

Success Factors for Collaboration

Factors Related to the Environment

1. A history of collaboration or cooperation in the community.
2. The collaborative group is seen as a legitimate leader in the community.
3. A favorable political and social climate.

Factors Related to Membership Characteristics

4. Mutual respect, understanding, and trust for members and their respective organizations.
5. An appropriate cross section of members.
6. Members see collaboration in their self-interest.
7. The ability to compromise.

Factors Related to Process and Structure

8. Members share a stake in process and outcome
9. Multiple layers of participation.
10. Flexibility in both structure and methods.
11. Development of clear roles and policy guidelines.
12. Adaptability or the ability of the collaborative group to sustain itself in the midst of changes.
13. An appropriate pace of development.

Factors Related to Communication

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

Factors Related to Purpose

16. Clear attainable goals and objectives that are communicated to all partners and can be realistically attained.
17. Shared vision.
18. Unique purpose.

Factors Related to Resources

19. Sufficient funds, staff, materials, and time.
20. Skilled leadership.

Source: Mattessich, P., M. Murray-Close and B. Monsey. 2001. *Collaboration: what makes it work? A review of research literature on factors influencing successful collaborations*. 2nd edit. St. Paul, MN: Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

