Understanding Partnership Readiness

How does your work match up to the partnership stages and key questions? Take a look through the checklist below to learn about the partnership stages and consider key readiness questions.

PARTNERSHIP STAGE 1 KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER GOAL SETTING: Have we considered goals for the assessment? Have we determined how the assessment's goals will inform the crosssector work? **Assess Existing Conditions LOCAL CONDITIONS**: Do we understand local housing and Stage 1 focuses on understanding neighborhood conditions and the problems that we are trying to solve local assets and opportunities and through cross-sector partnership? identifying community needs, which, in turn, helps to identify the types of TARGET POPULATIONS: Have we identified a target population or a outcomes that partners might want to disparity to address through a housing and education partnership? prioritize jointly in cross-sector work. Has this focus also been identified by community members? **COMMUNITY VOICE**: Does the assessment of existing conditions include representative voices and input from communities where work is likely to take place? **QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DATA:** Have we collected quantitative and qualitative information to help inform our understanding of local conditions across multiple sectors, including assets and challenges? [This can include a review of existing reports and needs assessments, analysis of neighborhood data, community and stakeholder engagement, etc.] RACIAL EQUITY: Have the data collected been disaggregated by race whenever possible? Have we explored the stories behind the data to uncover the root causes keeping disparities in place? [rkworkbook:partner-text-1]

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KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



Identify and Engage Partners

Stage 2 moves from understanding local needs to identifying and engaging with potential partners for cross- sector collaboration to address those needs.

LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS: Do we understand the "landscape" of local stakeholders across multiple sectors (e.g., housing, education, community development) and the power structures within a community (e.g., who has decision-making and funding authority)

DIVERSE REPRESENTATION: Have we reached out to a diverse set of housing and education stakeholders to develop partnerships for this work, including representation from the communities where work is likely to take place? [This may reflect ongoing engagement with stakeholders from Stage 1.]

EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS: Are there existing coalitions or ongoing cross-sector initiatives with similar goals or interests, particularly among housing and education stakeholders? [This may suggest joining an existing coalition, or reassessing the landscape of existing collaboration after outcomes have been selected in Stage 3.]

POWER AND AGENCY: Do we understand the power dynamics among our partner organizations? Have we considered strategies to ensure that all organizations have agency in the cross-sector partnership?

[rkworkbook:partner-text-2]

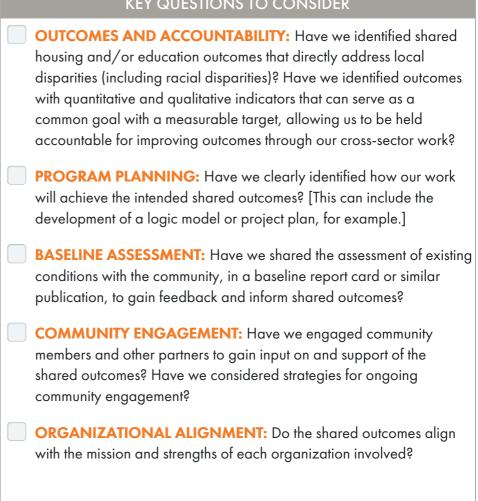
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KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



Prioritize and Develop Shared **Outcomes**

Stage 3 reflects the process of identifying a shared outcome that serves as a common goal and primary focus for partners in their cross-sector work.



[rkworkbook:partner-text-3]

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Partner and Implement Cross-Sector Solutions

Stage 4 outlines the key components necessary to implement cross-sector work to make progress toward shared outcomes.

KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER
COMMUNITY IMPACT: Will the partnership benefit the target population and address the challenges/problems identified by the assessment of existing conditions conducted in Stage 1? Have we considered the potential unexpected harm that might result from our partnership or shared work and sought input on how to mitigate it?
SUPPORT AND RESOURCES: Do we have support from organizational leadership, initial funding and staff capacity to support implementation of the cross-sector work?
PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES: Has the role that each partner will undertake to achieve the shared outcomes been clearly defined, along with the accountability of each partner's leadership? Does this accountability structure encourage equitable power dynamics?
PROGRESS MONITORING AND DATA SHARING: Are we able to implement ongoing outcome measurement and reporting to track progress toward shared outcomes? Have we engaged principles from collaborative or continuous improvement as we monitor progress? Have we established agreements on and a process for data sharing? Do we regularly share data with our partners?
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE: Have we developed a realistic implementation timeline that reflects ongoing community engagement? Have we identified and/or tested organizational and programmatic changes that are necessary to support implementation?
MESSAGING AND COMMUNICATION: Have we developed key messaging to describe our partnership goals and activities that will help cultivate ongoing community engagement?

[rkworkbook:partner-text-4]

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Sustain Partnerships for Systems Change

Stage 5 emphasizes the need to secure ongoing resources and commitment to sustain the benefits of cross-sector work and pursue broader systems change for greater impact.



[rkworkbook:partner-text-5]