When to Say "I Do" and Build a Long-Lasting Partnership

Chrissie Klinger, M. Ed.

Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy at
Penn State University

2024 PAACE Conference

Session Objectives

Identify key elements of building and maintaining strong partnerships.

Explore questions to ask partners.

Examine the benefits and challenges of a memorandum of understanding.

Determine which resources can best support your program goals.

Minute to Win It

Three C's of Partnerships

Cooperation

Collaboration

Coordination

(Mattessich, 2001)

Sort your partners

Elements of Strong Partnerships

Asking the Right Questions

Asking the Right Questions to the Right People

Benefits:

- Clearly defines roles and responsibilities.
- Can be helpful when there is staff turnover in keeping the program operating the same way.

Challenges:

- Might be required for some partnerships.
- Might be difficult to change and adjust programming.

Saying "I Do"

Benefits and Challenges of MOUs

When to Walk Away

Partnership is not sustainable.

Partnership does not benefit the adult learners in your program.

Partner is not willing to make a commitment of time, money, or resources.

Mission and Vision mis-match.

(Elsey, et al., 2016)

Partnership Inventory Tool

Partnership Inventory Tool

Partner	Type (education, workforce development, health & human services)	Purpose of partnership	Partnership activity	Partnership communication and frequency	What works?	What would help make it better?

Located at https://www.paadultedresources.org/data-collection/

(PAAER, 2021)

Additional Resources and Tools

Chrissie Klinger
cok5111@psu.edu
https://www.linkedin.com/in/chrissieklinger/

Elsey, B., Lanier, L., & Stadd, J. (2016). *Career pathways toolkit: an enhanced guide and workbook for system development.* U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Manhattan Strategy Group. https://lincs.ed.gov/professional-development/resource-collections/profile-957

Mattessich, P., Murray-Close, M., & Monsey, B. (2001). Collaboration: what makes it work. https://www.conservationgateway.org/Documents/3Cs_Table.pdf

PA Adult Education Resources (PAAER). (2021). Adult career pathways partnership inventory, https://www.paadultedresources.org/data-collection/

References