

Collective Impact Quality Indicators

National Autism Leadership Collaborative



The National Autism Leadership Collaborative (NALC) has adopted the vision statement “an idealized system of support for individuals with autism.” In that statement, “The National Autism Leadership Collaborative strongly endorses a visionary, collaborative, interagency state system that supports comprehensive and effective services for each individual with autism spectrum disorder across the lifespan.” NALC promotes the movement of state task forces and interagency organizations toward an idealized system of support-one that uses collective impact in order to be collaborative, timely, effective, and forward moving. That system must be capable of rapid and effective learning and adaptation. An organization may never reach its “idealized system,” but establishing this vision creates the greatest potential for meeting the needs and improving the outcomes for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

“Collective impact” is an evidence-based set of principles that supports organizations coming together to solve large-scale social problems. These guiding principles provide a framework for organizing seamless structures, activities, and outcomes that improve the lives of those they collectively serve.

The five conditions of collective impact, aligned with the indicators of an idealized system of support outlined in the NALC vision statement, provide guidance to NALC members in their quest to improve the leadership practices of their interagency state systems of support for persons with autism.

Conditions of Collective Impact	1 Low Impact	2 Mild Impact	3 Moderate Impact	4 High Impact	Alignment with NALC Vision Statement - Conditions of Idealized System of Support
Common Agenda	Participating agencies/ organizations do not have a shared vision for change and no common understanding of the social problem they face. There is no joint approach to solving the problem through an agreed upon action.	Participating agencies/ organizations have the beginnings of a shared vision for change and a basic understanding of the social problem they collectively face. There is a recognition that a joint approach to solve the problem is required but, to date, this approach is not in place.	Participating agencies/ organizations have drafted a shared vision for change based on a basic understanding of the identified social problem. An agreed upon approach to solving the program is in place and is in the initial stages of implementation.	All participating agencies/organizations have a shared vision for change, including a common understanding of the problem, a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon action, and the plan is in the stage of full implementation.	Influences and informs state policy Supports interagency collaboration resulting in shared funding, data, knowledge, communication and resources across systems.

<p>Shared Measurement</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations may or may not collect data, but do not measure results consistently across all agencies/ organizations. They do not ensure that efforts remain aligned, do not hold each other accountable, and do not have systems in place to do so.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations collect data at their individual organization level, have in place and discuss with partnering organizations the need for aligning measurement systems. However, they do not have systems in place for collecting data across systems or for holding each other accountable.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations' data collection is at the beginning stages of a coordinated system across agencies/ organizations. Alignment is the goal and initial steps are being implemented and procedures for holding each other accountable are known and are in beginning stages of implementation.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations collect data through a coordinated system, measure results consistently across all agencies/ organizations, and have systems in place to ensure that efforts remain aligned. Participating agencies/ organizations hold each other accountable and have procedures in place to do so.</p>	<p>Maintains accountability related to goals, strategies, targets, and measures of success</p> <p>Supports interagency collaboration resulting in shared funding, data, knowledge, communication and resources across systems.</p>
<p>Mutually Reinforcing Activities</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations' activities are not differentiated and are not coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.</p>	<p>Initial conversation and planning among participating agencies/ organizations is underway to determine steps in moving forward in developing a mutually reinforcing plan of action. The plan is not fully developed.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations' activities are differentiated and an initial plan of action is in development. The mutually reinforcing plan is not yet fully implemented.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations' activities are differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.</p>	<p>Influences and informs state policy</p> <p>Builds continuity of integrated services among state systems and organizations</p> <p>Supports interagency collaboration resulting in shared funding, data, knowledge, communication and resources across systems.</p>

<p>Continuous Communication</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations are not consistent and open in their communication.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations recognize and discuss the need that open communication is needed across organizations but have not created mutual objectives toward a common action.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations have communication systems in place and have created means of collecting data that support mutual objectives, but do not have evidence that mutual objectives create a clearly articulated plan of action.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations are consistent and open in their communication, assuring, through evidence, that mutual objectives create common motivation and a clearly articulated plan of action.</p>	<p>Builds capacity for sharing knowledge and skills across state agencies and service providers</p> <p>Supports interagency collaboration resulting in shared funding, data, knowledge, communication and resources across systems.</p>
<p>Backbone Support</p>	<p>A separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills does not currently exist. No organization currently serves as the backbone for the entire initiative nor coordinates the shared planning and implementation of participating organizations/ agencies.</p>	<p>Participating agencies/ organizations recognize the need for a backbone organization in order to support and coordinate the initiative, have established criteria for establishing the backbone organization, and have begun to explore possible organizations to serve in the backbone capacity.</p>	<p>A separate organization has been selected and is in the foundational/ formation stages of coordinating shared planning and implementation across participating agencies/ organizations.</p>	<p>A separate organization(s), with staff and a specific set of skills, serves as the backbone for the entire initiative and coordinates the shared planning and implementation of participating organizations/ agencies.</p>	<p>Creates and sustains ongoing leadership structures with key stakeholder involvement</p>