



TOOL | ASSESSING OUR COMMUNITY CONTEXT

There are three pre-conditions of Collective Impact: Influential Champions; Urgency of Issue; and Adequate Resources. Together, these 3 pre-conditions identify three community elements that determine the success of a Collective Impact effort. A good assessment of these conditions enables groups to undertake the ground-work needed to build awareness, and ultimately momentum, around its issue.

Main Ideas

This worksheet will help guide a conversation about how to move your ideas into an action plan and also enable you to gain greater clarity about the issue or opportunity you are trying to address. What does your gut tell you? Work your way around the six stages. At the end of the worksheet, you will find additional reflection questions for your team to consider when building your common agenda.

There are a number of helpful strategies typical of a utilization – focused approach.

TOOL HOW TO:

Step 1 – Invite participants to spend a few moments individually completing the attached worksheet. (15 min)

Step 2 – Invite them to share their responses to the worksheet with one other person. Instruct the listener not to interrupt, and only ask the presenter to, “tell me more.” After a few moments get the two people to swap roles. (20 min)

Step 3 – In your pairs, join another pair (to form a group of 4) and share the similarities and differences that surfaced from their conversations. (15 min)

Tool Debrief:

Some suggested debrief questions include:

- How can we get others excited to work with us on this issue?
- What additional information do community partners require (& who should they hear it from)?
- Do we have this information? If not, where can we find it?

How Do Community Systems Change?	
External Factors	Engagement Strategies
Natural Disasters	Citizen engagement and action
Corruption	Policy changes (Federal, State & Local)
Visionaries (good & bad)	Community education
War	Community mobilization
Economic melt-downs	Community collaboration

<h1 style="text-align: center;">Assessing Our Community Context Worksheet</h1>		
<p>Condition: Example- low fruit and vegetable consumption</p>		
	<p>What is challenging about this condition for our community?</p>	<p>Ideas for filling the gaps</p>
<p>History of Collaboration</p>	<p>Example- No one organization is responsible</p>	<p>Build a network</p>
<p>Influential Leaders</p>		
<p>Urgency of Our Issue</p>		
<p>Adequate Resources</p>		
<p>What is unique about our community that we have to pay attention to? (Past history of collaboration, interest in the issue, key leadership, etc.)</p>		
<p>How does the community context influence our community issue?</p>		