

Benefits of Collaboration

When developed successfully, collaboration can be a highly beneficial activity for nonprofit organizations. The following have been commonly cited as benefits to collaborating:

- Reducing costs by sharing personnel and resources between agencies
- Eliminating duplication of services and streamlining service provision
- Reducing harmful competition between agencies
- Increasing public awareness surrounding specific issues and agencies
- Developing interagency relationships for future projects and problem-solving
- Reaching out to a broader network of consumers and clients

Obstacles Associated With Collaboration:

While there can be many benefits to collaborating with other organizations, it should be noted that the process can be challenging, as well. There are a series of common obstacles that nonprofits often encounter in their collaboration attempts. These should be taken into consideration in the formation of any collaboration:

Cultural Considerations

- Clashing work styles between agencies
- Differing values and underlying philosophies
- Differing languages and workplace lingo

Relational Considerations

- Personality clashes or alliance-forming between individual staff members
- Building relationships of trust and familiarization between participants
- Developing an efficient system of communication

Practical Considerations

- Securing ongoing funding and resources for collaborative initiatives
- Maintaining group organization and momentum
- Developing mechanisms for ongoing measurement and evaluation

For more extensive information about the benefits and obstacles of collaboration, and for information about how to develop a successful collaboration, click here: [The Dynamics of Interagency Collaborations: A Three-Part Theory](#).