

Local College Access Network Community Readiness Assessment

Forming a local college access network to solve the complex challenge of helping more students particularly underserved populations access and persist through postsecondary education requires community-wide support and engagement. Before beginning the work of bringing people together, it is helpful to assess whether conditions exist in your local community that are favorable to a successful network following a collective impact framework. Take this assessment to determine the areas that might need attention before reaching out to community leaders.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Are the prerequisites in place?					
We have a strong champion who can attract / mobilize community leaders.					
There is agreement and a sense of urgency in our community that postsecondary access and success needs a community solution.					
We have educational partners who welcome support.					
Assessing community player readiness					
We have willing partners in our nonprofit community support organizations.					
The business and economic development sector in our community "gets it".					
Our local government and school board are supportive of a community solution.					
We have advocates who care about postsecondary access and success in the funder community.					
Assessing community cooperation readiness					
Our community is open to trying new approaches (even some that might fail) and working together to help more students pursue postsecondary success.					
We are willing to agree on metrics to measure our progress and to share information with our network partners.					
We are willing to support the common agenda, rather than just our individual organization's point of view.					
We are open to seeking help from outside expert facilitators.					
Our community leaders are willing to provide resources (staff, supplies, financial) to move the common agenda of postsecondary access and success forward.					
We are interested in hearing student and parent voices to better understand the barriers <i>they</i> perceive to be in the way of greater access and success.					

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	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Assessing backbone organizational support readiness					
We have a community organization who could provide early coordinating and organizing support.					
This community organization is seen as a neutral party able to hear and respect all points of view.					
This community organization has deep community relationships that can help bring influential leaders to the table.					

If most of your answers were “agree” or “strongly agree”, congratulations! You have a community that works well together and is committed to collaborating in order to ensure more students not only get into college, they have the support they need to succeed in attaining a postsecondary credential.

If you have more than 5 areas where your answers were “neutral”, “disagree” or “strongly disagree”, don’t get discouraged. This is complex work. You have identified areas where some community will-building is necessary to lay a strong foundation for success.

Florida College Access Network is here to help!

We can share resources, data and examples from other Florida LCANs to help you lay a strong foundation for a multi-sector approach. For more information go to: FloridaCollegeAccess.org.

Ready to get started?

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