Identifying Needs and Opportunities for Collaboration

What Do We Mean by Resources?

Much of the appeal of collaboration is that it allows partners to tap and extend the reach of limited prevention resources. This tool describes three types of *prevention resources:* fiscal, human, and organizational. Understanding the range of resource possibilities will help you identify current resource gaps and know what to look for to fill those gaps. No single partner will be able to provide you with all needed resources—your goal is to identify a range of partners who can do so collectively.

Fiscal Resources

These include both financial resources (i.e., money) and costly physical resources that a partner may be able to provide for free. Examples include:

- Grants/donations
- Financial incentives (e.g., for participation in prevention programs)
- Promotion/advertising to support prevention activities

Human Resources

These include individuals available to support prevention efforts, either directly or through their influence. Examples of human resources include:

- Local champions (e.g., public opinion leaders, elected officials) who can use their positions of power and influence to move local prevention efforts forward
- Local stakeholders with relevant credentials, training, experience, and/or specialized knowledge of prevention research, theory, and practice
- Community members who can help you navigate local politics or help you access specific populations
- Data "gatekeepers" who can facilitate, or present barriers, to accessing critical pieces of information
- Consultants and/or volunteers who can support or supplement staff expertise

Organizational Resources

These refer broadly to the structures within an organization that can support a community's prevention goals. Organizational resources include:

- Vision and mission statements that support collaboration and/or the prevention of behavioral health problems in the community
- Existing efforts to meet community prevention needs
- Access to behavioral health-related data
- Administrative support for prevention efforts
- Meeting space, food (for refreshments), photocopying
- Computer hardware or software