

# Tips to building meaningful relationships with other organizations

THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES COLLEAGUES WITH FIVE TIPS TO INITIATING AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.

## 1.) UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNITIES THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS SERVING

Within their respective areas, organizations may serve specific populations and demographics. It is important for you to collaborate with organizations who are representative of the communities that they intend to serve and are serving the needs of those communities.

## 2.) UNDERSTAND THE PROGRAMMING THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS PROVIDING

Some organizations may focus on certain topic areas like health, education, or government. Choosing a focused organization can help you tailor how your efforts and theirs' aligns.

## 3.) AVOID A TRANSACTIONAL RELATIONSHIP

Mainstream organizations tend to engage in one-and-done programming approaches where they seek the help of organizations and then leave once the work has been finished. When creating relationships, it is important to implement steps to maintain the relationship and work toward continuous efforts in collaboration. Try to engage with colleagues informally beyond the formally established relationships.

## 4.) COLLABORATE ON PROJECTS WHERE YOU BOTH CAN CONTRIBUTE

Often times, mainstream organizations identify disparities within certain communities and try to rely heavily on local organizations. Relationship building is maintaining intentional collaboration that centers the ideas and work of both the mainstream organization and the local organizations.

## 5.) CREATE A CLEAR LINE OF COMMUNICATION

Communication is key when maintaining relationships. Ensure that local organizations are aware of all changes to programming, events, and changes that may affect their organization.

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