



# School and Community Partnership Building

## School and Community Partnership Building

- Goal:

*To inform workshop participants on the value of partnership and the process for building and maintaining strong effective partnerships.*

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Objectives:

***Participants will:***

1. Understand the value of partnerships
2. Be able to identify potential partnerships as it relates to their programs/services
3. Be able to recall the process for developing and maintaining partnerships

# School and Community Partnership Building

## Our Partnership History

- 162 school partners
- 130 service provider partners
- 2007-2008 School Year: 1,237 services  
62,000 students

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## 2007-2008 Survey Data Collected from Principals and School Staff

- 95% reported their students' knowledge about health issues had improved
- 87% reported students' self-esteem improved
- 87% reported students' access to the arts had improved
- 85% reported improvements in students' emotional health

# School and Community Partnership Building

**What is the value of considering a school and community partnership?**

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## Other benefits include...

- Improve recruitment and attendance for programs and services
- Expand programs and services
- Enhance physical and financial resources
- Enhance the quality and effectiveness of programs and services
- Expand your reach to youth, families, and communities

# Setting the Partnership Stage

## **Partnerships are effective:**

1. Supports your organization's mission
2. Will positively impact your community, city, state and country

## **Schools are ideal partners:**

1. Access to students and school administration
2. Have existing community partnerships
3. Unlikely to change overtime

## **You are willing to:**

1. Share authority
2. Co-manage projects
3. Celebrate accomplishments

# Partnership Begins with YOU!

## Distinguish your organization

- What is your mission?
- What is your vision?

## School and Community Partnership Building

***Mission: Communities In Schools repositions existing community resources into schools to help young people learn, stay in school, and prepare for life.***

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***Please take a few minutes to write your mission statement on an index card in front of you.***



# Establishing Your Organization's Assets

## Take inventory of your organizational assets:

- What does your organization do well?
- What resources do you have access to?
- What does your organization value?



# Finding Potential Partners I

## Simple Strategies for Identifying Potential Community Partners

- Attend a community networking event
  - *Community meetings (e.g., town hall meetings)*
  - *Coalitions*
  - *Resource Fairs*
  
- Utilize your personal networks
  - *Former colleagues or employees*
  - *Professional associations*
  
- Research established organizations with community outreach
  - *Colleges & Universities*
  - *Hospital & Community-Based Clinics*



## Finding Potential Partners II

### Ideal Profile for a Potential School Partner

- *School is open to the public*
  - *Host community events*
  - *School is open before and after school*
  - *Welcomes partners and volunteers into the school*
  
- *Accessible administration*
  - *Principal is available to introduce him/herself*
  - *Administration welcomes community partners*
  - *Share public information readily (e.g. school newsletter)*
  
- *Has existing partnerships*
  - *Teachers are encouraged to bring in outside resources*
  - *Provides training for parents*
  - *Afterschool programs are jointly operated with community partnerships*

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## Key Steps for Developing Partnerships

### 1. Share your vision

- *Big picture vision*

### 2. Participate in cultivation meetings – *Preparation for the growing of potential collaborations*

- *Involve all necessary stakeholders in the initial conversations*
- *Identify key decision-makers*

### 3. Create a temporary “road map” for your partnership process

- *Outcomes for participants and partners*
- *Outline the impact of service/program*
- *Specific target goals for service delivery (e.g. numbers served , hours of instruction)*

### 4. Clearly outline your organization’s needs

- *Funding requirements (e.g., contracted work plans)*
- *Staff time and activities (e.g., personnel policies)*

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## Key Steps Continued...

### 5. Establish roles/responsibilities

### 6. Establish program goals

### 7. Identify mutual accountability practices

- Resolving conflict
- Program adjustments/change

### 8. Define operational procedures

- Program Protocol
- Decision Making
- Reporting Process
  - Style
  - Timelines/Deadlines

### 9. Progress reports

- Achievement benchmarks
- Completion rate

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## Activity Instructions:

- 1) Take a few minutes assess your organizations needs by using the first 2 columns on the chart. ***This is a good time to refer back to the mission statement you wrote on your index card.***
- 2) Allow 10-15 minutes to talk with others seated at your table to identify a potential partnership.
- 3) Identify resources your potential partner can contribute to your program using the “Establishing Assets and Identifying Partners” chart.
- 4) Allow 5 minutes to report to the entire group the following:
  - Agencies names and mission
  - Why this partnership could prove to be beneficial

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Assets	What we have:	What we need:	Our potential partner has:
Access to students			
Available funding			
Curriculum/training materials			
Experience/Expertise			
Governmental support			
Physical Space			
Staff			

# School and Community Partnership Building

## Maintaining Your Partnership

- **Communicate aspects of your partnership**
  - ◆ Effective program meetings
  - ◆ Marketing to all stakeholders your progress and success
  
- **Measure the impact your partnership is having**
  - ◆ Utilize program evaluations (formal)
  - ◆ Town hall meetings / focus groups (informal)
  
- **Celebrate your accomplishments!**
  - ◆ Highlight your partnership in newsletters, annual reports, and other publications
  - ◆ Host a community celebration
  - ◆ Host a kick-off event

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## THANK YOU!

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