

PARTNERSHIP READINESS ASSESSMENT

Center for Community Engagement

Thank you for considering partnering with CSU Channel Islands (CSUCI) as a service-learning site for students! Being a partner has tremendous benefits from increasing volunteer resources to leveraging resources with the University. Through the partnership, you play a vital role in contributing and preparing the next generation of community leaders, non-profit employees, and public servants. Understanding this role and assessing the readiness of your organization through the questions posed below is important to do so prior to fully committing to the partnership.

1. MISSION & PROJECTS

The partnership should enhance your organization's goals and your objectives, while simultaneously providing relevant opportunities for students that span over several months. As you reflect on your organization's readiness, ask yourself the following questions to reflect on how partnering with the University will advance your mission and assist with the projects you have planned currently and for the future.

- How does partnering with CSUCI help us achieve the mission of our organization?
- What projects can be identified clearly and effectively as opportunities for partnership? How will university students participate in those projects?
- Are the projects identified at least a semester-long in timeline? How will students be engaged for the duration of a semester?

2. INTERNAL READINESS

As an organization, your internal readiness to pursue this partnership is essential to creating a foundation for future success. Below are some questions to consider as you reflect on how internally ready your organization is to allocate time and energy. Contemplate about the capacity your organization has to acquire the responsibility of meeting with students and campus faculty. Service-learning is more than a one-day volunteer event and will require consistent staff time, expertise and dedication.

- Would staff members of our organization be supportive in pursuing this partnership? What staff members of our organization will serve as key contacts for the partnership, serving as the direct liaison to faculty members, the Center for Community Engagement staff, and students?
- What is our current capacity to supervise students? Will partnering promote our work as students come to our organization to collaborate? Will our work be hindered due to student involvement and limited staffing to adequately supervise them?
- How will this partnership be perceived - as a collaborative way to achieve the goals of the organization or otherwise?
- What time and energy can be allocated to the partnership to make it successful?
- What physical resources can be leveraged to ensure the partnership will work (workspace for students, materials needed for projects, etc.?)

- Does this site and staff prioritize equitable practices? These can be reflected in agency mission statement and program goals; site environment reflects diversity and inclusion; all constituencies (students in service, staff, clients, and volunteers) are treated equitably with care and support.
- Do you feel prepared to accept and support qualified students of varying backgrounds? (Including race, religion, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, health related condition, age, disability, veteran status, immigration status, political belief, etc.).

3. EXTERNAL READINESS

Reflect on your constituents, those most involved with your work and those directly responsible for your organization. Carefully consider their perceptions and contributions to partnering with the University. Think about how they will see the value added by this collaboration.

- How will the populations served by your organization react to the partnership? How will the presence of students affect their connection and comfortability with your organization?
- How will your stakeholders support the partnership?
- How would you leverage the partnership to bring visibility and resources to your organization?

4. OUTCOMES




Visualize what the outcomes would be from the partnership. Carefully consider how you would evaluate whether goals and objectives were met. Know in advance what you expect and how that will be communicated should expectations not be met.

- What are your expectations of the partnership and how will those be met?
- How will you evaluate the partnership as to whether it adds value to your organization?
- How will you vocalize issues that need to be addressed?
- What ways can you include faculty and students to reflect on how to enhance the collaboration for future service-learning projects?

We appreciate you taking the time to assess your readiness to partner! Doing so makes all the difference in proceeding to create a partnership that adds value to the work your organization is doing, creates a strong foundation for collectively working together and promotes the sustainability of the collaboration. Thank you!

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Contact us if you would like to discuss in further detail about partnering!
We look forward to the conversation!

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