TOOL | THE COLLABORATION SPECTRUM

The word 'collaboration' can be interpreted in many different ways. There is a continuum of different collaborative approaches. As groups move along the continuum they must pay attention to activities that build trust amongst the partners. Collective Impact efforts exist within the stages of the collaboration continuum that include coordination of efforts, collaboration amongst partners and the integration of services and programs. While distinguishes Collective Impact as a form of collaboration is its unique emphasis on: the use of shared data; and, its focus on working together across multiple sectors.

TOOL HOW-TO

Step 1 - Ask participants to place a colored dot on a visual of the Collaboration Spectrum to depict the level of collaboration currently happening regarding your issue.

Step 2 - You can also ask them to place a second different coloured dot on the Collaboration Spectrum to depict the level of collaboration that the personally would like to see in addressing your issue.

Step 3 - Debrief and discuss similarities and differences reflected in the placement of dots.

TOOL DEBRIEF

Some suggested debrief questions include:
• How can we get others excited to work with us on this issue?
• What additional information do community partners require (& who should they hear it from)?
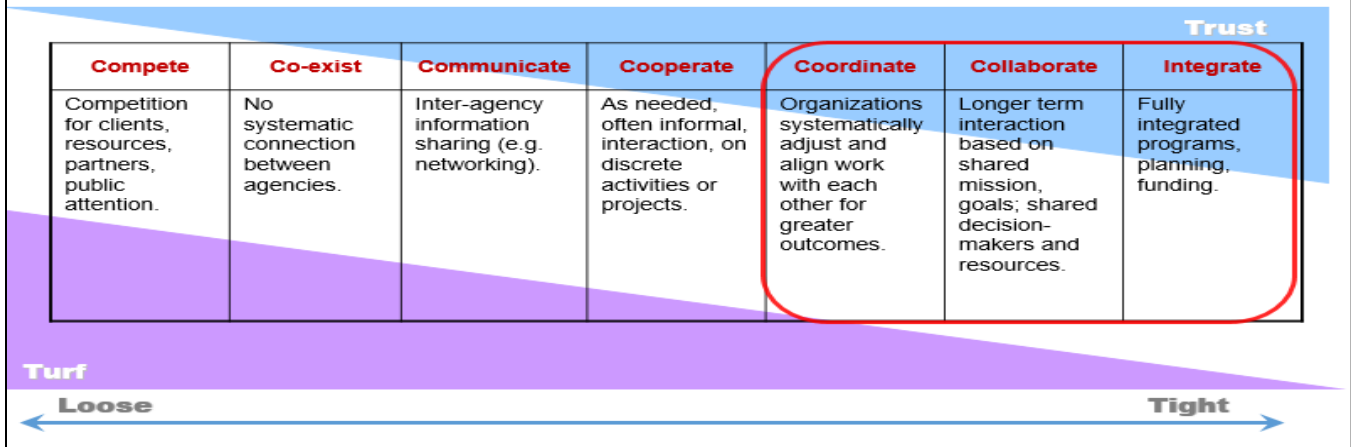• Do we have this information? If not, where can we find it?

Compete	Co-exist	Communicate	Cooperate	Coordinate	Collaborate	Integrate
Competition for clients, resources, partners, public attention.	No systematic connection between agencies.	Inter-agency information sharing (e.g. networking).	As needed, often informal, interaction, on discrete activities or projects.	Organizations systematically adjust and align work with each other for greater outcomes.	Longer term interaction based on shared mission, goals; shared decision-makers and resources.	Fully integrated programs, planning, funding.

o Have members individually assess where they think the collaborative **is** on the spectrum (blue dot)
o Have members individually assess where they think the collaborative **should be** on the spectrum (green dot)
o Are you all in the same place or different? Do you want to move to a new place?
o Have a discussion about this.

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The Collaboration Spectrum

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Trust

Turf

Loose   Tight

CURRENT LEVEL OF COLLABORATION:

Place a **blue dot** on the Collaboration Spectrum to indicate the **current** level of collaboration regarding our issue. Jot down a few points about how you reached your assessment: What are you seeing/not seeing?

IDEAL LEVEL OF COLLABORATION:

Place a **green dot** on the Collaboration Spectrum to indicate the **ideal** level of collaboration that you would personally like to see**.**   Jot down your thoughts and ideas regarding your assessment.