Data Prioritization Techniques

In order of complexity (LOWER → HIGHER)

Technique	Description	Pros
Multi-Voting	• A series of voting rounds to help narrow focus & establish priorities • Different than "regular" voting • Allows popular priorities to "win out"	• Helps to narrow scope • Finds common topics/issues of interest
Strategy Grids	• Pairs criteria in a 4-quadrant grid • Categorizes projects with established criteria using High and Low pairings • Assigns values to ideas • Establishes the highest priority areas	• Identifies issues/solutions that will yield the greatest results • Helps achieve maximum results with limited resources • Focuses the plan of action • Narrows the scope from brainstorming lots of options to a more singular plan of action
Nominal Group	• Uses round-robin idea sharing followed by ranked choice voting to establish a group's top priorities • Produces lots of ideas quickly to target your area of focus	• Guides the early stages of prioritization • Generates many ideas quickly • Pairs well with the Multi-Voting Technique • Uses a democratic process with input from all levels of the agency
Hanlon Method	• Determines top priority by rating (1) the size and magnitude of the problem and (2) the effectiveness of proposed interventions • After rating, the PEARL[1] test is applied, and priority scores are calculated • Results ranked based on the scores	• Utilizes a data-oriented approach • Is replicable - Two different people using the same data should come to the same results • Uses pre-defined definitions and criteria • Creates visual documentation of its process that can be reviewed
Prioritization Matrix	• Rates each issue on how well it meets organizational criteria • Each criterion is weighted based on its level of importance • A final priority score is calculated for each item	• Helps narrow the focus if you have a large number of criteria or if only a single problem can be addressed • Provides visual documentation of its process that can be reviewed

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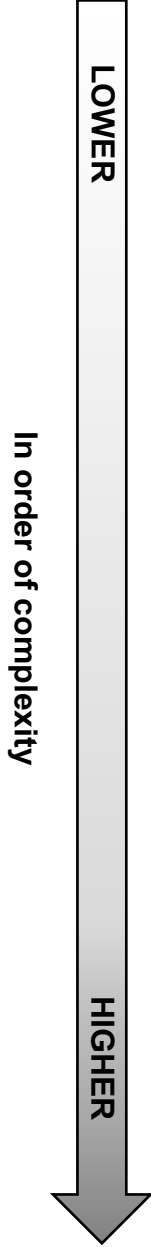
[1] **PEARL** test: **Propriety** – is the intervention suitable for the problem; **Economics** – Is it economical to address the problem, what are the consequences if the issue is not addressed; **Acceptability** – Is the intervention wanted, will it be accepted by the community; **Resources** – What funding is available for the intervention; **Legality** – Can the intervention legally be implemented.