



**NLADA**

National Legal Aid &  
Defender Association

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# Getting Started in Community Partnerships

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PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK SERIES

SESSION 2

AUGUST 23, 2017

# Welcome to *Partnerships that Work*

NLADA is excited to welcome you to Partnerships that Work, a five-part webinar series, helping civil and defender stakeholders to better understand the ins and outs of connecting their programs to federal resources.

The Partnerships That Work series is presented jointly by NLADA's Defender and Civil Legal Services Divisions as a collaborative effort to connect stakeholders across the civil and criminal justice landscapes to resources, partners, and to spark innovation. You can learn more and register for any of the sessions on our website at <http://www.nlada.org/webinars>.

# Best Practices in Building Partnerships

Think  
Strategically

Make  
the Ask

Use Data and  
Evidence

Branch Out

# Think Strategically

- Is your organization in a position to fulfill all of the requirements of your clients and community? Are you able to do this without providing redundant programs?
  - What is the unique value that your organization has to your clients or community?
  - Where are there gaps in your programs that might be filled by other organizations or peers?
  - Are you able to adequately measure the value of all of your work?
  - There will be cases where the partnership opportunity benefit is less than the cost of supporting the partnership. If the “extra” work is not mission aligned for your organization or clients, it may not always be worth it to take it on.

- Consider what stakeholders would make good partners. Many funders look favorably on partnerships or projects with strong support from stakeholders. What stakeholders might you work with to create a more successful project or have a greater impact?

- You may have existing informal partners who might play a part in existing programs or otherwise support your clients directly. Consider if formalizing the relationship is the right step.

- Think of your work as one stop on a long road trip. Where else might your clients stop in their journey? Are these stops before or after they come to you?

- For funding opportunities, knowing everyone who might participate in your work at the start will help you to identify opportunities that you might otherwise miss.

Make  
the Ask

- What portions of the this road trip journey is your office already involved in? How are you measuring this work?
- What are all the ways that increased funding, partnerships, or support could impact or improve your work?
  - In each case, how would potential partnerships impact your work and the outcomes of your clients in a measurable way? How would the data and results generated enable you and others to be more effective in the future?

## Use Data and Evidence

-For example: Imagine that you formed a partnership with an organization who receives transportation vouchers. This would allow your clients to be more able to attend key appointments and improved compliance with other responsibilities.

-How will you measure the value of the partnership?

-How will you measure the change in outcomes for your clients?

-How might you (and your partner) use this as justification to expand the voucher program?

- Based on your projects and potential partners' list, which government agencies or types of organizations might be interested in funding your work? Think about the words used and secondary stakeholders for each of these opportunities.

-Federal agencies like the National Institutes of Health and the National Institutes of Mental Health have programs focusing on mental health, the Department of Labor supports reentry and employment programming, the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have programs focusing on drug use, and USDOJ supports programming related to justice reform.

-Private foundations often fund affinity groups or focus on geographic areas. For example, Funders for LGBTQ represents funding opportunities totaling over \$1b annually, AAPIP focuses funds on Asian and Pacific Islander communities, ABFE's members invest in African American communities, McCormick Foundation has strong programming throughout IL and in the areas of community/poverty and veterans.



Branch  
Out

# Ellen McDonnell

## from the Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender

How has the Public Defender's Office built strong networks of partners in order to serve their clients more effectively and how have these partnerships helped them to access funding?

- How did they first begin to form a relationship with key law enforcement officers?
- How does the Public Defender's Office work to keep their partnerships healthy and growing?
- What are the Public Defender's Office's partnership experiences within Federal grants?
  - Applying for a SmartDefense grant and lessons learned about the application process
  - Working directly with Law Enforcement towards a common goal



# Stephanie Harris

## from the Ohio State Legal Services Association

How has OSLSA built strong networks of partners in order to serve their clients more effectively and how have these partnerships helped them to access funding?

- How does OSLSA use ADAMH Board partnerships to support their efforts?
  - How are the players involved key in this work and in other projects?
- What are OSLSA's partnership experiences within Federal grants?
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Act
  - HUD and DOJ Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program
  - Southeastern Ohio Legal Services programs

# Guidance from the Field

- Have you had direct experience forming community partnerships?
- In what ways is your office set up to support community partnerships?
- How can NLADA help the help you to feel more prepared for this process?
- What types of funding partnerships would you like to learn more about?

# For More Information:

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