##  **Worksheet 1A: Define the Need for the Program**

**Why you do what you do.**

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| **Need:**The **need** statement should describe the “problem” that your program exists to address – including root causes and barriers to resolution – reflecting the opportunity to create change. You can start broadly, but there may be several problems that are interrelated. **Focus on the specific need** or problem that leads to negative outcomes, and then **clarify your opportunity to affect change.****Describe the underlying reasons for your work:** *Why do you do what you do?*As much as possible, **quantify the need/problem**, referencing available research and literature.  | **Guiding Questions for Defining Need**  |
| *What is the scope, nature and extent (within your service area) of the problem to be solved? How does the extent of the need compare to the extent in larger geographic areas (county, state, national)?***Example**: * California is one of the most biodiverse states in the country, and the Bay Area includes many important at-risk ecosystems. To create a generation that is motivated to solve or mitigate significant issues, it is essential to teach environmental stewardship and advocacy to young people.

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| *What are the root causes and barriers to resolution?***Example**: * Less than half of low-income youth in the Bay Area have opportunities to participate in environmental programs while earning an income.
* Youth with GPAs below 2.0 are in need of professional skills to help them find employment and support their college applications.

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| *What is your program’s piece of the puzzle – the problem or part of the problem to be solved?*Click here to enter text. | **Example**: * There is an opportunity to introduce youth at-risk who are involved in the juvenile justice system, many of whom are youth of color, to environmental education job experiences. Today, people of color are overwhelmingly *underrepresented* among the staff of environmental organizations, particularly in leadership positions.
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