Who is the Civic & Volunteer Groups Sector?

Civic and Volunteer Groups include community groups, service clubs, and mutual aid groups. They help improve the community by bringing people together and offering support.

These groups work where people live and spend time, so they can build trust and strong relationships. They often provide peer support and understand the needs of their community. Coalitions can work with them to build connections, reduce stigma, and make sure people get the help they need.

How can Civic & Volunteer Groups support recovery?

Civic and volunteer groups help by meeting people where they are and offering care and support. They are a strong link between formal services and everyday life.

To make the biggest impact, civic and volunteer groups and coalitions can:

- **Create welcoming spaces**: Help people feel accepted and comfortable asking for help.
- **Offer peer support:** Provide support from people who have lived experience.
- **Use volunteers to help quickly**: Assist with needs like rides, housing, childcare, and food.
- **Connect people to services**: Help link community members to treatment and support programs.
- **Reach more people**: Connect with individuals who may not use traditional services.
- **Build local leaders**: Support people in recovery to become leaders and role models.
- **Raise awareness**: Teach the community about mental health and recovery.
- **Build strengths**: Help people and families grow stronger and more resilient.

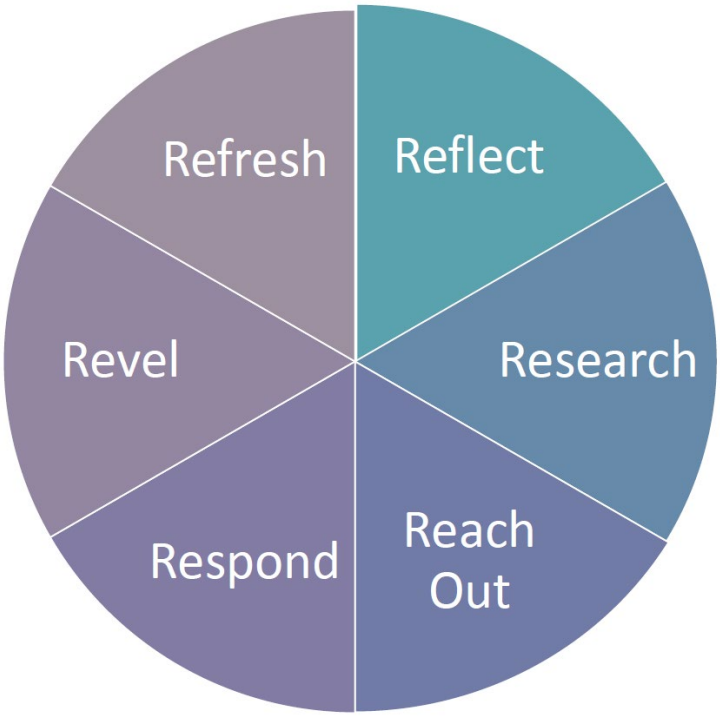
How can coalitions work with Civic & Volunteer Groups?

- Treat these groups as equal partners in planning and decisions.
- Offer recovery and peer support services in trusted community spaces.
- Create simple ways to connect people to services and resources.
- Provide training on trauma-informed and culturally respectful care.
- Share clear messages that reduce stigma and encourage help-seeking.
- Support leadership growth for volunteers and people with lived experience.

Building Partnerships and Collaboration

- Partnership building ***takes time*** – choose wisely and be patient.
- Partnership building requires ***vulnerability*** – trust is earned.
- Partnership building requires ***self-awareness*** – both individually and organizationally.
- The best partnerships are ***mutually beneficial.***
- The best partnerships have ***clear boundaries*** and ***open communication***.

Six Rs for Remarkable Partnerships



Reflect	What do I want to achieve with my next great partnership?
Research	• Who do I know that is like minded and shares an affinity for what we are doing? • Who I am acquainted with that knows another person that shares an affinity for what we are doing? • What organization(s) has caught my eye or done something that you thought was cool, or worth doing, etc. • Get to know your person or organization of interest!
Reach Out	• Be confident in your ask. Remember it is better to offer them something they want first to build that trust. • Choose the right person or opportunity. • Don't look to close the deal on your first. Enjoy the process! • Get out of your comfort zone. • Be kind.
Respond	• Do what you said you would do. • Be honest, if a partnership isn't going to work despite all your research it is better to be upfront and kind. • Start simple and build the relationship. • The long journey begins with the first step.
Revel	• Celebrate small and large steps together. • Social media is a great way to do that, put the other group in your newsletter, share their marketing material, and co-brand materials announcements. • Say thank you and conduct follow-up debriefing meetings. • Compliment your partner in public meetings. • Be proud of what you accomplished and announce future plans.
Refresh	• Build new partnerships with your community partners. • Deconstruct your work to improve future activities/projects. • Keep repeating the 6Rs for great outcomes and sustainability. • Have fun!

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