

## Steps to Building Collaborative Partnerships

No one organization alone can overcome the challenges that come with serving populations with complex needs such as youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. We recognize that collaboration is essential to meet the needs of the service population and to work effectively across sectors.

3 Key Steps are outlined below, with guiding questions, to help you build effective partnerships.

<p><b>1. Set Goals for Partnership:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What problem are you trying to solve? (Look at your strategic plan, key objectives, theory of change and/ or funding requirements)</li> <li>● Who can help meet your goals? Who has the capacity and the desire to help?</li> <li>● What is in it for them? Collaborative partnerships must be a two-way relationship!</li> <li>● How can you make the initial connection? Is there someone you already know at the organization? Can a mutual connection make an introduction?</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Analyze Stakeholder Landscape:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Who do you need at the table for collaboration?</li> <li>● Which organizations have mutual goals?</li> <li>● Who are the directors/ managers?</li> <li>● Which staff?</li> <li>● Are there community members to get involved? Funders?</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Establish Systems for Collaborating; Track Impact; Communicate Results:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do you have the right people at the table including those with decision-making authority?</li> <li>● Have you set up a structure and support for those involved including rules and processes?</li> <li>● Did you set up regular meetings and structures for communication?</li> <li>● How will you share data and analytics?</li> </ul>

Take the first step listed above with the Guiding Questions to develop a strategy and action plan. Establish an implementation deadline and a reliable collaborator.

<p>When specifically, will you implement this strategy? How does this deadline work within your calendar?</p>	<p>Who is going to be your partner in helping you get this task done? Why is this person an appropriate/effective choice?</p>
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What do you think your immediate next step(s) should be?