Collective Impact Resources

Overview

This document is a collection of resources, case studies, and best practices that may support the development and continuation of collaborative work. The purpose is to provide a starting point for organizations seeking to build partnerships and pursue funding opportunities together using a collective impact approach. Collective impact is an intentional way of working together and sharing information for the purpose of solving a complex problem[1]. Collective impact work acknowledges that no single organization, policy, or program can address complex climate and social issues alone, and requires multiple partners to commit to working together to advance a shared vision.

The resources and materials shared throughout this collection include useful links to climate data and state policies, state funding opportunities, and guidance for collaboration.

This document contains information and content regarding third-party programs and practices. The inclusion of this information is meant to serve as a resource providing examples of useful tools and should not be construed as RCC's endorsement of any particular practice contained

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[1] National Council of Nonprofits. https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/collective-impact

herein. Inclusion, or lack thereof, of any of these resources in your application will not affect scoring.

Climate Data and State Policies

Communities can use climate data and state policies to help inform and prioritize needs and develop impactful projects. Partners pursuing grant opportunities can position themselves for success by integrating climate data and state policy into their applications. For example, organizations partnering on an application for an extreme heat adaptation project can weave data from the California Heat Assessment Tool into community narratives about the lived experiences of residents to deliver a strong application that both relays real world needs and is supported by data and research.

The following list is a collection of the most recent updates to State climate data tools, plans, policies, and resources.

Data Resources:
- CalAdapt provides peer-reviewed climate data through downloads, visualizations, and the Cal-Adapt API to support research, outreach, and adaptation planning needs at the state and local level.
- California Healthy Places Index is a data and policy platform working to advance health equity by providing neighborhood-level data points on social conditions like education, job opportunities, clean air and water, and other indicators associated with shaping health.
- CalEnviroScreen 4.0 is an environmental health screening tool that can be used to help identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of solution.
- California Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT) is a tool that local and state practitioners can use to better understand heat vulnerability in communities and inform strategies to mitigate the public health impacts of extreme heat caused by climate change.
- ICARP Adaptation Clearinghouse is a consolidated, searchable database of resources for local, regional, and statewide climate adaptation planning and decision-making in the State of California. The resources provided range from data, tools, and research to case studies, projects, and examples of local solutions that build resilience in California communities.
- Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project provides a standardized set of statistical measures, data, and tools on the social determinants of health in California. This data can be used to inform planning efforts for healthy communities and evaluate the impacts of environmental plans, projects, and policies on community health.

- [California Hard-to-Count (CA-HTC) Index](#) provides an interactive map to view California census tracts and block groups. The CA-HTC Index is comprised of 14 demographic, housing and socioeconomic variables correlated with an area being difficult to count.
- [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) enables decision-makers to take action to boost their climate resilience using data-driven tools, information, and subject-matter expertise to make smarter decisions. The Toolkit offers information from across the federal government in one easy-to-use location so that Americans are better able to understand the climate-related risks and opportunities impacting their communities and take steps to improve their resilience.

State Climate Plans & Guidance:
- [California Adaptation Planning Guide](#) provides local governments and organizations with best practices for developing climate adaptation plans. The guide introduces and breaks down a four-phase process for communities to use in planning efforts.
- [30x30 California](#) outlines the strategic actions necessary to set California on the pathway to successfully implementing the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030.
- [Protecting Californians From Extreme Heat: A State Action Plan to Build Community Resilience (2022)](#) offers recommended strategic and comprehensive state actions to address extreme heat.
- [Water Action Plan (2014)](#) lays out challenges, goals, and decisive actions for the State to take in protecting California's water resources and ensuring the sustainability of our resources.
- [Natural Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan (2019)](#) recommends an increase in State-led conservation, restoration, and management activities. The State aims to integrate climate and existing management objectives to coordinate natural and working lands programs.

Identifying Funding Opportunities

The funding landscape is vast, making it hard to identify and track opportunities. While not exhaustive, this list outlines various platforms to explore funding opportunities, particularly for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects.

- [California Grants Portal](#) is the destination to find all grants and loans offered on a competitive or first-come basis by California state agencies.
- [Grants.gov](#) is the access point for competitive funding opportunities from more than 900 grant programs offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies.
- [California Climate Investments](#) is a suite of funding programs that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also delivering major economic, environmental, and public health benefits for Californians.

- Federal Grant Resources are collected by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and provides resources and assistance on all aspects of federal grants. It identifies new funding opportunities and facilitates trainings to encourage and improve the ability of interested parties to pursue and manage federal grants.

Collaborative Guidance

Addressing complex issues like climate change, environmental justice, and public health effectively requires collective action. However, collaboration can be challenging without a framework to identify how partners will work together to achieve greater collective impact. The first step is strategic planning to outline shared visions and goals. Following that, it is important to identify actions and strategies to move toward those goals together.

The following resources highlight the components of successful collaboration, including guides to creating collaborative governance structures and rule-setting, best practices for successful collaboration, and examples of successful collective impact efforts.

Coalition Building

Establishing effective, equitable governance structures can help address power imbalances and ensure the long-term success of collaboratives. From meeting frequency to voting rules, there are many ways to create and structure a coalition or collaborative. The following resources provide guidance on creating rules and processes to ensure effective collaborative efforts, addressing questions such as how to facilitate meetings, how to resolve conflicts, and more.

- Collaborative Governance (Participedia) introduces and explains what collaborative governance is and how the process works to make impact.
- Collective Impact (Stanford Social Innovation Review) investigates how Strive, a nonprofit in Cincinatti, has grown and engaged in a collective impact approach to improving student achievement. This article identifies five conditions to collective success.
- Building a Collaborative Governance Framework (National Policy Consensus Center) explains collaborative governance and walks through five steps to creating a collaborative governance framework.
- Collaborative Governance Framework (Tamarack Institute) provides a worksheet exercise to help organizations assess strengths and gaps within their governance structure and develop and action plan.
- Coalition Building: Starting a Coalition (Community Toolbox) provides a starting point to identifying what a coalition is, why to start one, who should be part of it, and how to bring one together.
- Collaborative Leadership (Community Toolbox) explains collaborative leadership and how to employ best leadership practices.

- [Investing Together: Emerging Approaches in Collaborative Place-Based Impact Investing (Urban Institute)](#) focuses on the role of philanthropy and how to engage in collaborative practices when investing in communities.

Best Practices When Working with Tribes

Respecting Tribal sovereignty and confidential Tribal data and knowledge when working together is important in creating accessible and equitable spaces for Tribal participation.

- [Building Authentic Collaborations with Tribal Communities (The Climate Science Alliance)](#) is a resource guide that provides information, key resources, and actions to take to cultivate meaningful and authentic collaborations with Tribal communities.
- [Indigenous Data Sovereignty (The Climate Science Alliance)](#) identifies protocols and practices for ensuring Indigenous data sovereignty.
- [Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives (Climate and Traditional Knowledges Workgroup)](#) recognizes the importance and significance of traditional knowledges and provides information and understanding of the role and protection of traditional knowledges in climate initiatives.
- [Crossing the Bridge: Tribal-State-Local Collaboration (Tribal Law and Policy Institute)](#) provides a guide to preparing and planning for collaborative projects with Tribal communities.
- [A Guide for DOE Employees: WORKING WITH INDIAN TRIBAL NATIONS (Creighton & Creighton Inc.)](#) includes resources and cultural context for how government can initiate contact and build relationships with Tribal governments and communities.
- [Cultural Humility: Basics for Working with California Native Americans (Office of the Tribal Advisor)](#) provides State professionals working with California Native Americans a better understanding and cultural awareness of the background and history of Native American populations in California.
- [Climate Change (National Congress of American Indians)](#) provides context on how climate change disproportionately impacts Indigenous populations and advocates for inclusion of Tribal interests and expertise across climate-related laws, policies, and programs.

Best Practices in Collaborative Processes

When engaging in collaborative processes, it is important to conduct meaningful community engagement. Some of the best practices for conducting community engagement include ensuring that community-based organizations or community groups are involved from the start, engaging community throughout planning or project development processes, and incorporating existing knowledge of community needs from prior meaningful engagement efforts.

- [Best Practices for Community Engagement and Building Successful Projects (California Climate Investments)](#) includes best practices and lessons learned through the implementation of the California Climate Investments programs and projects to encourage and incorporate community leadership in program development.
- [Best Practices for Meaningful Community Engagement (Groundwork USA)](#) provides advice and steps for engaging historically underrepresented populations in community visioning and planning.
- [From Community Engagement to Ownership (Urban Sustainability Directors Network)](#) introduces a framework to shift from community engagement to ownership. This resource details collaborative governance practices and provides case study examples of this framework in practice.

Participatory Budgeting: Participatory Budgeting is a democratic method for budgetary decision-making and could be helpful for collaboratives to organize themselves and decide how to allocate their budget. Participatory budgeting could also be used to develop local equity-centered processes, such as deciding on how specific parts of a City budget will be allocated.

- [What is PB? (Participatory Budgeting Project)](#) introduces participatory budgeting and explains how it has been employed in California communities.
- [Best Practices in Community Based Participatory Practice 2018 (Psychology Applied Research Center Loyola Marymount University)](#) provides an overview of community based participatory practices and presents strategies for engaging in this practice.
- [Participatory Budgeting in New York City (New York City Council)](#) is an example of how a participatory budgeting program has worked in New York City.
- [Cityville: A Capital Absorption Story (Center for Community Investment)](#) is a video explaining the process and impact of community investment through a capital absorption framework.

Collaborative Activities and Examples

Examples of Place-Based & Regional Collaboratives: There are numerous examples of communities across the country that have successfully engaged in place-based and regional collaborative work. The following examples provide insight into how collective impact works and how collaborative governance processes look in action.

Note: We recognize that there are many examples of successful place-based and regional collaboratives in California. However, we decided not to highlight California examples to avoid any perception of preferential treatment on this basis to any of SGC's competitive programs.

- [King County-Cities Climate Collaboration](#) is a partnership of local governments working to accelerate climate action in King County, Washington.

- [Chicago: Centering Residents in Neighborhood Development Decisions](#) presents a case study on a Community-Driven Zoning and Development process in Chicago's 35th Ward.
- [Memphis Medical District Collaborative: Catalyzing Change on a Community Level](#) explores how the Memphis Medical District Collaborative worked to improve neighborhood vitality and quality of life in the Memphis Medical District through broad stakeholder engagement and data-driven methodology.
- [Community Caring Collaborative](#) is a case study on a collaborative approach to improving community-based services for people and families with low income in Washington County, Maine.

Community Visioning & Needs Assessment Examples: Needs assessments offer a structured process by which partners identify needs and priorities that relate to overall goals and objectives of the group or community. Needs assessments and other similar analyses can be helpful guidance documents and can be used to effectively communicate needs when engaging with funders or other decision makers. The following are examples of how communities have used needs assessments to advance collective impact and collaborative work.

- [Wilmington Community Needs Assessment](#)

  Resident groups created the Wilmington Improvements Network (WIN) to tackle longstanding problems through strategic research and community assessment. The Wilmington Community Needs Assessment is the first step in the process to heal old community wounds and provide self-determination to solving the neighborhood's challenges. The results of this survey reveal some common concerns and priorities of Wilmington residents that might otherwise go unheard.

- [San Juan County Needs Assessment](#)

  The San Juan County Partnership regularly conducts a needs assessment to help identify local concerns and prioritize services expansion. This assessment was created using findings from community engagement and data tools and is useful to a variety of service agencies, government entities, schools, businesses, and organizations throughout the county for purposes of planning, applications for funding, and channeling resources in order to make the greatest contribution to the vitality of the community.

- [Moving Forward Together: Building Tribal Resiliency and Partnerships](#)

  The four member Tribes of the Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT) Foundation collaborated with the University of Washington, Oregon State University, and Adaptation International to develop a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment that bridges western science and traditional knowledge. The collaborative partners conducted robust stakeholder engagement and developed a quantified assessment of their shared concerns and established a common foundation for future adaptation efforts. This assessment

evaluated the Kclimate change vulnerability of some of the species, habitats, and resource issues that are important to USRT member Tribes.

- [Equity and Impact: Community at the Center by The Road Map Project](#)

The Road Map Project is a collective impact initiative aiming to increase equitable policies and practices in South Seattle and South King County's educational systems. The initiative brings together individuals, programs, schools, and organizations doing meaningful work for student success. This report was created in partnership with the community and shares their perspectives and visions for an equitable education system. The report also shares how COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted Black and Brown families in the region.