

Preparing To Collaborate– Questions For Group Discussion

Following are some discussion questions for organizations that have gathered to explore the possibility of collaborating.

- What are the most important risk factors for chronic disease in the communities you serve? Do the groups here today have any primary concerns in common?
- What level of working together does each organization envision? (For example, sharing information and support, embarking on a short-term joint project, or forging a common mission and seeking joint funding for a more ambitious initiative.)
- What benefits do you anticipate from collaboration?
- What skills or information will staff need in order to collaborate?
- Are the organizations already collaborating to some extent? If so, in what ways?
- If you are already engaged in any joint activities, what have been the outcomes so far? What benefits have you seen?
- What barriers to collaboration have you encountered and what solutions have you tried? Have they worked?
- Who is interested in participating in planning a collaborative effort? Is there anyone we want to include who may need to be approached? Is there a way to bring him or her into the process?
- Are there any obvious, timely opportunities for collaboration, such as a new funding stream, a new initiative, or activities now on the drawing board?
- Whose authority, leadership, and support do we need from each organization to pave the way for collaboration?
- Are we likely to get their backing easily? How can we enlist their support? In what ways could collaboration promote their own interests?