

THE BASE SET —



WHY THE BASE SET?

The Base Set is a set of measures for establishing whether or not a collaborative is aligning in terms of the [Framework for Aligning Sectors](#). It is not intended to reveal whether a collaborative or aligning effort is succeeding or creating positive change. Rather, it is designed to identify whether an organization reflects Aligning as a distinct form of collaboration. For thinking about how well an established aligning effort is progressing beyond the basics, the [Featured Set](#) may be more appropriate.

The Base Set includes measures falling into five categories that reflect the five sections of the Framework for Aligning Sectors: Sectors, Core Components, Adaptive Factors, Proximal Outcomes, and Distal Outcomes. Each area contains one to three measures.

Note that some of the measures require the user to infer the meaning of potentially ambiguous words like systematically, formally, explicitly, publicly, tendency, etc. In such cases, judgment and good faith should be exercised by the user. Users also are encouraged to define their final metrics and standards in relation to such words as those above when communicating about the Base Set, since this may help clarify those communications in group settings.

HOW TO USE

The Base Set can be used in any way a user likes, and people in different roles may want to use it for different reasons. Users may write down their responses to the items in the Base Set as a matter of personal reflection, or they may print out the items below and ask a group of people to provide their responses individually or come up with answers collectively. A user could even load the items into an online survey platform like Qualtrics and administer it as a survey to a large number of people. The possibilities are endless.

However the Base Set is fielded, an individual user with significant knowledge of a collaborative should be able to determine whether they think that collaborative is aligning in a formal sense or not after spending just a few minutes responding to the items below.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

If the answer to each question is “yes,” then the collaborative is aligning in a formal basic sense that is consistent with the Framework for Aligning Sectors. The collaborative may have not yet achieved all of its desired outcomes, but it is formally aligning at least at a basic level. Conversely, if the answer is “no” to any of the questions below, some basic building blocks of Aligning are still missing. The collaborative may be doing excellent and impactful work in some areas, but there are still a few differences between that work and aligning, in a formal sense.

ASSESSMENT

SECTORS

The sectors featured in the Framework for Aligning Sectors are health care, public health, and social services.

- Do practitioners from at least two of the sectors (health care, public health, and social services) regularly participate in collaborative activities?

☐ No

☐ Yes

CORE COMPONENTS

Shared Purpose

- Have organizations across sectors formally identified a succinct shared objective (or a short set of objectives) that addresses community-defined goals and needs, health equity, and racial equity? And is that shared objective publicly available?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Data

- Is data shared systematically across at least two organizations in at least two sectors?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Finance

- Is money transferred either (1) between organizations from at least two sectors or (2) between an organization representing the collaborative and organizations from at least two sectors?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Governance

- Are the leaders of the collaborative explicitly identified in a public place?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Do the top leaders of the collaborative (e.g., the leadership committee or board) come from at least two of the three sectors?

☐ No

☐ Yes

ADAPTIVE FACTORS

Community Voice

- Does top leadership include at least one member of the community most affected by the collaborative? Alternatively, is there a community leadership committee with representation and influence among top leadership?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Are there systematic efforts to determine and address the goals and needs of the community most affected by the collaborative? And is the community broadly represented when determining these goals and needs?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Power

- Does the stated shared objective identify empowerment of end users of the collaborative's services in each of the represented sectors as a focus?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Do end users of the collaborative's services in each of the represented sectors have the ability to set, override, or materially influence the strategy of the aligning organization or its projects?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Equity

- Does the stated shared objective call for a reduction in geographic or demographic differences in health outcomes in the community most affected by the collaborative? And specifically are racial differences in health outcomes in this community addressed?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Does the stated shared objective call for a reduction in geographic or demographic differences in health determinants such as prevention or the social determinants of health (for example, income or neighborhood safety)? And specifically are racial differences in health determinants in this community addressed?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Trust

- Are all cash flows between the aligning organizations publicly available for review?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Do members of the community that is most affected by the collaborative tend to trust the community members with decision-making influence in the collaborative?

☐ No

☐ Yes

PROXIMAL OUTCOMES

- Has the collaborative explicitly identified a need to transform, or actually transformed, its practices or the practices of others?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Has the collaborative explicitly identified a need to transform, or actually transformed, its formal policies or the policies of others?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Has the collaborative explicitly identified a need to transform, or actually transformed, the mindset of providers, policymakers, community members, participants in the collaborative, or people in some other specified audience?

☐ No

☐ Yes

DISTAL OUTCOMES

- Have specific goals and needs of a historically marginalized group (e.g., geographic or demographic) been defined for the collaborative by representatives of that group? And has meeting these goals and needs been made public as desired outcomes for the collaborative?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Has a specific measure of physical or mental health for a specific historically marginalized group (e.g., geographic or demographic) been defined by representatives of that group? And has that measure been made public as a measure of success for the collaborative?

☐ No

☐ Yes

- Has a specific measure of racial equity been defined by representatives identifying with that race group? And has that measure been made public as a measure of success for the collaborative?

☐ No

☐ Yes