

Nine Habits of Successful Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalitions



The Nine Habits were developed based on a Comprehensive Cancer Control evaluation to identify the attributes of high-performing comprehensive cancer control coalitions. The evaluation was funded by a cooperative agreement with the American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Habit #1: Empowering Leadership

Strong coalition leaders show their leadership by welcoming decision making by their members. This empowerment builds trust and encourages accountability among members.

Habit #2: Value-added Collaboration

Members acknowledge and appreciate the benefits of forging alliances that might not be realized without the coalition.

Habit #3: Shared Decision Making

Shared decision making guides the coalition. Steps are put in place so that no one organization overpowers the decisions made by the coalition.

Habit #4: Dedicated Staff

Because the members of the coalition are volunteers, who often hold leadership positions within their own organizations, the burden of additional work for coalition members needs to be recognized and partially handled by dedicated staff.

Habit #5: Effective Communication

Coalition communication is a consistent and purposeful dialogue that uses all appropriate channels for discussion and feedback, including email, Web sites, phone calls, meetings, and newsletters.

Habit #6: Flexible Structure

The coalition structure is flexible, adapts to challenges, and facilitates implementation of the coalition plan. The coalition strives to operate in a way that maximizes the effective and efficient work of its coalition members.

Habit #7: Diversified Funding

Diversified funding can create wider support of and involvement in the coalition's efforts by a greater number of stakeholders and can allow the coalition to remain viable if one source of funding disappears.

Habit #8: Priority Work Plans

Work plans are developed around evidence-based strategies and clearly articulate the expected outcomes, methods to reach those outcomes, responsibilities, and timelines. The work plans are used to guide actions and are revised as challenges and opportunities arise.

Habit #9: Clear Roles and Accountability

Coalition members understand their roles and feel accountable for accomplishing agreed-upon tasks. Members understand the mission of the coalition and how they, as individuals, can help achieve that mission. Coalition member roles are defined and communicated both verbally and in written documents.