



Sample Self-Assessment: Progress Toward Community Change

This self assessment tool is designed to be used by leadership structures (e.g., coalitions, collaborative partnerships, backbone organizations, etc.) that are leading community social change initiatives. The tool assesses progress in community social change as well as the functioning of the leadership structure. It is recommended that the tool be completed by individual members first, then compiled and aggregated. The average score on each of the questions will allow leadership structure members to get a better sense of how the group views progress toward change in the community and understands its functioning as a group. Use the tallied scores as a discussion tool to identify areas the group may need to address and those which members are willing to address in order to become more effective in achieving the desired change.

How ready is our community to change?		<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
1.	Residents of my community have strong emotional ties to our community.	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Residents of my community actively work together to improve the community.	1	2	3	4	5
3.	My community considers the issue (or our issue) we are addressing as a very important one?	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Residents of my community are willing to help address our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
5.	In the past, our community has successfully dealt with important social problems.	1	2	3	4	5
6.	Leaders in our community are able to build consensus for important issues facing our community.	1	2	3	4	5
7.	We have at least one local leader who can provide leadership on our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
How well are we "coming together" as a leadership structure?		<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
8.	My skills and knowledge are valued by the leadership structure.	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Our leadership structure (e.g., leadership structure, backbone, collaborative partnership, etc.) is made up of the right "mix" of individuals who can make a difference in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Our leadership structure represents the diversity of persons in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
11.	Working together as a leadership structure we can accomplish more than working alone.	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Our leadership structure has worked together to make goals that we want to accomplish.	1	2	3	4	5
13.	We have developed an effective leadership structure to achieve our goals.	1	2	3	4	5
14.	Our leadership structure chooses activities that support change efforts of others in our community who also work on our issue.	1	2	3	4	5
15.	We know if we are effective in address our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
16.	Leaders for the leadership structure have emerged from among leadership structure members.	1	2	3	4	5
17.	I have a clear understanding of my responsibilities in the leadership structure.	1	2	3	4	5
18.	I feel we are respect of one another's opinions.	1	2	3	4	5
19.	Our leadership structure meets often enough to meet our goals.	1	2	3	4	5

20.	I believe we are able to talk through disagreements in leadership structure meetings.	1	2	3	4	5
21.	When our leadership structure meets together we get a lot accomplished.	1	2	3	4	5
22.	Most of the decisions we make as a leadership structure are based on ideas offered by leadership structure members.	1	2	3	4	5
23.	I feel the way we make decisions as a leadership structure is fair to everyone.	1	2	3	4	5
24.	When we make leadership structure decisions we consider the diversity of people within our community.	1	2	3	4	5
Are we keeping our leadership structure sharp and on task?		<i>Never</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Frequently</i>	
25.	We talk about our leadership structure's goals and activity plan to improve our effectiveness in the community.	1	2	3	4	
26.	We talk about how we are working together so we can be more effective in what we do.	1	2	3	4	
27.	We talk about whether we have the right mix of persons on the leadership structure to represent the diversity of persons in our community.	1	2	3	4	
28.	We talk about whether every leadership structure member feels their ideas are being considered.	1	2	3	4	
How well are we engaging the community?		<i>Never</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Frequently</i>	
29.	Our leadership structure collects information about our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	
30.	Our leadership structure shares information with the community about our issue.	1	2	3	4	
31.	How often does our leadership structure work with newspapers, TV, and/or radio stations that serve our community to promote our issue?	1	2	3	4	
32.	How often does our leadership structure use "new media" (e.g., blogs, Tweets, text messaging, etc.) to promote our issue?	1	2	3	4	
33.	Our leadership structure provides information to community groups' websites about our issue.	1	2	3	4	
34.	Our leadership structure provides information to local elected officials about our issue.	1	2	3	4	
35.	Our leadership structure provides information to non-elected community leaders about our issue.	1	2	3	4	
36.	Our leadership structure participates in community-wide events to share information about our issue.	1	2	3	4	
37.	Our leadership structure meets with other community groups concerned with the well-being of those most affected by our issue.	1	2	3	4	
38.	Our leadership structure partners with other community groups to develop and implement local activities related to our issue.	1	2	3	4	
Are we becoming the "go to group" in the community on our issue?		<i>Never</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Frequently</i>	
39.	Our leadership structure is invited to participate in community-wide events because of our focus on our issue.	1	2	3	4	
40.	Our leadership structure is asked by the media about our issue because of our knowledge about it.	1	2	3	4	

41.	Our leadership structure is asked by local elected officials about our issue because of our knowledge about it.	1	2	3	4	
42.	Our leadership structure is asked by non-elected community leaders about our issue because of our knowledge about it.	1	2	3	4	
43.	Our leadership structure is asked by local groups of people with lived experience of our issue to help address the issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	
44.	Our leadership structure is asked by concerned groups to help address our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	
Are we "winning hearts and minds" in support of change in our community?		<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
45.	Our leadership structure has earned the trust of the community on our issue.	1	2	3	4	5
46.	Our leadership structure has helped some community organizations give more attention to our issue.	1	2	3	4	5
47.	Our leadership structure has increased knowledge and awareness in our community about the value of evidence-based programs that address our issue.	1	2	3	4	5
48.	Our leadership structure has increased the knowledge and awareness of funders about the need for resources to address our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
49.	Our leadership structure has effectively "stepped in" to support our issue when controversy has arisen in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
50.	Our leadership structure has effectively worked with other groups to support change on our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
51.	Our leadership structure has effectively overcome some barriers to address our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
It is becoming "normal" for our community to support the change we seek?		<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
52.	There is sufficient financial support for addressing our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	5
53.	I believe that my community fully supports the leadership of residents with lived experience in our issue in the community.	1	2	3	4	5
54.	I believe that my community fully supports efforts to address our issue, even if some people challenge them.	1	2	3	4	5
How satisfied am I as a leadership structure member?		<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Unsure</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
55.	I feel the time and energy I put into the leadership structure are worth it.	1	2	3	4	5
56.	I feel that our leadership structure is adequately supported by the funder.	1	2	3	4	5
57.	I feel that our leadership structure works cooperatively with the funder.	1	2	3	4	5
58.	I feel our team could be even stronger in our work to bring about change on our issue in our community.	1	2	3	4	5

For permissions to adapt and use this self-assessment and assistance on tailoring it for specific leadership structures, issues, and community contexts, please contact Tom Klaus at twklaus@nonprofitgp.com or call 240-319-8525.

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