How Are We Doing? A Collaborative Assessment

Every collaborative has distinctive goals and benchmarks against which it measures the outcomes of its own work. Yet there are also common, agreed-upon indicators that say a lot about the collaborative itself and its successful functioning. Here’s a list that collaborative members can use to rate a collaborative’s success and open up a healthy conversation.

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| INDICATOR OF SUCCESS | YES/NO | HOW CAN I IMPROVE? |
| Clarity about end goals, outcomes, and strategy |  |  |
| Well-defined success measures and progress benchmarks |  |  |
| Ongoing focus on finding new donors and securing long-term financing |  |  |
| Assistance from intermediaries, consultants, or staff when appropriate or needed |  |  |
| Clear understanding of the time and resource commitments required |  |  |
| Enough money to get the job done |  |  |
| Good attendance and participation at meetings and on phone calls |  |  |
| Mutual trust and respect among members |  |  |
| Mechanisms to bring in new members and adjust our processes to accommodate growth |  |  |
| Open and honest communication |  |  |
| Willingness to address interpersonal or systemic problems when they arise |  |  |
| Respect for grantseekers and grantees and their needs |  |  |
| Streamlined and efficient decision-making — and a record of producing decisions that members feel are fair |  |  |
| Effective monitoring and reporting systems |  |  |
| Nimbleness and flexibility when opportunities arise |  |  |
| Evidence of influence on the problems we are attempting to address |  |  |
| Evidence of benefit to grantees or the larger community |  |  |
| Evidence of ongoing learning among members |  |  |
| Exit plan that ensures the sustainability of the effort, if needed |  |  |
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SOURCE: [Learning for Funders (Candid)](https://learningforfunders.candid.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/12/funder_collaboratives_secure.pdf)