

Fostering Results-Oriented Coalitions

Background

This resource is adapted from the Learning to Action Log, which helps coalitions create a results-oriented culture—one that’s focused on meeting goals, not just completing tasks. Use the Learning to Action Log to assess whether activities are advancing your coalition’s goals and objectives and find opportunities to improve.



Using the Learning to Action Log

Use the Learning to Action Log to understand whether your coalition’s activities are helping to meet its goals. You can also use the tool at the end of an activity to capture lessons learned and inform future work. The Learning to Action Log has four sections:

1. **Objective.** In this first section, identify an objective you want to focus on. Pick from the objectives and activities you defined as part of strategic planning to advance your coalition’s mission and vision.
2. **Activity.** Describe the specific activity you are planning to achieve your objective.
3. **Process and results.** After you complete the activity, reflect on what happened. Consider if it went as planned, what you achieved, and whether the results were different from what you expected.
4. **Action-oriented learning.** Decide what you might do differently or better to achieve the objective.

Figure 1 provides an example of how a coalition might complete the log.

Figure 1. Example completed Learning to Action Log

1. Objective	2. Activity	3. Process and results (what happened?)	4. Action-oriented learning (future improvements)
Increase access to vegetables by partnering with the local farmers’ market.	Work with farmers’ market organizers to set up a system for accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.	We successfully established a partnership with the market organizers and implemented a system for vendors to accept SNAP benefits. However, some vendors were confused by the SNAP cards and others were not confident when using the new system.	We need to conduct additional rounds of training for vendors and provide on-site technical support. Training should be mandatory for all staff and business owners participating in the market.



Reflective questions

The action-oriented learning section of the log helps you understand how your coalition can improve its work. To help guide your coalition, ask yourself some specific reflection questions while filling out this column. For example:

- **Consider the results you achieved with this activity. Did these move you closer to your objective?**
 - If not, how might you execute the activity more effectively? What is another activity that could move you closer to your objective?
 - If yes, do you still think this will help your coalition achieve its vision? Or does it need new objectives?
- **What is the most important or surprising thing about what actually happened with your activity?**
- **What would you do differently in the future?**
- **How could you engage the community to understand their needs?**
- **What other steps can you take to improve (such as learning what other counties are doing, researching best practices, or looking for technical assistance)?**

Source

The content in this document was informed by the following resource:

- Fischer, B., D. Koleros, J. Anthony, J. Dickey, A. Martin, and T. Abrams Weintraub. "[Learning to Action Log](#)." n.d. (Note: You must create a free account to access this resource.)