

Introduction

Foundation

The foundation of a local church coalition is local leadership. Leadership takes different forms in the various stages of coalition development. Depending on the coalition context and scope of activity, staff leadership may be needed. Whatever the stage or staffing, it takes a group of committed church leaders to fulfill the essential functions of a successful coalition.

Recommendations

The Coalition Leadership Guide offers recommendations drawing upon The Church Responds shared principles, general collaborative team-based leadership principles, and the experience of our local church coalitions. Though every coalition has a unique character, we believe these recommendations will help all coalitions fulfill their potential. We also welcome new insights from leadership teams on how to improve the content of the Guide.

Coalition Stages

The champion, launch, functional, and operational stages call for different forms of leadership, reflecting the progression from start-up to established organization. Depending on the need, the operational stage may come and go (such as home repair operations after a weather disaster). Ideally, all coalitions will reach the functional stage with a leadership team fulfilling the essential functions.

Leader Profile

Leadership teams that effectively engage and represent local churches consist of church leaders, including pastors, staff, and church members. Leaders of non-church entities (non-profits, businesses, etc.) may also serve, but we recommend that teams always consist primarily of church leaders.

Function and Form

The Coalition Leadership Guide describes the essential functions of successful coalitions. The leadership team and The Church Responds advisor discern the form and structure (size, scope, duration) the team will take.

The Church Responds Advisor

The Church Responds provides an advisor to guide, coach, and resource leadership teams in all coalition stages. *More information on the advisors may be found in “The Church Responds Advisor” section.*