Social Drivers of Health Community Partners

This is a guide to help explore community partners who may have an interest in partnering to improve the quality of life for local residents.

Food	Housing	Transportation	Employment
Food Banks or Food Pantries	Habitat for Humanity	Public Transportation Services	Community Action Programs
Local Food Council	United Way	Faith Organizations	Community College Job Link Career Center or Adult Education
Social Services Department	Affordable Housing Coalitions	Senior Centers	
Public Health Department	Community Action Programs	Non-profit Focused on Transportation	Small Business Center
Faith Organizations	City or County Housing Planners	Bicycle Shop or Club	Salvation Army
Mobile Markets	Legal Aid Housing Division	Private Transportation Providers (Uber, Lyft)	City or County Workforce Development Department
Community Gardens	Senior Centers		
Farmers Market	Homeless Shelters or Rescue Missions	Taxi Services	Senior Centers
Local Salvation Army	Salvation Army		Non-profit Focused on Employment or Job Skills
Cooperative Markets	Partnerships to End Homelessness (urban)/ Balance of State (rural)		Adult Literacy Center or Council
Food Hubs			
Senior Centers			Employment Security Commission
Cooperative Extension	Local Domestic Violence Programs		
Grocery Stores			
Restaurants			
Farmers			

*NC 2-1-1 can serve as resource for identifying community partners.

Tips for Building Relationships with Community Partners

1. **Take the time.** Be willing to take the time and effort to build a strong relationship. Have face-to-face interaction in the beginning-have coffee or lunch to get to know each other and your organizations.

2. **Be transparent.** Honesty and authenticity are key to creating a relationship based on trust.

3. **Use clear consistent communication.** Use language that is understandable- be careful of using acronyms or technical jargon. Be consistent with communication to make sure everyone is in the loop.

4. **Be flexible and open.** Be willing to see a different perspective, use a new process, and step out of your comfort zone.

5. **Show similarities.** Learn about the populations they serve to be able to show similarities.

6. **Connect to show need**. Use data, success stories, client stories to demonstrate the need.

7. **See your partner as the expert.** Be a novice in their area of expertise. Listen and learn first.

8. **Develop a reciprocal relationship**. Help, support, promote the work of your partner.

9. **Be accountable.** Accountability builds trust, credibility, and success.

10. **Relationship first.** Build your relationship with partners before taking on a project or seeking funding.

11. **Formalize collaborations.** To deepen the relationship, look for ways to formalize the partnership through collaborative agreements, partner agreements, or collaborative funding agreements.

12. **Share the success.** Make sure all partners get to share the credit, success, reward of your work together.