

Foundations for Building Collaborations

I. Identify project or initiative

- Develop shared interest among potential participants
(Focus groups, surveys, needs assessments)

II. Start Small

- Partner with prior established trusted entity or relationship
- BUILD upon relationship to cement shared interests and expand relationships through your initiative

III. Develop the Goal/Mission of the Collaborative Partnership

- Goal/Mission should directly build upon the SHARED PHILOSOPHY OR BELIEF that brought you together

IV. Develop the Infrastructure of the Collaborative

- Decide on degree of complexity of partnership (formal or informal)
- Establish degree of investment to eliminate role confusion (Memorandum of Understanding; Incorporation; etc.)
- Development of policy making body: How will this be accomplished? (Oversight Committees making recommendations; Decision making through actual group developed policies; Planning through process orientation)
- Develop agreed upon problem solving techniques (consensus, vote, etc.)

V. Seek Funding to Solidify Your Initiative

- Establish Lead/Fiscal Agency or how funding will flow to collaborating partners
- Avoid power struggles due to funding issues. These should be clearly developed by a PROCESS in the development of your infrastructure. (MUST occur BEFORE money begins to flow)

VI. Review Mission to Avoid Stagnation

- Incorporate outcome measurement tools
- May need to expand your initiative through additional partnerships or adding new members to your Collaborative (Must continue to have shared mission for this to truly work)