Assessing progress and outcomes of collaboratives using Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)

**What is collaboration?**
Two or more entities (organizations, organizational systems, programs, community groups, or individuals) working together for a common purpose.

Collaborations form the bedrock of public health work to address community needs.

**Why collaborate?**
To address complex issues, we need stakeholders from multiple sectors and levels of operation to work together toward a common vision and goal.

**The Role:** Engage with and build consensus among diverse organizations and individuals in a community to address a community-level issue or problem.

**The Format:** Collaborative partnerships vary by level of commitment, activities undertaken, membership composition, and intensity (e.g., meeting frequency).

CFIR is a menu of constructs that are common to effective implementation. CFIR constructs can be helpful in designing measures to assess the effectiveness of collaborative efforts, or the progress and outcomes of efforts implemented through the collaboration. CFIR constructs can be employed to align measures and organize findings so that collaborative teams can use the findings to facilitate and improve processes and outcomes.

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**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INTERVENTION**
These are key attributes of the intervention that influence its success: intervention source, evidence strength and quality, relative advantage, adaptability, trialability, complexity, design quality, and cost.

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**INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED**
These are the main features of the individuals involved in implementation: knowledge and beliefs about the intervention, self-efficacy, individual stage of change, individual identification with organization, other personal attributes.

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**OUTER SETTING**
These are the important qualities of the external context that influence the success of the intervention: participant need and resources, cosmopolitanism (degree to which an organization is networked with other external organizations), peer pressure, external policies and incentives.

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**INNER SETTING**
These are the important qualities of the internal context that influence the success of the intervention, and are increasingly viewed as interactive to implementation rather than peripheral: structural characteristics, networks and communications, culture, implementation climate, and readiness for implementation.

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**IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS**
These are the key characteristics of the implementation process that CFIR fosters: planning, engaging, executing, reflecting, evaluating, and building knowledge on why implementation succeeds or fails.

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1 [https://cfirguide.org/](https://cfirguide.org/)
What is your collaborative team or advisory group trying to accomplish?

What are some of the key attributes of your external and internal contexts that you could measure?

What are some of the key steps in your implementation process that could be measured?

A collaborative may wish to quantify the degree to which it is networked with other external organizations (outer setting) using a social network analysis tool that can help the collaborative members visualize their reach and gaps in their partner network.

If the collaborative is implementing an intervention, it will be important to understand more about how the staffers directly responsible for implementation think about the intervention.

Do staff have knowledge and skills around what constitutes fidelity to the intervention model?

How well do they mirror the population receiving the intervention, including race/ethnicity, economic opportunity, geographic origin, and educational status?

How well-prepared is your inner setting for implementing the intervention?

Is organizational leadership on board?