

Coalition-building worksheet

Many factors contribute to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and partnership among many community leaders is needed to address them. Through collaboration with a variety of partners from sectors beyond health, coalitions can strategically allocate resources, coordinate services and amplify efforts to tackle these big issues and prevent ACEs. Coalitions can also allow partners to specialize and are more effective when they engage partners with diverse resources, focus areas and data that contribute to shared goals.

What partners should you engage?

This worksheet is designed to help organizations working to address ACEs. It can be used to inventory existing and new potential partners and create a plan for how to best engage them in your work. It can also assist you in strengthening relationships with different sectors.

After reviewing HPIO's [12 ACEs prevention strategies](#), complete this information in the blank table on page 2:

- **Partner name and contact:** Identify all the stakeholders, at the local- and state-levels, who are involved with the strategies you prioritized. Think broadly. Partners can include anyone who may be interested in or can influence your work, including funders, service providers, government entities, community members, etc.
- **Goals:** Find out what motivates each partner. What are their interests, objectives and mission? How do their priorities align with preventing and mitigating ACEs?
- **Resources and assets:** Inventory each partner and note what they can bring to the table. What skills, resources, experience or relationships does this partner have? What sets them apart from other stakeholders? Identify potential gaps in resources and brainstorm additional partners who may be a good fit.
- **Geographic and/or population focus:** Identify which geographic areas and populations the partners serve, represent, advocate for and/or engage with. This can help ensure that you have partners representing or serving the populations most affected by ACEs in your area.
- **Access to data:** Take note of any data partners are collecting or have access to that could be leveraged by the coalition. Use this list to begin conversations about how data can be used to inform your priorities and monitor progress over time.



Inventory of potential partner organizations

Strategy: _____

Partner name and contact	Goals	Resources and assets	Geographic and/or population focus	Access to data
Example: Ohio local school district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve student academic achievement Increase graduation rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to students Relationships with families Experience with community partnerships 	Families with children living in Buckeye County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student addresses Academic achievement <i>(Must be mindful of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) restrictions)</i>

Tips for cross-sector collaboration

Stakeholders can use the following best practices to develop productive partnerships with organizations from different sectors:

- **Follow partners online:** Sign up to receive email newsletters and review materials from partners (e.g., social media and blog posts, publications, reports, etc.).
- **Identify opportunities for collaboration:** Learn about what might motivate other organizations to partner with you. Gather information about the goals, priorities, constraints and opportunities they face so that you can identify potential areas for mutually beneficial collaboration.
- **Build relationships:** Relationships are foundational for any sustainable partnership. Take time to build trust and a positive rapport with community members and potential partner organizations.
- **Discuss how you can help them:** Focus on the resources and expertise you bring to the table and how partnership could benefit their mission or bottom line.
- **Use effective messaging:** Keep your communications concise and simple, with a clear understanding of your audience and objective. Avoid using jargon and acronyms that may not be known outside of your organization/sector.

Other useful resources

With a focus on ACEs:

- **Building Community Resilience**, Center for Community Resilience, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University
- **Suicide, Overdose, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Toolkit** (created for local health departments), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

General resources on coalitions and partnerships

- **Creating and Maintaining Coalitions and Partnerships**, The Community Toolbox, Center for Community Health and Development, University of Kansas
- **Coalition Building Toolkit**, Partners in Prevention, University of Missouri
- **Collective Impact**, Stanford Social Innovation Review
- **Work Together**, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps
- **Building Coalitions**, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Ohio State University