

TYPES OF PARTNERSHIPS: CONTINUUM OF COORDINATION¹

The following chart is an example of a continuum model where partnerships may fall depending on the role each partner takes within the collaborative. One of the key questions in determining where your partnership would sit on this model is “what do you want to achieve by the partnership?” As partnerships move along this continuum, some become more integrated as partners get to know each other better and the level of trust increases, while others may prefer a more autonomous relationship, using the partnership in a more informative way. A key characteristic that differs as you move along this continuum is the degree of decision-making authority each partner retains or is willing to give up. These three models are another way to think about the structure of your partnership.



Examples of Three Partnership Models		
Cooperative Model	Collaborative Model	Integrated Model
Each partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintains its own decision-making responsibility • remains autonomous • retains own identity • has own staff & budget • has full responsibility for its actions 	Each partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shares decision-making responsibility & authority • has particular roles and responsibilities • is accountable to the other • contributes resources • surrenders some measure of its autonomy 	Each partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transfers decision-making authority to a new structure/new entity • integrate resources with other partners • administers according to common policies and procedures • surrenders a considerable amount of its autonomy
Decision Making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by consensus • agreement not necessary in all cases 	Decision Making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by consensus • agreement necessary 	Decision Making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by vote if necessary • agreement necessary

¹ Adapted from: “The Partnership Toolkit: Tools for Building and Sustaining Partnerships”