

# Partnership Evaluation Tool

Regular evaluation of an organization's partnerships can lead to improved functioning and productivity. Evaluation can identify partnership strengths and areas to target for improvement in operating processes, structure, planning, and activity implementation which can improve and guide future partnership activities.

This tool suggest five themes to explore when conducting an internal evaluation of an organization's partnerships. It can be used periodically to help an organization's leadership ensure that resources are being directed towards the maintenance of partnerships and partnership activities that relate to the organization's strategic objectives and contribute something positive to its capacity to accomplish its mission. The five themes are:

1. Synergy (9 questions)  
These questions relate to the abilities of the partnership to set goals, problem-solve, etc.
2. Benefits of participation (11 questions)  
These questions relate to the receipt of benefits from the partnership in terms of impact, public profile, contributions, etc.
3. Drawbacks of participation (6 questions)  
These questions relate to any drawbacks to the partnership including time or resource diversion, conflicts of interest or mandate, lack of work acknowledgements, etc.
4. Comparing benefits and drawbacks of participating in the partnership (1 question)  
A question about whether the benefits of the partnership outweigh the drawbacks.
5. Satisfaction with participation (5 questions)  
These questions relate to satisfaction regarding the people and organizations in the partnership working together, the plans of the partnership, your role in the partnership, etc.

If after using this tool you wish to have a team member from RDN compile the results from each theme into a chart so you can share them visually with staff and board members please contact Rachel at [rachel@regdevnet.ca](mailto:rachel@regdevnet.ca).

## Synergy

Please think about the people and organizations that are participants in the partnership.

- a. By working together, how well are these partners able to identify new and creative ways to solve problems?

☐ Extremely well  
☐ Very well  
☐ Somewhat well  
☐ Not so well  
☐ Not well at all

- b. By working together, how well are these partners able to include the views and priorities of the population affected by the partnership's work?

☐ Extremely well  
☐ Very well  
☐ Somewhat well  
☐ Not so well  
☐ Not well at all

- c. By working together, how well are these partners able to develop goals that are widely understood and supported?

☐ Extremely well  
☐ Very well  
☐ Somewhat well  
☐ Not so well  
☐ Not well at all

- d. By working together, how well are these partners able to identify how different services and programs in the community relate to the issue(s) that the partnership is working to address?

☐ Extremely well  
☐ Very well  
☐ Somewhat well  
☐ Not so well  
☐ Not well at all

- e. By working together, how well are these partners able to respond to the needs and problems of the community?

☐ Extremely well  
☐ Very well  
☐ Somewhat well  
☐ Not so well  
☐ Not well at all

f. By working together, how well are these partners able to implement strategies that are most likely to work in the community?

- ☐ Extremely well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not so well
- ☐ Not well at all

g. By working together, how well are these partners able to obtain support from other stakeholders in the community that can either block the partnership's plans or help move them forward?

- ☐ Extremely well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not so well
- ☐ Not well at all

h. By working together, how well are these partners able to carry out comprehensive activities that connect multiple services, programs, or systems?

- ☐ Extremely well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not so well
- ☐ Not well at all

i. By working together, how well are these partners able to clearly communicate to people in the community how the partnership's actions will address problems that are important to them?

- ☐ Extremely well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not so well
- ☐ Not well at all

## Benefits of Participation

For each of the following benefits, please indicate whether the organization has received the benefit or not as a result of participating in the partnership.

- a. Enhanced ability to address an important issue  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- b. Development of new skills (participating staff)  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- c. Heightened public profile  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- d. Increased utilization of organizational expertise or services  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- e. Acquisition of useful knowledge about services, programs, or people in the community  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- f. Enhanced ability to affect public policy  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- g. Development of valuable relationships  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- h. Enhanced ability to meet objectives and deliverables  
☐ Yes  
☐ No
- i. Ability to have a greater impact than the organization could have on its own  
☐ Yes  
☐ No

As a result of participation, has the organization experienced the following benefits:

j. Ability to make a contribution to the community

☐ Yes

☐ No

k. Acquisition of additional financial support

☐ Yes

☐ No

### **Drawbacks of Participation**

For each of the following drawbacks, please indicate whether the organization has or not experienced the drawback as a result of participating in this partnership.

a. Diversion of time and resources away from other priorities or obligations

☐ Yes

☐ No

b. Insufficient influence in partnership activities

☐ Yes

☐ No

c. Viewed negatively due to association with other partners or the partnership

☐ Yes

☐ No

d. Frustration or aggravation

☐ Yes

☐ No

e. Insufficient credit given to the organization for contributions made to the accomplishments of the partnership

☐ Yes

☐ No

f. Conflict between our mandate and the partnership's work

☐ Yes

☐ No

## Comparing Benefits and Drawbacks

So far, how have the benefits of participating in this partnership compared to the drawbacks?

- ☐ Benefits greatly exceed the drawbacks
- ☐ Benefits exceed the drawbacks
- ☐ Benefits and drawbacks are about equal
- ☐ Drawbacks exceed the benefits
- ☐ Drawbacks greatly exceed the benefits

## Satisfaction with Participation

- a. How satisfied are you with the way the people and organizations in the partnership work together?

- ☐ Completely satisfied
- ☐ Mostly satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ A little satisfied
- ☐ Not at all satisfied

- b. How satisfied are you with your influence in the partnership?

- ☐ Completely satisfied
- ☐ Mostly satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ A little satisfied
- ☐ Not at all satisfied

- c. How satisfied are you with your role in the partnership?

- ☐ Completely satisfied
- ☐ Mostly satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ A little satisfied
- ☐ Not at all satisfied

- d. How satisfied are you with the partnership's plans for achieving its goals?

- ☐ Completely satisfied
- ☐ Mostly satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ A little satisfied
- ☐ Not at all satisfied

- e. How satisfied are you with the way the partnership is implementing its plans?

- ☐ Completely satisfied
- ☐ Mostly satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ A little satisfied
- ☐ Not at all satisfied