

## COALITION SUSTAINABILITY CHARACTERISTICS

To be sustainable as an organization, a coalition should have following characteristics.

1. **Diversity in funding sources.** The coalition is not dependent on any single type or source of funding, but instead relies on a variety of sources: in-kind contributions from members, government agencies, foundations, or corporations/businesses; individual contributions; income-generating ventures; member dues, fundraising events; and fees for service.
2. **Ability to generate funds internally.** The coalition is not totally dependent on external donations or grants, but receives significant in-kind support from its lead agency and partners.
3. **Multi-year funding.** The coalition has some multi-year grants or contracts and does not have to raise the full amount of its budget each year.
4. **Involvement in significant activities that address continuing needs.** The coalition is engaged in work that addresses community concerns and is worthy of continuing support.
5. **“Program” capacity.** The coalition is effective and demonstrates positive outcomes that justify its existence. Member organizations collaborate to provide high quality information or services.
6. **Adherence to clear values or operating principles.** The coalition is guided by shared values that are reflected in its priorities, strategies, and day-to-day operations.
7. **Core leadership with strong commitment.** The coalition has a leadership team that is committed to the coalition, keeps it focused, resolves conflicts and carries out its work.
8. **Management capacity.** The coalition has sound financial and program management policies and procedures and staff who consistently implement them.
9. **Constituency or support group.** The coalition has individual and organizational members who value and support its work and speak on its behalf.
10. **Power and influence.** The coalition is respected and credible because of its values, members, and work, enabling it to influence others.

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Adapted from *Mosaica*. (2005). Sustainability. Washington, DC