

**A Framework for Collaboration among Community Partnerships,
Stakeholders, and Funders**

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Abstract:

The aim of the research, entitled: “A framework for cooperation between community partnerships, stakeholders, and funders” is to demonstrate improving community well-being and integrating collaborative efforts between different stakeholders in society, and the female target sample in Garden City, Michigan, in which it addressed: the company, the target sample, and the vision of The work team and its mission, the goals of the work team, and their guidelines.

key words: Collaboration - Community Partnerships - Stakeholders

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Framework for Collaboration among Community Partnerships, Stakeholders and Funders

Improving community welfare and inclusion mandates collaborative efforts among different stakeholders in the community. As an employee of The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), I acknowledge that I have a duty to further the mandates of the organization, including understanding and strengthening families, bringing together family-related professionals, researchers, students, and policymakers, and contributing in research, scholarship, outreach, and policymaking, among others (NCFR, 2021). As a leader of the task force comprising community members, managers, and directors of NCFR, I have the critical responsibility of upholding fruitful collaboration among different parties, ensuring that power is shared equitably, and sustaining and defending the welfare of the target population. The purpose of this discussion is to provide an overview of the initiative before proposing an approach for community collaboration. I seek to demonstrate that with an efficient collaborative framework, it is possible to get community members to work together with the NCFR and funders towards resolving the problem of anticipated budget cuts. Addressing the issue would, in turn, facilitate the reduction of unemployment rates in the community while empowering the marginalized female population.

The Community

The target community is the female population of Garden City, Michigan. Women and girls constitute approximately 50% of the population at Garden City (World Population Review, 2021). Over the years, this social group has encountered a wide range of problems related, in part, to low representation in community affairs. Historically, women in this community, as with other regions, were perceived to be physically and intellectually incapable of handling tasks that were traditionally reserved for men. To date, women in the community remain underrepresented in both private and public sectors, making it difficult for them to present their grievances in a collaborative process. At work, women are also subjected to harassment and gender-based discrimination. As the community seeks to overcome the challenges encountered by women, it must focus on giving equitable opportunities for all individuals by providing equal education opportunities for both boys and girls, equal employment opportunities, and equal prospects for career growth. The task force will have the social

mandate of ensuring equal representation for all individuals towards ultimately empowering women and girls.

The Taskforce

The task force will comprise community members, NCFR representatives, and funders from both government and non-government organizations. In aligning with the values of the NCFR, the members of the task force will be identified by merit, and different population groups will be represented in the task force. Thus, it will be imperative that women are represented in the task force and that they are given decision-making power.

While the task force will be charged with a wide range of responsibilities, its ultimate aim will be empowering families, in turn, empowering the community. The task force must have clearly outlined objectives that would be achieved through a combination of short-term and long-term goals to achieve this primary objective (Edwards Jr., 2019). The task force also needs to have a clear vision and mission, which would serve as a guide for taskforce members in their day-to-day operations (Edwards Jr., 2019). With proper and efficiently executed leadership, it will be possible for the team to follow up on the vision and mission of the task force and achieve the goals of the initiative.

In the short term, the main goal of the task force is to address the anticipated budget cuts and decreased grant disbursement, which would likely obstruct One-Stop Center from reducing the unemployment rate in the community. With this in mind, the task force will need to meet a set of objectives, including interviewing community members to understand the social and economic challenges they face due to the high rate of unemployment, lobbying for the welfare of the community, and identifying research-based, community-specific solutions for ongoing problems. Achieving these objectives will necessitate planning based on a concrete value system, as well as the stringent mission and vision statements for the initiative.

The Task Force's Vision, Mission, and Value Statements

- Vision Statement: To become a national leader in community welfare by eradicating poverty and gender-based discrimination.
- Mission Statement: To empower the community through collaborative efforts between community leaders, social workers, researchers, and government and non-government organizations.
- Value Statement: To serve the community based on the core values of integrity, service to humanity, and fairness towards contributing lasting positive change.

Objectives of the Taskforce

1. Understanding the Challenges Facing the Community

The high unemployment rate in the community is the outcome of, among other factors, the closure of businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, low demand for labor and high demand for jobs, and demographic factors. The task force needs to engage with members of the community through surveys and interviews to understand how unemployment affects the community socially and economically. Some of the expected outcomes include the inability to afford vital services, such as quality healthcare and education, and the inability to afford high-quality food (Edwards Jr., 2019). The task force will also come up with an audit on the issues faced by each population group to understand their special needs. Conducting such an audit will ease the process of accommodating the interests of women who have been underserved in the past. Collecting information about families and the community is in line with the key mandates of the NCFR. The information collected through research on the community will be helpful to scholars and policymakers, who can, in turn, make more informed decisions on community welfare.

2. Lobbying for Community Welfare

One of NCFR's primary mandates is to participate in family and family relationship policymaking and offer policy recommendations to the government and the private sector. As such, the organization has the power and influence to challenge policymakers to reconsider the decision to cut funding. In the immediate term, the task force will need to ensure that it sets up an advocacy plan to protect the needs of the community (Richan, 2013). Members of the task force will need to highlight the impact of budget cuts

in undermining the welfare of the community, and in turn, recommend other aspects of the budget that could take budget cuts to ensure that the community continues to be funded.

3. Identifying Research-Based, Community-Specific Solutions for Ongoing Problems

After understanding the unique problems facing the community, the task force will need to rely on research to identify the fitting solutions. For instance, in achieving the objective of empowering the female population at Garden City, Michigan, a feminist approach would be helpful in strategically identifying viable and lasting solutions (Ruszczuk et al., 2020; Lugones & Spelman, 2018). Equally, the problem-solving model of social work would help address the problems encountered by the larger community in reference to the high rate of unemployment.

Recommended Guidelines for the Taskforce

The task force will need to rely on the expertise of its diverse team to understand the possibilities and limitations of achieving its objectives. Stakeholders from the community will have a sound understanding of the challenges of implementing community-specific solutions, such as using the problem-solving model of social work to address ongoing challenges. Government representatives, on the other hand, will provide insight to the team based on existing legal provisions on community development (Cornwall & Rivas, 2015). The recommended steps for the task force include working with existing resources, identifying strengths within the community towards economically empowering individuals, and identifying women in vulnerable situations and connecting them to social work agencies. These recommendations are discussed in detail in Table 1 (see Appendix).

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Appendix

Communications with Taskforce Members

1. Introductory Email Addressed to the Team

Type of communication: Email

Purpose of the communication: Welcoming team members to the task force.

Audience: All task force members.

Rationale: The idea behind this email is to officiate the conception of communications with members of the task force.

Greetings everyone,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the task force. As you may be aware, our goal is to improve the welfare of the Garden City community in Michigan. As such, we will need to work together in every step of the process towards understanding the needs of every member of the community, recognizing the unique needs of different social groups, and using our influence to lobby for the welfare of the community.

I want to acknowledge that this inclusive team has the potential to address every pressing need of the vulnerable populations in the community, particularly women. My pledge is that each member of the task force serves their mandate with full dedication and with the ultimate prize in mind.

Best Regards.

2. Email Update on the Progress of the Project

Type of communication: Email

Purpose of the communication: Updating members of the taskforce on the progress of the initiative.

Audience: All taskforce members.

Rationale: This email is necessary as it acknowledges the crucial role played by every member of the taskforce in the success of the project.

Greetings everyone,

As you may recall, we initiated the task force last month with the goal of uplifting the community. I am pleased to inform you that the project has been a success so far. I want to congratulate each one of you for the dedication you have shown to the project. However, we still have a long way to go. We still need to lobby against the proposed budget cuts. I call upon you all to keep working closely until every objective we put in place is achieved.

Thank you.

3. Webinar on lobbying efforts for the community.

Type of communication: Seminar conducted over the internet.

Purpose of the communication: Edifying members of the taskforce on effective lobbying tactics.

Audience: All taskforce members.

Rationale: The intended message could be communicated through different platforms, including documentation and sit-downs. However, I preferred a webinar because it is cost-effective, convenient, facilitates interaction with the audience, and can be recorded for future reference.

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our first webinar. As you know, this taskforce has a mission to improve the lives of the Garden City community. Based on recent developments in the community, however, it might soon be difficult for our partners at One-Stop Center to work on lessening unemployment rates in the community due to the proposed budget cuts. As part of our duty to the community, we need to engage in dialogue with policymakers, understand their reasoning for the proposed budget cuts, and hopefully, convince them against the budget cuts. The purpose of this conference is to highlight important factors for you to consider when lobbying against the proposed budget cuts. These factors will be presented in point-form to help you to navigate to the issue you may need to revisit at a future date.

i. Identify the bill or issue.

The first factor to consider in the lobbying process is the bill permitting the budget cuts. Being specific will not only help you sound professional, but will also give you a better chance of having an effective conversation with policymakers.

ii. Be brief.

Although the issue might be complex, you have a better chance of being heard if you state your concerns concisely. Being concise will make your statement memorable and will guarantee that your audience will think about what you say.

iii. Do not berate.

It will be difficult for you to achieve your agenda if you do not take control of your emotions. Hence, using a logical approach to the matter will give

you clarity and help you to ask questions respectfully. Try to keep the dialogue open and do not make threats.

iv. Rely on facts obtained from the research we recently completed. In building your argument, remember that you have the advantage of facts from the community, which will be obtained following the completion of our ongoing research. Use these facts to present your issue and to convince the policymakers that budget cuts will have far-reaching impacts on the community. You have a right to know the legislator's thinking on the issues you present. However, please be reasonable and do not make demands.

v. Express your views and give your reasons for taking a stand. The final factor to consider is that after presenting your facts, views, and concerns, your proposals might still be rejected. You need to be firm on what you know based on the facts at hand. While the legislators may not be forthcoming immediately, it is possible that they will convene later and decide upon reversing the decision to implement budget cuts.

Table 1: Recommended action plan for the taskforce

Recommendation	Description
1. Work with existing resources.	Following the proposed budget cuts, the task force will need to help One-Stop Center to conduct budgeting in a manner that will accommodate the most pressing needs of the community.
2. Identify strengths within the community towards economically empowering individuals.	The high unemployment rate is a threat to the current and future welfare of the community. The task force needs to work together with individuals to understand the talents and skills that help them secure self-employment opportunities.
3. Identify women in vulnerable situations and connect them to social work agencies.	The task force will need to identify women who have been victims of gender-based violence, drug and substance abuse, commercial sex work, and sexual abuse and connect them to social work agencies. Social

	work agencies will help these women find better access to employment, housing, and education.
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Source: (Self)

إطار للتعاون بين الشراكات المجتمعية وأصحاب المصلحة

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جامعة ومعهد العدالة والحكمة بأمريكا

الملخص:

هدف البحث المعنون بـ: "إطار للتعاون بين الشراكات المجتمعية وأصحاب المصلحة" إلى بيان تحسين رفاهية المجتمع وإدماج الجهود التعاونية بين مختلف أصحاب المصلحة في المجتمع. وقد ضمت العينة المستهدفة الإناث في جاردن سيتي بولاية ميشيغان، وتم التطرق إلى؛ الشركة والعينة المستهدفة ورؤية فريق العمل ورسائله وأهداف فريق العمل وإرشاداتهم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التعاون-الشراكات المجتمعية-أصحاب المصلحة.