs – what do you need to do next? It's OK if you don't have everything you need now – this is where you write an action plan to get what you need to accomplish your goal.

Accomplishing steps: SMART Goals

SPECIFIC: Write out your goal specifying the needs or otherwise being as detailed as possible. .

MEASUREABLE: How will you track your progress? How will you know when you have completed your goal?

ACHIEVABLE: Is your goal the end point of your accomplishment? Are there smaller goals that need to be accomplished first, as part of a larger whole? Document everything; use your Next Steps if necessary.

RELEVANT: Is your goal relevant? How does this goal fit into your long-term plans?

TIME-BOUND: What are your deadlines? How much time are you giving yourself to complete your goal?