

# SPRC Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention Collaboration Continuum



## CONTEMPLATING

### What is Contemplating?

At this stage, we are thinking about collaborating. We have potential partners in mind, but we have not approached them.

### What does Contemplation look like?

- We are discussing our goals.
- We are learning about our strengths.
- We are learning to trust each other.
- We are considering each other's priorities.

- Build trust through small wins.
- Take time to understand partners' contexts.
- Use key champions, friends and allies to build relationships.
- Identify opportunities to support each other's goals.

## COOPERATING

### What is Cooperating?

At this stage, we have decided partnering makes sense. We are engaging partners, but have no formal agreements.

### What does Cooperating look like?

- We have informal and supportive relationships.
- We exchange information for mutual benefit.
- We attend each other's events.
- We have positive & intermittent interactions.
- There is little to no risk.

- Use data and information to find shared intersections and goals.
- Get clear on why you need a partner; identify what *can't* you do alone?
- Create and sustain positive dialogue and interactions.

## COORDINATING

### What is Coordinating?

At this stage, our partnership is growing stronger, and we are modifying our activities for mutual benefit. We are engaged in projects, initiatives and work together.

### What does Coordinating look like?

- We care about the same things.
- We are engaged in short-term and long-term projects.
- We engage each other using informal or formal agreements.
- We share time, decision-making, and/or resources.
- We each retain autonomy.
- There is low to moderate risk.

- Commit to the partnership in a formal way.
- Define the terms and boundaries of the partnership.
- Recruit strategic, high-capacity partners that know how to nurture collaboration.
- Structure the partnership for engagement and inclusion among partners.
- Develop long-term strategic directions and shared vision.

## COLLABORATING

### What is Collaborating?

At this stage, our partnership has formal agreements. We are working toward developing enhanced capacity to achieve a shared vision.

### What does Collaborating look like?

- We employ creative, synergistic, and innovative approaches.
- We have new organizational structures and financial agreements.
- We have long-term engagement.
- We are an institutionalized and credible collaboration in the community.
- We have a well-defined mission based on member interests.
- We have an effective leadership team.
- There is high risk but also high trust.

- Engage in regular strategic planning.
- Manage and measure performance.
- Nurture your membership and team.
- Identify processes for managing conflict.