



TOOL | Defining Our Issue

TOOL DESCRIPTION:

This tool invites you to think about the critical work of clarifying, and reaching agreement on, the scope and reach of your Collective Impact initiative. While it is important and useful to ensure there is agreement amongst your leadership regarding what IS and IS NOT included within the scope of your intended work, it is equally important to remember, that from time to time it might be necessary and or important to revisit, challenge or re-affirm your original scope, either in response to your changing community environment, or in light of unexpected opportunities or challenges.

TOOL HOW-TO:

1. Complete the worksheet either individually or in small groups. As much as you can, strive to ensure that your definition is clear, concrete and measurable.
2. If OUTCOMES and/or MEASURES already exist, be sure to write these up in advance
3. Be sure to identify and be up-front with potential community partners about parameters that cannot be changed.

TOOL DEBRIEF:

Possible debrief questions include:

- **Re: Our Issue**
 - How clearly have we defined our issue?
 - Have we identified the specific impact we hope to have regarding our issue?
 - What else would help us better define our impact?
- **Re: Outcomes & Measures**
 - What outcomes and measures already exist?
- **Re: Opportunities**
 - Is there consensus re: opportunities to be leveraged?
 - What initial actions can be taken to leverage these opportunities? By whom?
- **Re: Barriers**
 - Where do we see opportunities to overcome identified barriers?
 - What initial actions can be taken to leverage these opportunities? By whom?



Defining Our Issue Worksheet

Our Issue:

Outcomes and Measures:

What opportunities for change in our community can we leverage?

What barriers currently exist to prevent that change?