

## Why Statewide Initiatives?

Simply put, statewide initiatives are concerted groups of institutions of higher education, community members, and government officials in a state working towards common goals regarding a particular topic.

While SWI take many forms, the consortium often meet monthly or bi-monthly for training, perform a statewide assessment, develop advocacy plans, do statewide marketing to incoming students, share practices, support each others efforts, and learn from each other.

### Top Five Reasons to consider a statewide initiative

5. It fits well with the mission of many of our institutions.
  - SWI allow us to share our knowledge with others and fulfill our public service missions.
4. Your campus can take a stand among many, instead of standing alone.
  - Often, this is a key component for administrators who act stronger alongside a group of colleagues or gives an administrator a chance to shine among his/her colleagues.
3. You have something to share and others might too.
  - You have tremendous knowledge to share as a SAMSHA campus grantee. This is a tremendous starting point.
2. It is a built-in support group.
  - SWI often provide for professionals what they might feel they lack on their campus. Additionally, SWI provide a chance for professionals to be with other professionals in the same line of work, an opportunity not often available.
1. It is all about sustainability, right?
  - Funders are often more likely to fund programs they feel confident will last. Participation in a SWI helps to solidify progress.

The common pitfall of statewide initiatives: Using it only as a platform to impose your current campus work on other campuses.

The reason why SWI work successfully is when all parties feel that they are contributing to the process. ***People implement what they help to create.***

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