

Dos and Don'ts of Grant Partnerships

1. DO know that a relationship between two or more organizations is an uneven one. The organization in charge of the funding has a certain kind of power and the organization doing the work on the ground has another kind of power. Keep this in mind.
2. DON'T assume the two or more organizations have the same goals. The partnership occurs where their goals overlap but each organization has its own agenda, structure, and accountability.
3. DO create mission and vision statements and list the strategies you will use to achieve your goals.
4. DON'T import so-called best practices from another partnership without carefully considering the specifics of the partnership you're developing.
5. DO have a plan for evaluating your progress over time. Make short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals, and create assessments that fit your efforts.
6. DO publicize your efforts. Contact various local media outlets. Get the word out by sharing outcomes of the partnership.
7. DON'T take on too much at the beginning of a partnership. Keep your goals specific and well defined.
8. DO plan for the infrastructure needed to support your efforts for as long as the partnership exists. Be realistic and allow for contingencies.
9. DO establish open and regular communication between partners.
10. DO divide tasks between and across the organizations so efforts are collaborative.
11. DON'T forget to document your efforts. Take photographs, collect feedback, and stay on top of assessments. This serves your partnership's accountability and will be useful if you attempt to get additional funding down the road.



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