

Collaboration Assessment Activity

Activity Description:

This is an exercise to help you assess the current stage of a partnership or potential partnership. Using the *SPRC Collaboration Continuum* attributes listed on the other side of this worksheet, discuss what is working and what could be improved in your partnership. To get the best results from this exercise, complete this activity with your potential or actual partner(s).

Activity Instructions:

- 1) Identify a partnership or potential partnership you would like to map along the SPRC Collaboration Continuum.
- 2) Think through the following definitions of each stage in the SPRC Collaboration Continuum and identify the stage that most closely describes your partnership.

Stage	Definition			
Contemplating	You have potential partners in mind but have not approached them.			
Cooperating	You are engaging partners, but have no formal agreements.			
Coordinating	You have a growing partnership. You and your partners are modifying your activities for mutual gain.			
Collaborating	Your partnership has a formal agreement. You are working to develop enhanced capacity to achieve a shared vision.			

- 3) Using the stage that best describes your partnership or potential partnership, check all the attributes that apply on the table on the following page of this handout. For each attribute, discuss and note the following questions: What is working well at this stage? What could be improved?
- 4) Identify 2-3 Action Steps you can take to strengthen your partnership. Use the *Continuum* handout for ideas on how to move the relationship to the next stage.

Stage	Yes?	Notes	Action Steps
Contemplating			
 Build trust through small wins 			
 Take time to understand partners' context 			
 Use key champions, friends and allies to build relationships 			
 Identify opportunities to support each other's goals 			
 Cooperating Use data & information to identify shared goals & intersections 			
 Get clear on why you need a partner 			
Create & sustain positive dialogue & interactions			
Coordinating			
Commit to partnership in a formal way			
 Define terms & boundaries of partnership 			
Recruit strategic members			
 Structure for engagement & inclusion of partners 			
Carve out long-term strategic directions			
Collaborating			
Engage in regular strategic planning			
Manage and measure performance			
 Nurture your membership/team 			
 Identify processes for managing conflict 			