

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here!

We will get started shortly.
In the meantime, we invite you to
intentionally enter this space.



Silence your cell
phone



Close the door



Close browser
windows



Check your audio
and video



Stretch



Take a few deep
breaths



Emotionally release
your to-do list



Take a bio break

Understanding Community Consortia Training
Wednesday, August 27 from 2:30-4:30 pm ET



Understanding Community Consortia Training

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

The Healthy Start TA & Support Center is operated by the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ). This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 1 UF5MC327500100 titled Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project.





This session is being recorded.



All participants are muted upon entry. We ask that you remain muted to limit background noise.



Participants are encouraged to share comments and ask questions using the chat box.

Understanding Community Consortia Training
Hosted by the Healthy Start TA & Support Center at NICHQ



Understanding Community Consortia Training

Agenda

Housekeeping	Alexis Hooper Healthy Start TASC
Welcome & Introductions	Tess Pierson Healthy Start TASC
Understanding Community Consortia	Calondra Tibbs, MPH Trifecta Advising, LLC
Advancing Community Consortia CoP	Tess Pierson
Next Steps & Closing	Tess Pierson & Alexis Hooper

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Welcome & Introduction

Tess Pierson

Healthy Start TA & Support Center

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Understanding Community Consortia

Calondra Tibbs, MPH
Trifecta Advising, LLC

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Learning Objectives

- Increase understanding of the value of community-level consortia.
- Increase awareness of the consortium development framework.
- Identify key principles to forming a community consortium.

Agenda

- What are Community Consortia?
- Principles of Effective Community Consortia
- Effective Community Consortia
- Developing & Expanding Consortia Engagement
- Consortia Leadership & Governance
- Resources

Understanding Community Consortia



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What are Community Consortia?

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Community Consortia

Community consortia are **collaborative partnerships** that bring together consumers, organizations, and other stakeholders to tackle a shared community issue—like improving maternal health outcomes or access to services.

- 1 Shared Table**

Consortia are collaborative partnerships that bring together stakeholders including consumers, businesses, and organizations to address common community issues.
- 2 Community Issues**

Community consortia are created to address a specific community issue and provide a platform for stakeholders to share their perspectives and take collective action to address the issue.
- 3 Leverage Resources**

A community consortium is a way of working together to leverage resources, expertise, and influence to achieve shared goals.

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"The Healthy Start initiative is community-based and relies on the guidance and involvement of local community members and organizations to improve perinatal outcomes and eliminate disparities."

— HRSA Healthy Start Program Guidance

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Community Consortia Matters to Healthy Start

Community-based, Community-driven

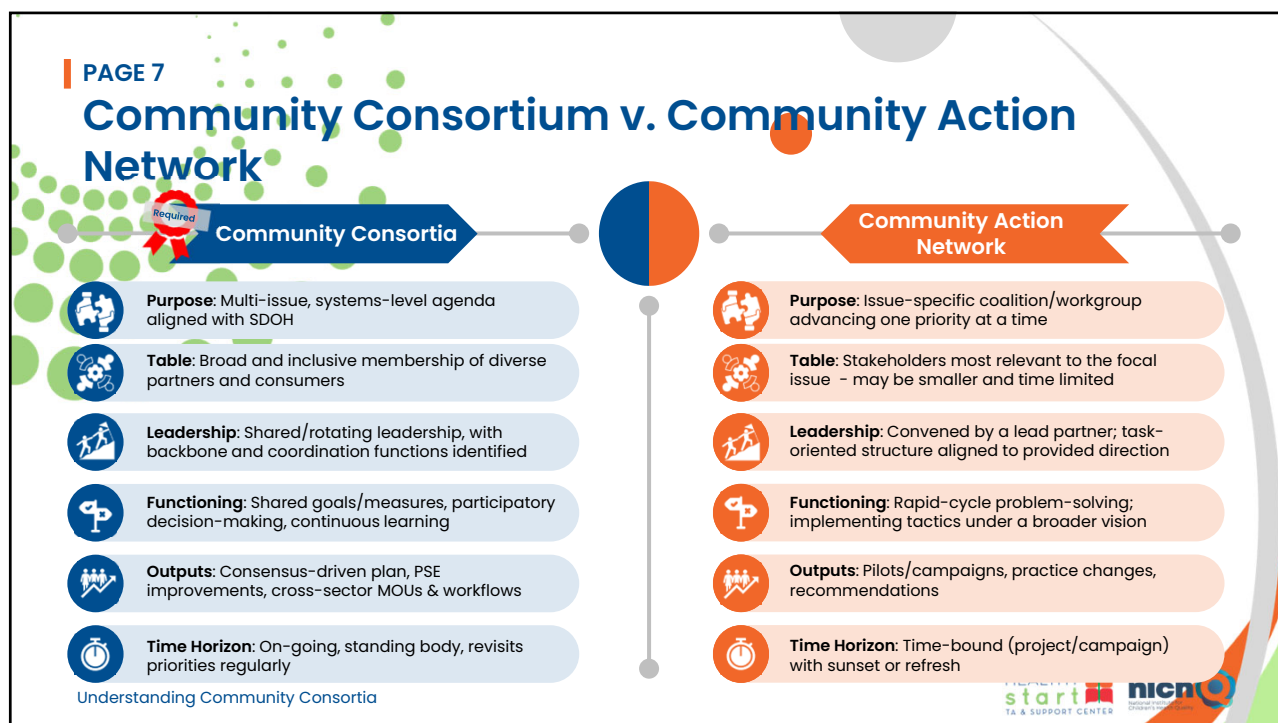
Unique hallmark of the program

Facilitates addressing community needs

- ▶ Build collaboration among consumers, providers & partners
- ▶ Inform direct and enabling service strategies
- ▶ Facilitate access to care through case management & coordination
- ▶ Improve healthy behaviors & safe infant care
- ▶ Drive system-level changes to improve outcomes
- ▶ Anchor local action plans addressing SDOH

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“An effective community consortium is grounded in collaboration, open communication, shared decision-making, and mutual accountability. These principles build trust and foster a sense of shared ownership among partners.”

— Adapted from the National Academy of Medicine’s Core Principles of Team-Based Health Care

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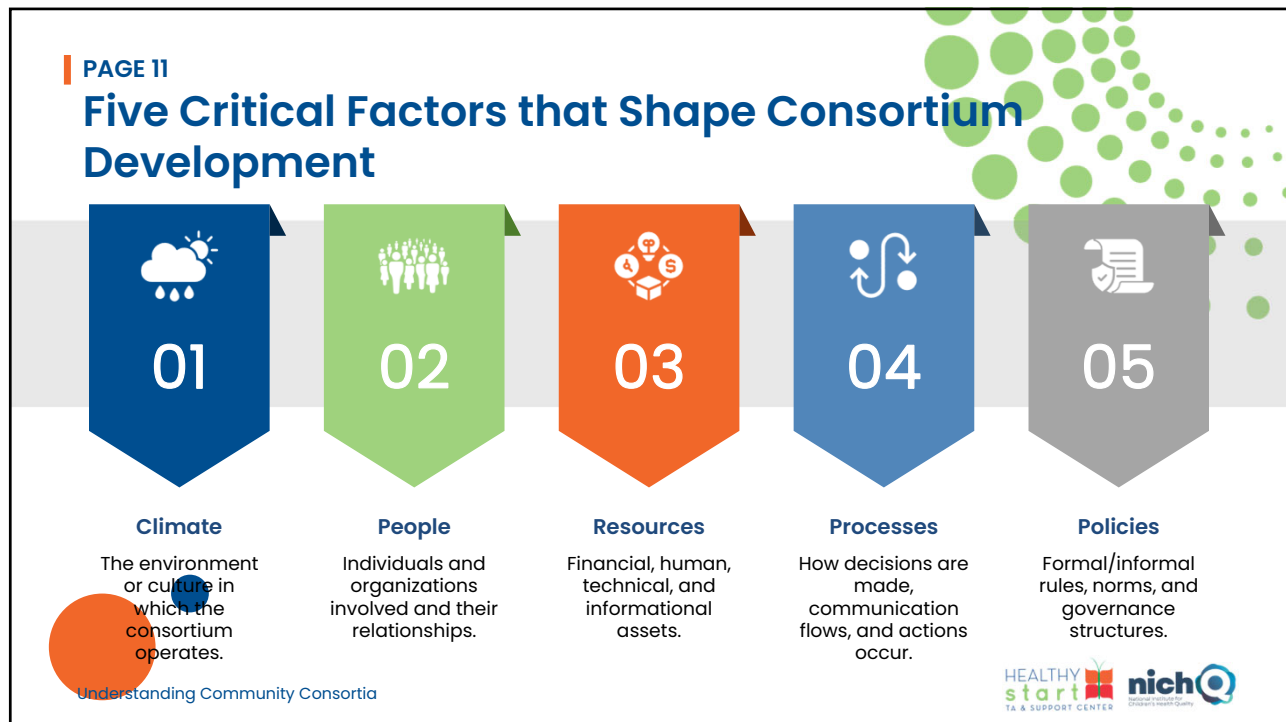
Consortium Development Framework

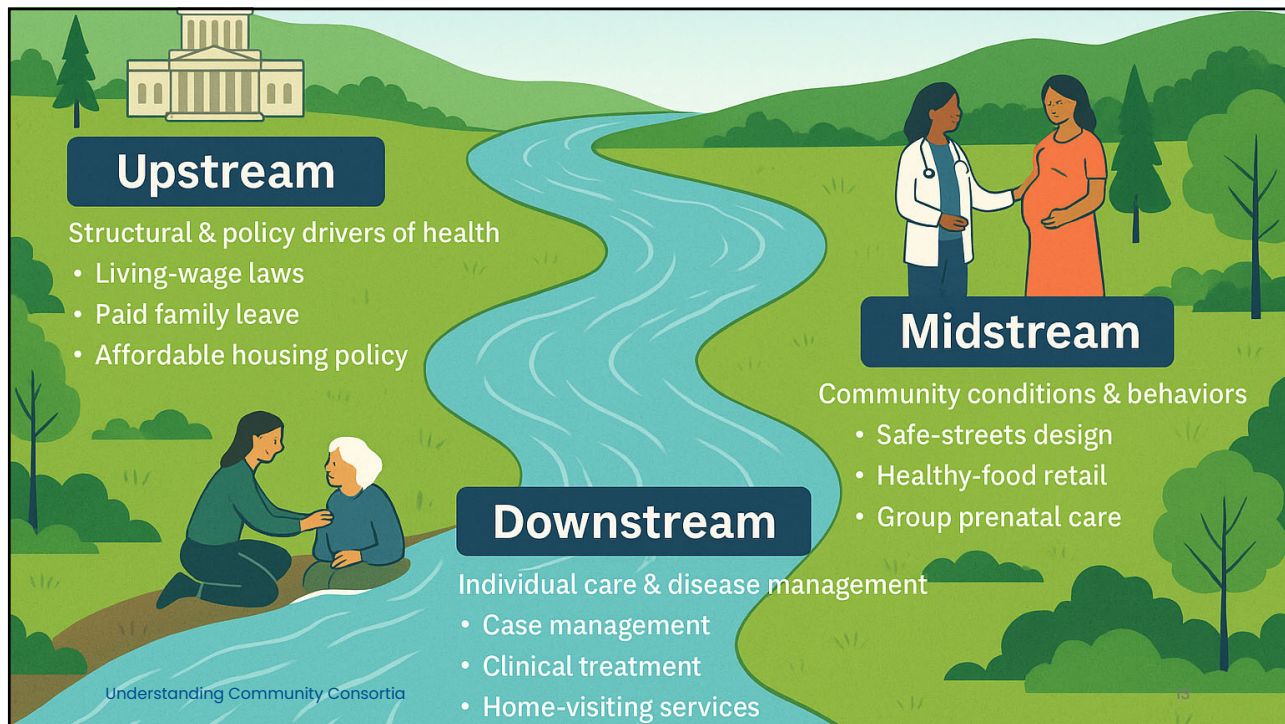
Forming a successful community consortium requires intention, structure, and trust. Each step in the Consortium Development Framework builds the foundation for effective, sustainable, and community-centered collaboration.

- 1 Identify Community Issues**
Understand the needs, assets, and values of the community. Focus on the root cause of issues that matter to those most affected.
- 2 Build Relationships**
Cultivate trust and credibility with stakeholders. Prioritize inclusion and community representation.
- 3 Develop a Shared Vision**
Align around common goals, values, and priorities. Co-create a vision for shared outcomes.
- 4 Create a Governance Structure**
Establish policies, roles, decision-making processes, and accountability systems.

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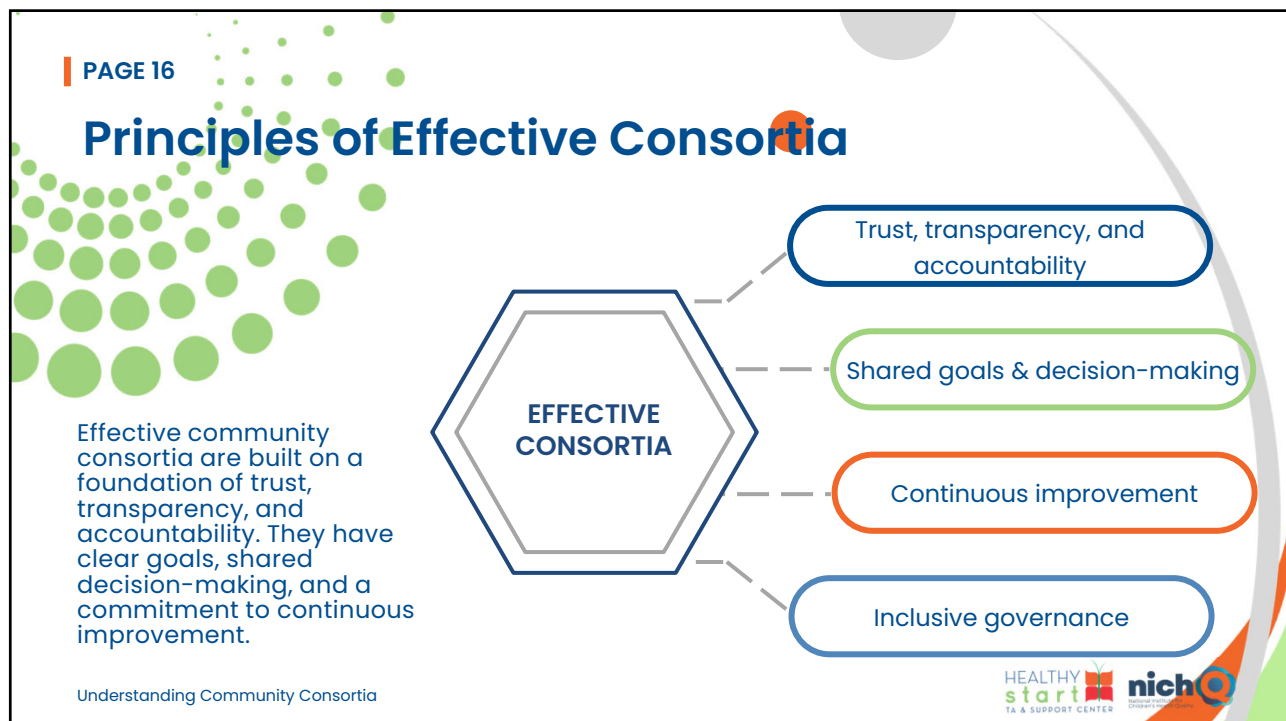
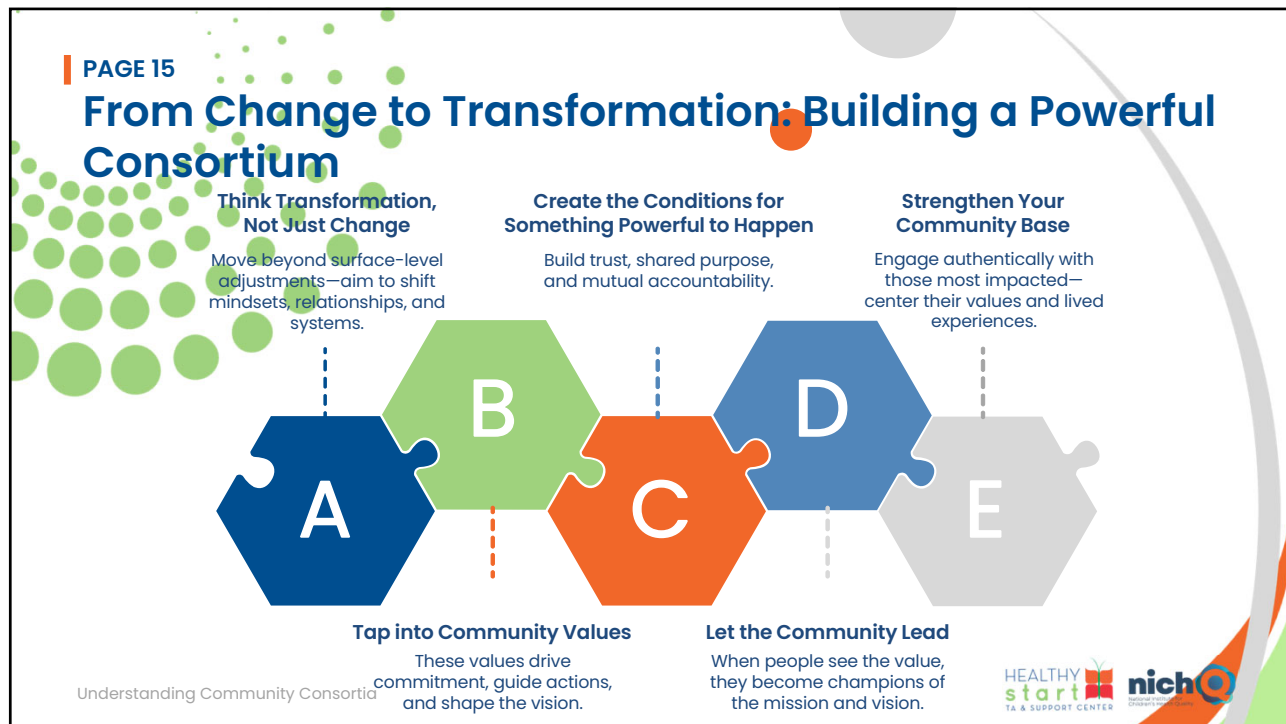
A photograph of three women in a meeting. One woman is standing and gesturing with her hands, while two others are seated at a table with laptops. The image is partially covered by a large blue and orange graphic element.

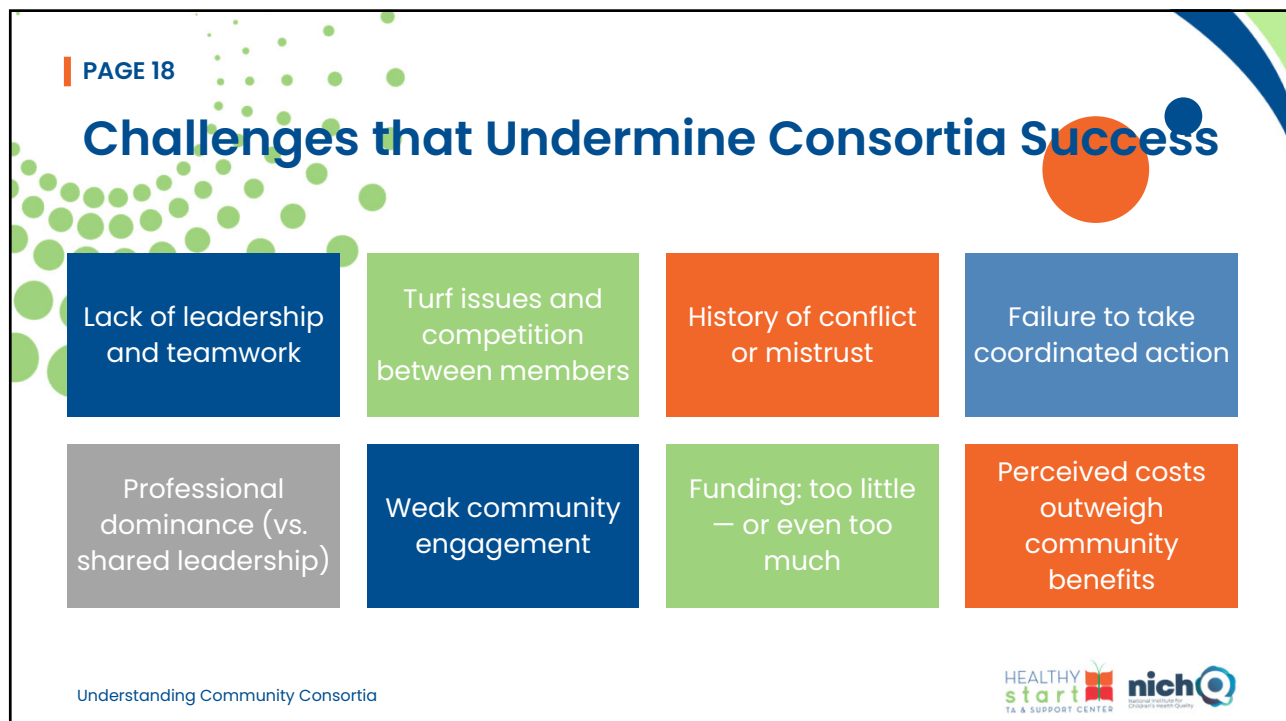
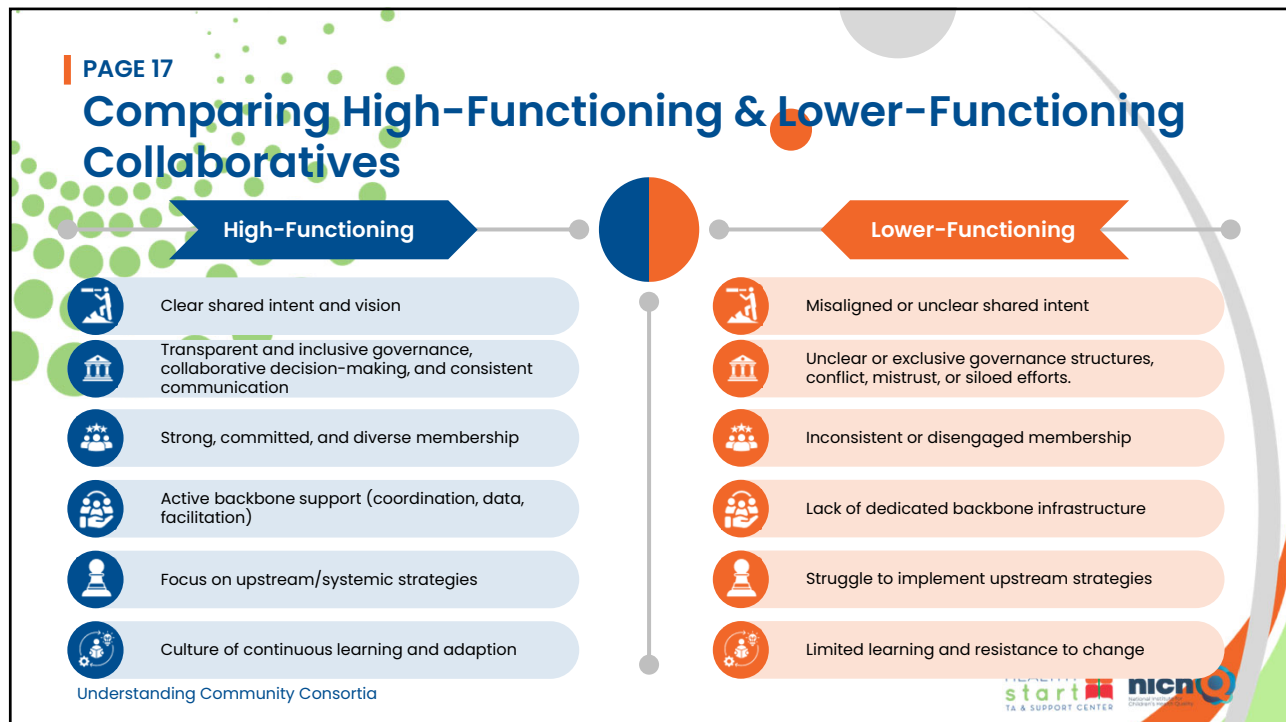
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Principles of Effective Community Consortia

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Supporting Effective Collaboration & Learning in Consortia

- Leverage Existing Work** (Icon: Building blocks)
- Clarify Desired Impact** (Icon: Speech bubble with checkmark)
- Allow Time & Flexibility** (Icon: Calendar with checkmark)
- Start with Shared Vision & Roles** (Icon: Truck with checkmark)
- Prioritize Trust & Relationships** (Icon: Brain with checkmark)
- Ensure Diverse Representation** (Icon: Magnifying glass over target)
- Foster Motivation & Connection** (Icon: Thumbs up)
- Use Regular Reflection & Feedback Loops** (Icon: Shopping bag with percentage sign)

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Developing & Expanding Consortia Engagement

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Identifying Strategic Partners for Your Consortium

Who Do You Invite?

- Partners with **common goals** around maternal and child health
- Partners with **complementary skills** (e.g., mental health, housing, advocacy)
- Partners with a **commitment to fairness, collaboration, and sustainability**

Key Characteristics of Members

- Willing to share **power and responsibility**
- Aligned with the **vision and values** of Healthy Start
- Has **time and capacity** to participate meaningfully
- Has or can build **trust** with the community

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Recruiting Consortia Members



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Who's Here?

Consider who is already doing work that supports your goals.

Who's Missing?

Identify who is missing that is necessary for systemic change.

What is Needed?

Clarify what resources are needed—financial, human, or structural.

How Will Engagement Occur?

Determine how, when, and what kind of engagement is expected and ability to contribute.



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Finding Potential Partners & Members

Schools and Parent Groups

Faith-based Organizations

Local Policy Makers and Leaders

Hospitals, Clinics and Healthcare Providers

Local Coalitions or Taskforces

Public Health & Social Service Organizations

Current & Former Program Participants

Douglas, CHWs, Lactation Support Providers

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Consumer Engagement Approaches

Focus groups and community conversations

Parent/support groups, Healthy Start reunions

Consumer-led workgroups or advisory roles

Volunteer opportunities at events

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Consortia Leadership & Governance

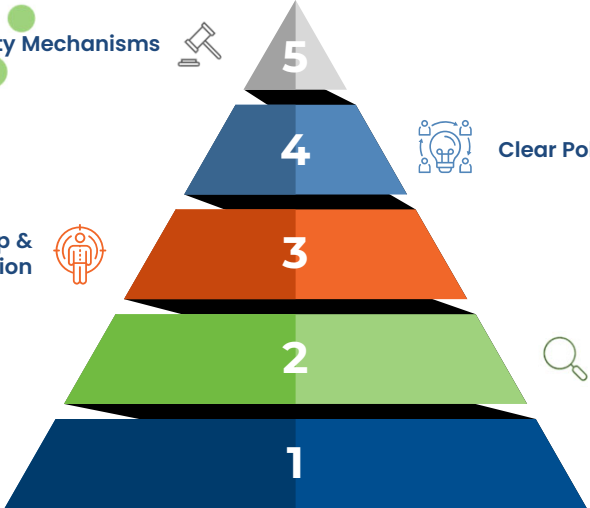
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Key Elements of Governance in Consortia



- 5 Accountability Mechanisms (Icon: Scales of justice)
- 4 Clear Policies and Procedures (Icon: Lightbulb with gears)
- 3 Inclusive Membership & Representation (Icon: Person with a plus sign)
- 2 Transparent Decision-Making Processes (Icon: Magnifying glass)
- 1 Defined Roles & Responsibilities (Icon: Document with checkmarks)

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Key Roles of Consortia Leaders

The diagram illustrates the key roles of consortia leaders in a cascading structure. At the top is a dark blue bar labeled 'Vision Setting' with the description 'Align stakeholders on shared goals and mission'. Below this is a light green bar labeled 'Facilitation' with the description 'Promote collaboration, dialogue, and inclusive decision-making'. Under 'Facilitation' are two overlapping bars: an orange bar labeled 'Trust Building' with the description 'Cultivate respect and transparency across diverse partners', and a blue bar labeled 'Championing Fairness' with the description 'Ensure all voices are heard—especially marginalized communities'. To the right of 'Championing Fairness' is a grey bar labeled 'Accountability & Communication' with the description 'Maintain focus, monitor progress, and share updates clearly'.

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Essential Leadership Skills for Consortia Success


The diagram lists five essential leadership skills for consortia success, each in a dark blue box on the left and its description in a light grey box on the right:

- Systems Thinking**: Understand complex interconnections within the community
- Collaborative Leadership**: Encourage collective ownership and input
- Emotional Intelligence**: Navigate group dynamics and interpersonal conflict
- Adaptive Leadership**: Respond to challenges with flexibility and creativity
- Communication & Conflict Resolution**: Keep members engaged and unified

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Wrap-Up & Resources

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Framing Your Community Consortium's Work



- Identify the Purpose and Goals**
Define the issue you want to address and align efforts toward shared outcomes.
- Define the Membership Criteria**
Invite members who share values, have community ties, and can bring needed expertise.
- Develop a Strategic Plan**
Set objectives, timelines, and action steps to guide collaborative work.

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Common Challenges

Governance & Structure	Consumer Engagement	Fairness & SDOH	Economic Development	Sustainability
Clarifying roles, leadership, and decision-making processes.	Ensuring authentic involvement from individuals with lived experience.	Tackling the impact of structural differences and embedding fairness in all activities.	Aligning efforts with local economic development goals	Ensuring sustainability of efforts through shared resources and planning

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Overcoming Obstacles in Community Consortia

Obstacle	Solution
Poor Communication	Use clear channels & regular updates
Limited Experience	Offer training & mentorship
History of Being Ignored	Build trust through transparency & follow-through
Resistant Leaders	Identify shared wins & distribute leadership
Sense of Powerlessness	Empower through co-decision-making
Time & Access	Offer stipends, virtual access, flexible schedules
Poor Organization & Meetings	Set clear agendas, roles, and follow-up actions


Community Consortia

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Resources

Healthy Start TA & Support Center Comprehensive technical support, guidance and tools for developing and sustaining consortia https://healthystart-tasc.org/	FSG Guide to Evaluating Collective Impact Helpful for evaluating the effectiveness of cross-sector collaborations like consortia. https://www.fsg.org/resource/guide-to-evaluating-collective-impact/	Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory Use this validated tool to assess the strengths and weaknesses of your collaboration. https://wilderresearch.org/tools/collaboration-factors-inventory
Collective Impact Forum Articles, tools, and case studies focused on collective impact strategies - https://www.collectiveimpactforum.org/	The Power of Collaborative Solutions A practical framework on what makes collaborations work - https://tomwolff.com/collaborative-solutions-book.htm	Principles of Community Engagement A foundational guide for planning and implementing community engagement strategies. https://hsc.unm.edu/population-health/_documents/principles-of-community-engagement_3rd-edition.pdf
University of Kansas Community Toolbox Extensive guidance on coalition building, community partnerships, and participatory planning. https://ctb.ku.edu	Coalitions Work Coalition Assessment Tools Free tools for assessing coalition effectiveness, structure, and sustainability - https://www.coalitionswork.com/resources/tools/	

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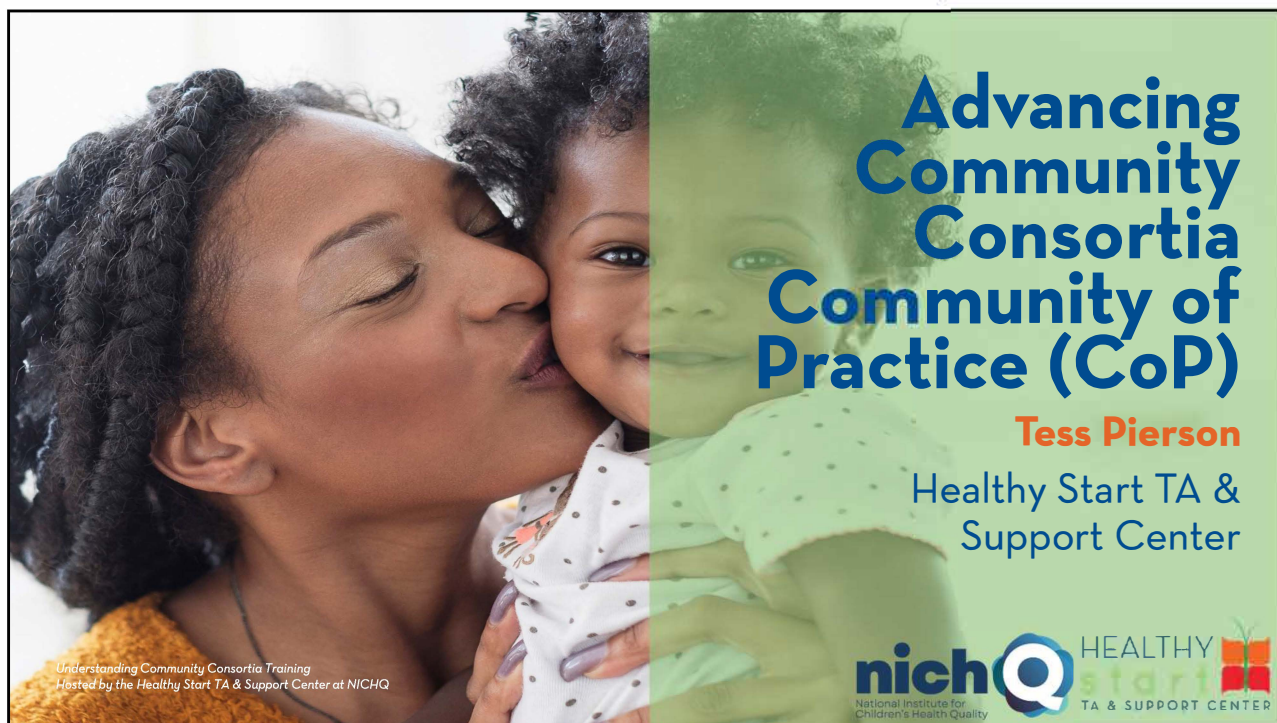


Questions & Thank You!

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Advancing Community Consortia Community of Practice (CoP)

Tess Pierson
Healthy Start TA & Support Center

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Communities of Practice (CoPs)

Communities of Practice (CoPs) will provide a space for a group of 20-25 grantees to come together to:

- Learn about what other grantees are doing around a specific topic;
- Engage and collaborate with others across the country;
- Brainstorm solutions to common challenges;
- Highlight best practices and create shared, new innovative and best practices; and
- Co-create tools and resources for the broader Healthy Start community.

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Advancing Community Consortia CoP

The Advancing Community Consortia CoP is a structured learning initiative designed to help Healthy Start grantees build, sustain, and lead effective, community-based consortia.

- Fulfill HRSA/MCHB peer-to-peer engagement requirements
- Strengthen community leadership and sustainability
- Learn with and from other Healthy Start leaders
- Apply real-time tools for systems change and evaluation

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What to Expect:

Flexible, 12-week structure

6-9 hours per month

- Self-Paced Modules (2-3 hrs/month)
- Live Peer Discussions (2-3 hrs/month)
- Applied Activities (~2-3 hrs/month)
- Optional Coaching & TA

The first CoP group will run October through December





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To register for the Advancing Community Consortia CoP, please scan this QR code or visit the link in the chat.



Registration for the first CoP group will close on September 15.
Registration will remain open for 2026 groups.



Seeking Additional Support?

Visit the Healthy Start TASC website or scan the QR code below to submit a TA request.



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Your input is important to us!
***Please take a moment to complete the
satisfaction survey.***

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Thank you!

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