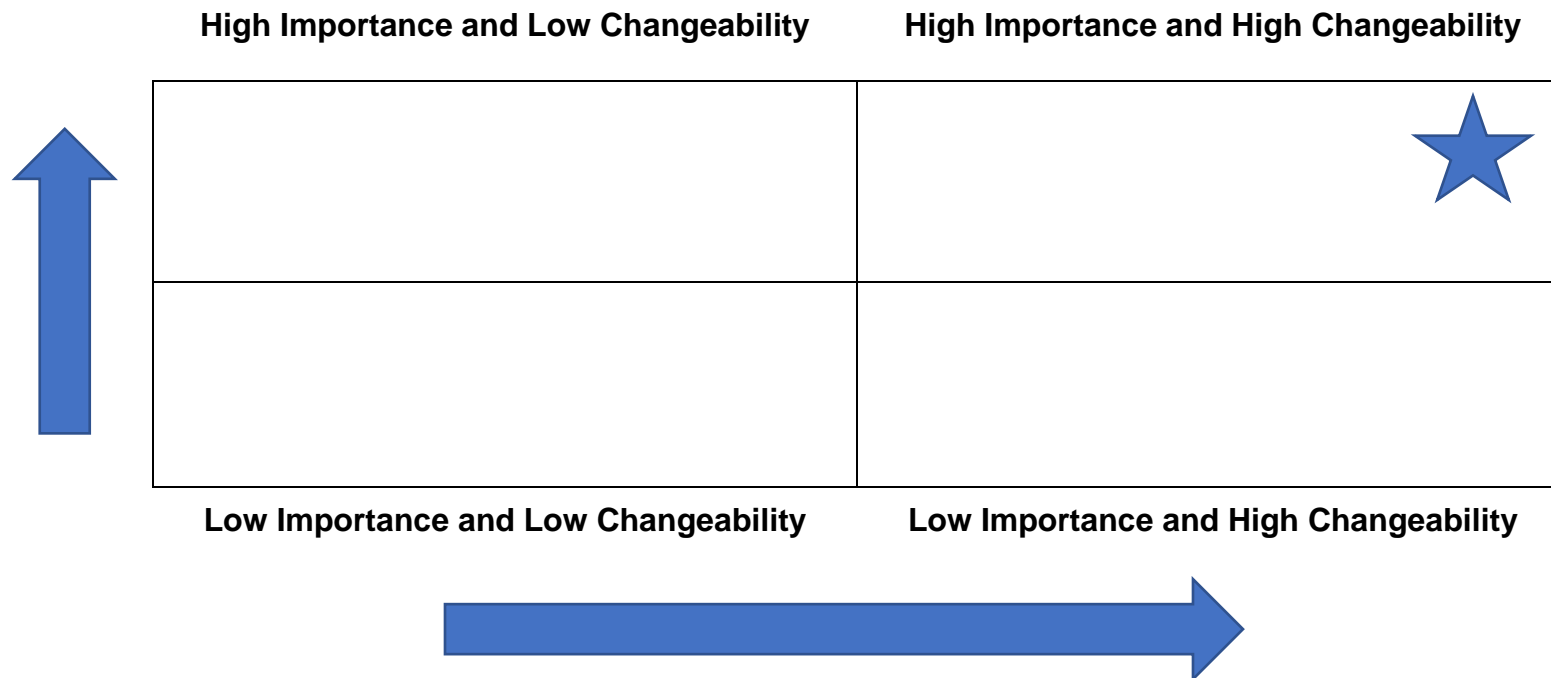


Risk and Protective Factor Prioritization Worksheet

In the chart below, rate each of the factors you identified in your needs assessment on a scale of 1-5, with “1” indicating low importance or changeability, and “5” indicating high importance or changeability.

Factor	Importance			Changeability		
	How much does this factor contribute to our priority problem?	Is this factor relevant?	Is this factor associated with other harmful behavioral health problems?	Do we have the resources and readiness to address this factor?	Does a suitable program or practice exist to address this factor?	Can we produce outcomes within a reasonable timeframe?

When developing a prevention plan, it is best to prioritize risk and protective factors that are *high for both importance and changeability*. In the chart below, assign your identified risk factors to the appropriate box.



If no factors are high for both, the next best option is to prioritize factors with high importance and low changeability. Since factors with high importance contribute significantly to priority substance misuse problems, addressing these factors is more likely to make a difference. Also, it may be easier to increase the changeability of a factor (e.g., by building capacity) than it is to increase its importance. In some cases, however, a community may

choose to address a factor with low importance and high changeability. Doing this can give the community a quick “win,” help raise awareness and support for prevention, as well as increase the community’s capacity to address more important factors in the future.