

Nineteen Factors Influencing Successful Collaborations

Factors Related to the ENVIRONMENT

1. History of collaboration or cooperation in the community
2. Collaborative group seen as a leader in the community
3. Political/social climate favorable

Factors Related to the MEMBERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

4. Mutual respect, understanding, and trust
5. Appropriate cross-section of members
6. Members see collaboration as in their self-interest
7. Ability to compromise

Factors Related to the PROCESS/STRUCTURE

8. Members share a stake in both process and outcomes
9. Multiple layers of decision making
10. Flexibility
11. Development of clear roles and policy guidelines
12. Adaptability

Factors Related to the COMMUNICATION

13. Open and frequent communication
14. Established informal and formal communication links

Factors Related to the PURPOSE

15. Concrete, attainable goals and objectives
16. Shared vision
17. Unique purpose

Factors Related to the RESOURCES

18. Sufficient funds
19. Skilled convener

From Michael Winer and Karen Ray, *Collaboration Handbook: Creating, Sustaining and Enjoying the Journey*. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation: St. Paul, Minnesota 1994. Based on the research literature reviewed in Paul Mattessich and Barbara Monsey, *Collaboration: What Makes It Work*, also from the Wilder Foundation.