



Assessing Readiness to Work with Community Partners

When working with community partners, it's important to create a welcoming environment to foster positive and meaningful partnerships. Before moving forward with community engagement activities, ensure that partners will be valued for their contributions to the health system. Meaningful engagement stems from a commitment to honour perspectives and experiences of others in order to co-design improvements.

Consider moving forward with partnership and engagement when:

- I am confident that leaders within my organization have demonstrated a commitment to the inclusion of community voices.
- I believe in the importance of community participation in planning and decision-making at the program and policy level.
- I believe that the perspectives and opinions of community partners are valid in planning and decision making at the program and policy level.
- I believe that community partners bring a perspective to a project different than those of internal stakeholders.
- I believe that community members can look beyond their own experiences to come up with practical ideas and solutions that are representative of the community at large.
- I am willing to listen to the experiences of community partners to hear suggestions, ideas, and potential solutions that will help improve health and social services.
- I feel comfortable listening and respectfully responding to both positive and negative care experiences that community partners may share.
- I am committed to working with people who are different from me.
- I can actively facilitate conversations to ensure that community partners are included in the discussion.
- I am a champion for the inclusion of community perspectives and let my colleagues know that I value the insights provided by the community.
- I am comfortable requesting that community partners be invited to participate in improvement initiatives in which I am involved.