

Reading 1: The First Two Steps of the Grant Cycle

Partnerships and Collaborations

Many funders request, or even require, that partners or collaborators be participants in grant projects. They realize that the greater the number of people at the table, the higher the probability of success and the bigger the impact of the funding. By combining resources of several entities, the library is better equipped to solve community problems.



You will find that there are many community organizations that share the same goals as your library, goals such as promoting literacy, helping job seekers, or bridging the digital divide. For a partnership to work there must be common goals, mutual responsibilities, shared rewards, and plenty of communication. There should be someone designated to represent each partner. A partnership agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU) can be used to specify the details of your partnership in writing (I've shared an example in the *Week 1* section of the Supplementary Material page). This can help avoid the common difficulties that collaborators often encounter.

Examples of Potential Library Partners

- Schools
- Museums
- Churches
- Local businesses (banks, retail, restaurants, realtors)
- Economic development organizations
- Media (newspapers, radio, and TV stations)
- Senior centers
- Chamber of Commerce
- Community service organizations (Rotary, professional groups, fraternal societies, neighborhood groups, Boys and Girls Club)
- Government agencies (Family Services)
- Other libraries
- Nonprofit organizations
- Childcare facilities
- Homeschooling groups
- Technology centers or clubs