



Finding Coalition Partners in Your Community

The great news about creating change in your chapter or your community is that you never need to do it alone. There are people nearby who have taken the journey that you're on already, or who are willing to walk along with you – all you need to do is make an authentic connection with them to get started.

This worksheet will help you think broadly about the possible coalition partners in your community to help with your diversity & inclusion work. It will also assist in brainstorming what your win-win proposition can be in making the case as to why working together will help everyone achieve their mission.

This is just your starting point! As you learn more about your community and your chapters' needs, you'll find that new people and opportunities open up, so always look for ways to engage more people in the conversation.

The Basics:

List some of the organizations serving communities of color where you live. Also include their primary focus areas (e.g., healthcare). After you make your list, put a checkmark next to the ones you've worked with in the past.

For the organizations that you've worked with, provide some detail about your partnership. What was it about? Did it work? Why? And if it didn't, include some details here.

If you've never worked with any of these organizations, pick 1-2 that you think might be a good partner for your chapter. (Here's an example: your community has a healthcare group serving Latinos, and your chapter has a small Latino membership working to provide more culturally-appropriate resources to the community.)

Getting Down to Details:

What would the “win-win” be in working with this group? In other words, if you were to approach them, how would you explain what they’d gain in your partnership and what you’d gain in the partnership? Be as specific as possible. (For example, working from the scenario on the last page, a chapter might be able to offer support to LGBT people and their families in Spanish, while the healthcare organization can serve its members better by providing them with PFLAG resources and referrals for families who need support. Both organizations can provide education to each other’s leadership on specific topics relating to the Latino community.)

Do you have any connections to the organization? Can any of your chapter members or networks provide an introduction? Who are they, and what’s their connection?

If the answer was no, how can you find a way to make a connection? Who in your chapter will do this?

Take it to the next level!

What did you learn from the partnership that can help inform your outreach moving forward?

After you’ve made a connection and worked together, how can you leverage this partnership to create more diverse connections where you live? (For example, can your new coalition partners introduce you to other groups that represent diverse communities? How can you connect with them?)
