

Organizational Partnership Ladder

Partners in Control

Partners have a leading role and shared authority with your organization in goal setting, planning and implementation.

Partners as Participants

Partners participate in goal setting, planning & implementation. Partners may serve on governing body, advisory group, or as advocates for the organization.

Partners as Information Sources

Partners participate are part of focus groups. Staff consults with partners. Partners fill out surveys.

Partners as Recipients

Partners receive services or information.



EXERCISE: Organizational Partnership Ladder

CONCEPT: Community catalysts can have powerful impact by mobilizing institutional assets in support of resident-centered solutions and action. This can often involve an expansion of decision-making power and opportunities for co-creation to organizational partners in the development and implementation of a project.

PURPOSE: To create clarity around the current status of partnership and co-creation with your partners, reveal strategic opportunities for strengthening it, and surface valuable insights and data around how it may have shifted from the beginning of your project. This tool can also help you identify which aspects of your project are most appropriate for shared ownership, and which are better led by your organization or group alone, leading to a more productive partnership.

HOW-TO: Fill in the grids below. This can be done alone as a “desk” exercise, with other staff involved in your project, or even with your organizational partners (the third option can yield unexpected insights, build trust and relationships with and between your partners, and reveal strategic opportunities.)

My project(s) or programs(s):	Who are the 'partners'?	Partnership Ladder location NOW	IDEAL Partnership Ladder location	Partnership Ladder location at project LAUNCH (include date)	Steps that can move partners up the power ladder in this project/program
				date:	
				date:	
				date:	
				date:	

REFERENCE:

(Enlarged Partnership Ladder)

Source: ABCD Institute



Additional Resources for Increasing Partner Power:

- [“The Components of Effective Collective Impact”](#) (Dan Duncan, ABCD Institute)
- [“Turf, Trust, Co-Creation & Collective Impact”](#) (Liz Weaver, Tamarack Institute)
- [Stakeholder Wheel of Engagement](#) (Tamarack Institute)
- [Resident Power Ladder Exercise](#) (ABCD IMLS Team)