

Definitions of Nonprofit Collaboration

The following are some simple definitions of collaboration to help guide your search for information.

"Collaborations that occur because nonprofit leaders are able to recognize a smart, mutually beneficial idea without external assistance" Some collaborations "yield benefits to society that justify investment in the partnership. It is up to the grant maker to provide incentives in its grant making to bring collaborators 'to the table' to coproduce those external benefits." (Young, 2007)

"A mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship entered into by two or more organizations to achieve common goals. The relationship includes a commitment to a definition of mutual relationships and goals; a jointly developed structure and shared responsibility; mutual authority and accountability for success; and a sharing of resources and rewards." (Mattessich & Monsey, 1993)

Collaborations are "Joint efforts by public and private actors, each wielding a degree of discretion, to advance a goal that is conventionally considered governmental." (Donahue, 2010)

"Collaboration, especially when it involves governmental and nongovernmental organizations, is a relationship of two or more actors working together to mutually achieve goals unlikely to be realized save for collective action." (Rausch Jr., 2007)