



FUTURE SEARCH | OVERVIEW

Future Search is a facilitated process to reflect on the past, make sense of current activities, and plan for the future. To get a range of perspectives, Tamarack invited three different groups—the Tamarack board, Tamarack staff, and Cities Reducing Poverty members—to participate in this process. The results are a key input for Tamarack’s 10-year strategic planning as it provides important lessons about Tamarack’s role and insights into where Tamarack should move in the future.

FUTURE SEARCH PROCESS

Three different groups participated in the Future Search process:

Tamarack Board

April 24, 2019

10 participants

Tamarack Staff

December 4, 2019

19 participants

Communities Reducing Poverty Members

October 9, 2019

85 participants

The Future Search process ranged from a half day to a full day, and each included the following four steps:

Step 1: Focus on the past

Capturing key moments in history, highlighting those most relevant to our work, and discussing the implications for the work we have come to do.

Step 2: Focus on the present

Capturing Tamarack’s current activities and identifying strengths and weaknesses in these approaches.

Step 3: Ideal future brainstorming

Creating a broad picture of what we’d like Tamarack’s work to look like in an ideal future, without constraints or obstacles.

Step 4: Ideal future scenarios

Creating detailed scenarios of our preferred futures and understanding Tamarack’s role in it

TIPS FOR READING THE FUTURE SEARCH SUMMARIES

The notes from each Future Search have been summarized into the four documents that follow. Responses have been organized by theme to help show similarities across the three groups.

Our hope is that these are skimmable and will help you to make sense of Tamarack’s work—to observe recurring themes, to gain new perspectives, to reinforce the work of Tamarack that is most meaningful, and to provide tangible guidance for the future.