

## Collaboration

The leadership team cultivates a collaborative, team-based approach to working together. We see collaborations, or “workgroups,” as multiple churches working together to address a particular need and as one of the most effective ways to mobilize the collective body of Christ.

### **Guidance**

The leadership team facilitates discernment of which critical needs to address collectively, catalyzes the formation of workgroups, helps identify leadership, and supports their work.

### **Participation**

Workgroup participants include church leaders and members and possibly representatives of community partners. A workgroup may consist of representatives from two or more, or all, coalition churches.

### **Leadership/Representation**

The leadership team and/or the workgroup identifies a workgroup leader who interfaces with the leadership team and coalition. The leader represents the workgroup in coalition gatherings.

### **Initiation**

When churches initiate a response to a community need, they may invite the collaboration of other churches and form a workgroup. Churches, or the leadership team, may bring a need to the coalition for collective consideration, around which a workgroup forms.

### **Range of Needs**

The leadership team guides the coalition’s discernment of needs to address. Outcomes may vary, from knowledge (location of food desert) to best practices (e.g., how to run a food pantry) or mobilizing volunteers (e.g., receiving and distributing food).

### **Rhythm and Duration**

We recommend that workgroups set clear goals, meet on a rhythm that fits the participants and purpose, and establish an estimated duration for the project.

### **Data Collection**

Workgroups may engage volunteers that generate measurable results, from volunteer hours to families served and in-kind distributions. The leadership team ensures that workgroups are well-equipped to gather data that tells their collaboration story.