

BACKBONE ORGANIZATION EVALUATION TOOL

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Guide Vision and Strategy	No common understanding of needs or desired results	Shared understanding of needs and desired results; strategies unclear	Development of common agenda (shared understanding of need, desired results, and key strategies)	Increasing alignment of organizational partners' work with common agenda	All decision making is based on common agenda
Support Aligned Activities	Organizations work alone to advance their own goals and interests	Organizations communicate with others about initiative; determine their unique role	Organizations increasingly communicate and coordinate programmatic activities to advance the initiative	Organizations collaborate to identify new approaches to advance the initiative	Organizations collaborate to test <i>new</i> approaches together to advance the initiative
Establish Shared Measurement	No common definitions or data sharing among partners	Limited data sharing (often aggregate); Development of shared definitions	Partners understand value of shared data; develop common measures and/or data collection tools	Partners use data to adapt and refine their strategies	Partners use data to advance and test <i>new</i> approaches
Build Public Will	No/limited understanding of local needs or problems among community members	Lack of clarity on effective approaches to resolve needs or problems among community members	Understanding of common agenda and initiative activities among community members	Increased knowledge, sense of empowerment, and desire to take action among community members	Specific opportunities (give, advocate, volunteer) to advance the initiative are offered to community members
Advance Policy	No/limited understanding of role of policy in creation of needs or problems (e.g., unintended consequences)	Organizations identify key policy concerns as well as possible solutions	Organizations increasingly communicate and coordinate advocacy activities to advance the initiative (e.g., education)	Organizations advocate for specific policy-based solutions to advance the initiative	Organizations propose specific policy-based solutions to advance the initiative
Mobilize Funding	Funding limited to programmatic activities (includes leveraging and efforts to re-prioritize)	Limited funding available for backbone support in addition to programmatic activities	Funding is secured to support <i>all</i> initiative activities	Local philanthropic and public dollars increasingly aligned with initiative goals	Initiative attracts <i>new</i> funding and investment from local and outside sources