Starting a Collaboration – Planning Conversation Guide

We’re excited that you are interested in starting a collaboration! MCF loves supporting member and non-members in taking action together. To help determine if a collaboration is the right vehicle for your interests, please start thinking through the following questions and initiate a conversation with MCF:

- **Who is the target audience for this proposed collaboration?**

- **What is the purpose(s) of this proposed collaboration?**

- **Would non-MCF members be included in this proposed collaboration? If so, how?**

- **Is this proposed collaboration (select all that apply):**
  - the maturing of a working group into a more action-oriented collaborative
  - a spin-off pooled fund, project or initiative from a working group or peer network
  - a funder group that wants to develop and advocate for its own independent policy agenda
  - a funder group that includes non-members or meets more than four times/year
  - a funder group that is ready to hire an external coordinator or other staff
  - an issue-focused funder group without an emphasis on public policy and systems change
  - an existing funders collaborative that would like to be housed at MCF
  - other

- **What are some activities this proposed collaboration would pursue?**

- **Please share any initial thinking around the collaboration’s:**
  - Leadership structure
  - Membership requirements
  - Funding model

- **Which of the following services might MCF provide (for a fee)? Select all that apply:**
  - Fiscal sponsorship
  - Collaboration staffing and coordination
  - Strategy and work plan development
  - Research and reporting
  - Consultant management
  - Event planning and registration
  - Online community management via MCF’s Hub
  - Agenda development and meeting facilitation
  - Work plan implementation and oversight
  - Event promotion via MCF channels and meeting space (free)

If a collaboration seems like the best fit based on a discussion of the above questions, MCF will work with the collaboration’s leadership to develop a contract for the services requested. MCF supports collaborations on a below market-rate fee-for-service basis, working with consultants as needed.

Collaborations will receive the support that an affiliated network or coalition receives until a fee-for-service arrangement is in place (see MCF role for affiliated networks and coalitions). MCF is not responsible for fundraising for collaborations. MCF contracts with collaborations will be revisited on an annual basis.