

Partners: The following steps can assist you to build partnerships with the community.



1. Identify needs and enlist community partners and resources
2. Form a community partnership. Community members have an important role and can bring a vast range of resources, talents, and perspectives to contribute.
 - Community tribal leaders, elected public officials, school representatives, teachers, parents and students, Behavioral/social services
 - Health Care Providers: It is essential to have the awareness, support and participation of health care providers such as dietitians, dental, CHR, nursing, and behavioral health.
 - Community Health Centers/clinics and hospitals: You can get important clients to increase awareness of making healthy beverage choices.
 - Religious groups: Some churches have traditional and family community service and volunteer programs that may have information resources.
 - Community colleges and universities: Ask these schools for participation or it might be a good project for student internships with credit.
 - Community groups: These include social services organizations, like volunteer programs, local chapters, PTA, city councils, senior groups and Boys and Girls' Club.
 - Media Representatives: Include local newspaper, newsletter, and radio stations to get the word out to your community.
 - Businesses: These include grocery stores, food markets, supermarkets, and local restaurants. They will help improve the visibility of your healthy beverage project.
 - Government: These include Head Start and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs.

Work collaboratively together as a team and get buy-in:

- Consult community leaders/members and involve them from the start. Let them feel a sense of ownership in partnerships by determining their own needs, choosing healthy beverage issues that affect them.
- Assemble a group of interested people and discuss concerns that you have. If you already have an existing team, start with them. It should be made up of diverse members such as community leaders, parents, community members, health care providers and teachers. Choose team members who are willing to make a commitment and stay involved.
- Create a supportive atmosphere
- Get the support of the community before you start
- Involve partners on the team such as health care professionals, community leaders and schools.

Involve key players on the team:

- Recruit individuals or groups who may be directly affected by the concerns you addressed. Get community members and health care professionals involved from the beginning.
- It is important that various people be involved and must be a team effort.

Recognize that change is difficult and sometimes stressful for certain individuals:

- It is important that you be sensitive to others.
- Communicate your team goals and planned activities to all stakeholders to lighten hesitation about your efforts and ask for support from them.

Arrange for a team meeting:

- Get together at a set time each month and agree the meeting time at the first meeting.
- If your team members cannot attend regular meetings, meet individually to keep things coordinated.

Recognize that Teams go through periods of improvements:

- It is important to take the time and effort to listen to each person's point of view and suggestions. Thus each team member has the chance to have a say.