

## 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.

