

Keeping the Collaboration Healthy

Worksheet: Revisiting Membership

Collaborations seldom have stagnant membership. While some members may remain on board over time, multiple factors—including member relocation, changes in member roles, and the shifting goals of the project—will cause some members to leave and others to join. Successful collaborations recognize these shifts in membership as opportunities to strengthen the collaboration and breathe new life into the work. This tool presents questions you can ask yourself or others on your team to facilitate a discussion about membership.

Questions	Your Responses
<p>1. Considering the goals that we identified for the upcoming year, do we have all the partners we need to help us reach our goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What skills, professional connections, or areas of expertise are missing from our current membership?▪ Where can we go (e.g., individuals, organizations) to fill these gaps?▪ How would these new partners enhance our work?	
<p>2. When we began this collaboration, who were the stakeholders we were unable to bring onboard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Would recruiting those stakeholders at this point help us meet our identified membership gaps?▪ Is the timing better for these individuals or organizations now?▪ What has changed that might make them more willing to collaborate?	

Worksheet: Revisiting Membership

Questions	Your Responses
<p>3. When we originally identified and prioritized potential partners, were there any we deemed “low priority”?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Who were they?▪ Have these individuals or organizations “moved up” in priority—either because our needs have changed or because their readiness to collaborate has increased?	
<p>4. Given our goals for the upcoming year, do our current members have the resources and expertise to move our efforts forward?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Will these members continue to benefit from participation in the collaboration? Will we?▪ Are there other stakeholders from our existing partner organizations with whom we may want to collaborate? Why would they be a good match?	