

DECISION MAKING: IS STRATEGIC PLANNING THE RIGHT STEP

Convene a small planning or leadership group to consider the following questions. The answers may help your team determine if the timing is right for strategic planning engagement.

QUESTIONS:

Does strategic planning meet a priority for our coalition?

- Have we done this already; will this be seen as a good use of our time?
- Do we have other pressing needs that might be viewed as more important?

Will the process actively engage our coalition?

- Do we have coalition members who will actively participate?
- Is our coalition readiness high enough that many will become involved?

Can it be done with known resources?

- Do we have the person-power to do this now, or in the near future?
- Will there be adequate support from agencies to complete the process?

Will strategic planning enhance our existing goals and activities?

- Can this process expand and support work we are already doing?
- Are we prepared to expand or shift directions if the planning process reveals new priorities?

Is the timing practical given the status of our coalition?

- Do we have the membership attendance necessary to get this done?
- Are we solid, struggling or still emerging, and how will this impact our ability to see the planning process completed?

Can we justify the process to our partners?

- Will engaging in this process be seen as a valuable use of time and resources?
- Are we able to draw in our partners to be actively engaged?

Is it feasible to do this now, so that we have an attainable and achievable outcome?

- Is our coalition ready to make commitments that require accountability?
- Are we ready to take actionable steps to ensure the plan is implemented?

From these questions, it isn't difficult to see that a key factor in the success of coalition strategic planning weighs heavily on the readiness, resources and commitment of the coalition. So, how did it go? If many of the responses were in the negative (there isn't support or participation; no resources; poor timing, etc.), perhaps the idea of strategic planning should be tabled for future consideration. However, if the questions revealed a level of interest and capacity, then moving onto the tools, **Decision Trees - New and Proficiency** is your next step!