



FACT SHEET: JUST WHAT IS A COALITION? A COLLABORATION?

The Need: Our community has challenges. No one institution or individual has the resources, the staff, or the ideas to get to the root causes and solve these challenges. We must find a way to think and act differently – we must find a way to create and then sustain needed change. The Countywide Partnership for Youth, a coalition working in a collaborative way, is finding that way.

The Collaborative Premise: Working collectively we are following the Collaborative Premise articulated by David Chrislip: *“If you can bring the appropriate people together in constructive ways with good information, they will come up with useful, implementable responses to problems and issues.”*

The 4 C's, Understanding the difference:

- Communication: sharing information, keeping each other informed.
- Coordination: avoiding duplication or overlapping efforts.
- Cooperation: working together but for separate goals.
- Collaboration: working toward a shared goal with shared responsibility, shared resources, and shared accountability.

The Process: Working collaboratively is easier said than done. Success relies on trust, inclusion and constructive engagement to achieve a broader purpose. Success depends on all partners contributing to the common vision while still fulfilling their entities' vision, mission & strategies. The beauty of a collaborative effort is the overlapping of the partners' strategies and that all strategies aim toward the same big picture view of success. Susan Morse of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change states: *“Collaboration is intended to bring parts of a community puzzle together to make things happen in new and different ways. Collaboration is not about problems, but about solutions and strategies.”*

Therefore, the process followed must be:

1. Collect and analyze data, describe benchmarks.
2. Set measurable objectives: How will we tell if we are successful?
3. Articulate common vision.
4. Bring partners together to understand their strategies, complete asset inventory, and identify gaps in action.
5. Continually work to sustain relationships, build partners' capacities and check progress against measurable objectives.

