Handouts for Using Network Mapping to Influence Change

FOOD ACCESS SUMMIT

At the Crossroads:
Broadening our Reach,
Deepening our Impact

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Link for additional activities: **goo.gl/c6C39M**

Activity 1: Developing Network Leadership (1)

Network Weaving Checklist

Which network functions are you filling? Mark each from 1 to 5, with 5 being "major strength" and 1 being "lack this quality."

Connecting to strengthen the network

_____ 1. Love to discover other people's dreams and visions, strengths and gifts

_____ 2. Help people identify challenges & introduce them to others who can help

_____ 3. Model an approach to relationships that is positive and focused on strengths & gifts

_____ 4. Treat everyone as an equal

_____ 5. Encourage sharing information and resources with others without expecting anything in return from that person
    because you know others will share with you

_____ 6. Help people connect to others with different perspectives and from different backgrounds

_____ 7. Encourage people to listen deeply to each other

_____ 8. Connect people to others who share a similar interest

_____ 9. Help people make accurate and realistic assessments of others

_____10. Help people bring innovation and new perspectives into their network by adding new people to their network

Activity 1: Developing Network Leadership (2)

Network Weaving Checklist

Which network functions are you filling? Mark each from 1 to 5, with 5 being "major strength" and 1 being "lack this quality."

Coordinating & Supporting self-organized project

_____ 1. Good at identifying opportunities where a small action could make a difference in dealing with an issue or problem
_____ 2. Help people find others with similar interests and support them to form a collaborative project
_____ 3. Encourage people to spend time researching what others have done to work on this issue, and how their efforts might provide guidance for the project's actions
_____ 4. Have the skills needed for project success: good at setting up meetings, organizing communications, and tracking task
_____ 5. Initiate activities with people from different organizations or groups.
_____ 6. Not attached to specific next steps but enjoy helping people identifying and implement actions
_____ 7. Help people listen to each other respectfully and see how their different perspectives contribute to a better project
_____ 8. Help people stop and reflect about how a project is working and if they need to make changes
_____ 9. Sending reminders to make sure people know what tasks they are to do and are on track
____ 10. Encourage people to share about their project with larger network

Activity 1: Developing Network Leadership (3)

Network Weaving Checklist

Which network functions are you filling? Mark each from 1 to 5, with 5 being "major strength" and 1 being "lack this quality."

Facilitating groups or gatherings

_ _ _ _ _ 1. Convene people with common or overlapping interests to form an intentional network.

_ _ _ _ _ 2. Make sure meetings include time for relationship and trust building.

_ _ _ _ _ 3. Help people map (or identify) people in the network and see who needs to be added or connected

_ _ _ _ _ 4. Help the network participants become aligned through working to develop a network mindset.

_ _ _ _ _ 5. Enable a network to embed a network mindset in all its work and operations.

_ _ _ _ _ 6. Help the network map the system it is changing and identify leverage points where change is more likely to occur.

_ _ _ _ _ 7. Help facilitate the formation of working groups that focus on leverage points in a system.

_ _ _ _ _ 8. Do clustering activities to enable people in the network to identify common interests and form action groups to work on those interests.

_ _ _ _ _ 9. Help people in the network share what they are learning as they implement their projects.

_ _ _ _ _10. Find resources to support the functioning of the network

Activity 1:   Developing Network Leadership (4)

Network Weaving Checklist

Which network functions are you filling? Mark each from 1 to 5, with 5 being "major strength" and 1 being "lack this quality."

Building a supporting systems for the Network

_____ 1. Support, encourage and mentor network leadership.
_____ 2. Set up (or help network setup) communications systems so everyone knows what is happening, collaborative projects are supported,and learning is widely shared.
_____ 3. Help people in the network learn about social media and web platforms and how it can help people in the network communicate
        more effectively.
_____ 4. Provide training and coaching in network leadership, especially support for project coordinators.
_____ 5. Help set up Communities of Practice for network leadership to learn skills and offer each other peer support.
_____ 6. Make sure reflection and learning from projects is shared with the rest of the network so everyone benefits
_____ 7. Set up systems for just-in-time tracking of network mindset, network leadership, and network structures and helping network
        participants
_____ 8. Set up an innovation fund to provide seed funds for small collaborations
_____ 9. Encourage the network to create a new kind of resource system that includes network participant skills and innovative use of
        crowdfunding platforms.
_____10. Encourage funders to set up collaborative pools of funds and include participative decision-making that includes network
        participants.

Activity 2: Network Leadership Grid

What role does each of these functions have in creating greater inclusion & equity in the network? What are specific actions that can be taken as part of these functions?

Network Connector	Network Facilitator or Convenor
Network Project Coordinator	Network Guardian (support systems)

Activity 3: Why draw a network map?

Tips:
- There isn't a right or wrong way to create a map. This is about seeing our work from a network perspective and identifying small actions to make as healthier and more effective.
- To make our map most useful, choose and focus on **one specific event or project** with a beginning and end. (You could also use mapping and focus the map on an issue or opportunity).
- Print names and when you do it with others in your network you'll want to include names and organizations so everyone will know who is being referred to. If you know the organization or group but not a name leave a space for a name to be added later in the process.
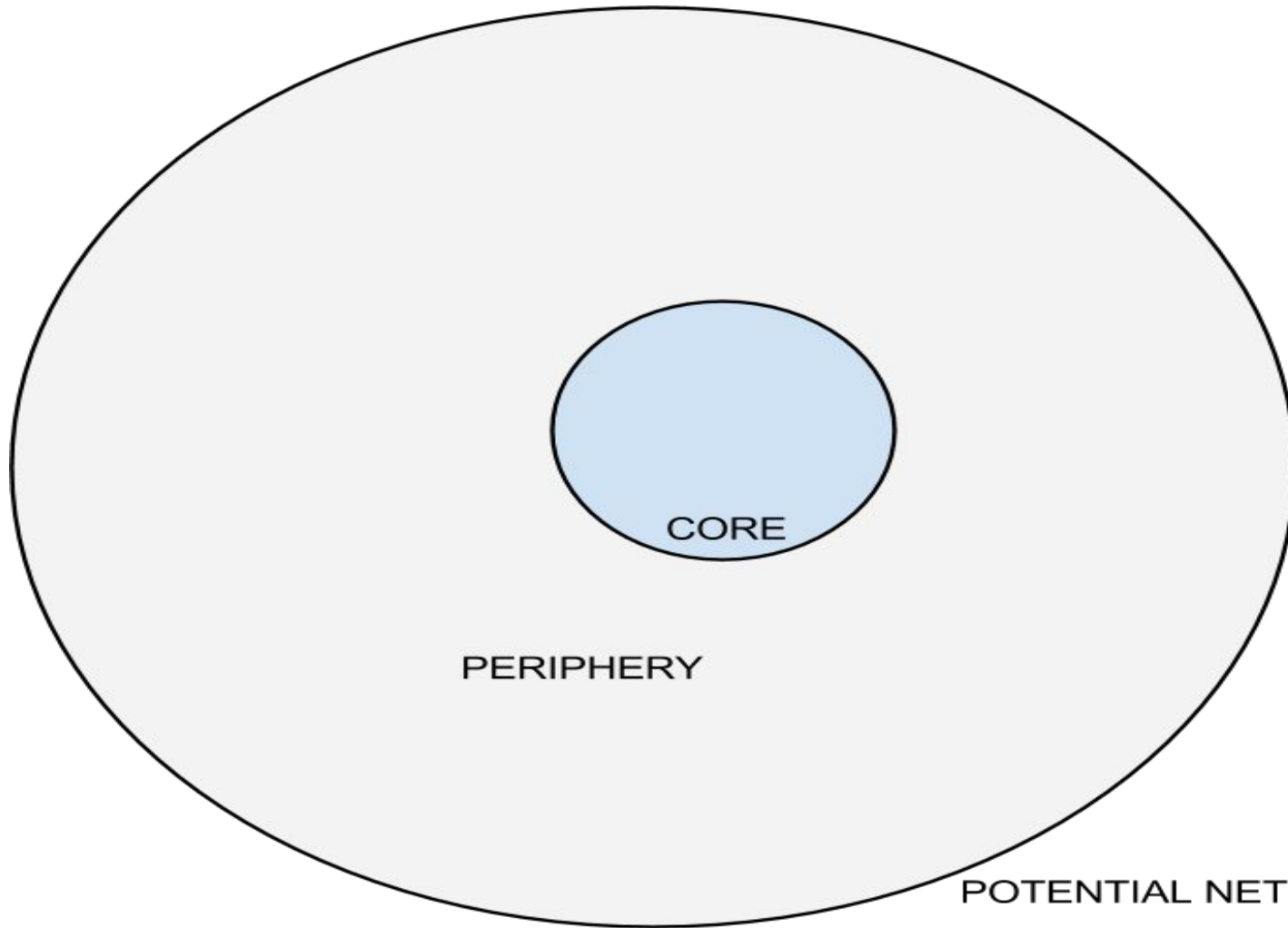
Key ideas:

CORE: Whois attends regularly and actively involved?

PERIPHERY: Who is involved and important to success but less directly or consistently involved than the Network Core?

POTENTIAL NETWORK: Who might be useful given the purpose of the group but isn't yet involved?

Map Focus:
_____

CORE

PERIPHERY

POTENTIAL NETWORK

Steps to draw a network map?

1. **Choose the focus** of the map.
2. **Start –** Place yourself on the map (Where do you land?)
3. **Ask** – What individuals and organizations are regularly involved? (Who is the CORE?)
   - Aim for 5-8 names with their organizations
   - Write them in the "core" circle
   - Place people who work together or know each other well near one another
4. **Ask** – Who do we involve or work with who can influence the success of this effort? (Who is the PERIPHERY?)
   - Aim for 10-16 names
   - Repeat instructions above, but write the names in the "periphery" circle
5. **Ask** – Who else – who isn't involved or who we aren't working with – do we personally know who shares our goals or may be interested and could help? (Who is the POTENTIAL NETWORK?)
   - Repeat instructions above, but write the names outside the circles
   - Add individuals/organizations you are not working with, but who could add value if they were involved. These are people who might offer new perspectives and ideas, people from other communities who share our commitment to youth and families, or people who might see our work with fresh eyes.
6. **Add lines** between individuals who have relationships with one another.
   - Use solid lines for people who have worked together (color 1)
   - Use dotted lines for people who know each other but haven't worked together
   - Use solid lines for people who you go to for advice, information, resources or expertise. (color 2)
   - Use arrows to show direction of information flow: one direction, two way or connected but not sharing info relevant to the network

Activity 4 - Who is Missing?

Missing group	People you know or know of from that group	"Bridge people" who can connect you with this group
Young people		
Older people		
People of different cultural or racial identities		
People directly impacted by the problem or issue		
People who are under-resourced		
People with access to resources, connections, or expertise need		
Other…..		

Commitments

What commitments
will you make?

What actions will you
take?

Resources

Network mapping activities:
goo.gl/c6C39M

An Introduction to Network Weaving (use code SPECIAL at www.networkweaver.com)

Network Weaver Handbook, A Guide to Transformational Networks (use code SPECIAL2 at www.networkweaver.com)

Network Weaving Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/339757846085496/

NETWORK WEAVER HANDBOOK

Resources

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