

Types of Partnerships: Continuum of Coordination

The following chart depicts a partnership continuum model. The role each partner takes within the collaborative determines where a partnership falls within the continuum. What you want to achieve through the partnership is key to determining where your partnership will fall within the model. As partnerships move along this continuum, some become more integrated as partners get to know each other better and the level of trust increases. Others may prefer a relationship in which partners act independently of each other and simply share information. A key characteristic that differs as you move along the continuum is the degree of decision-making authority each partner retains or is willing to give up. These three models provide a way to think about the structure of your partnership.



Examples of Three Partnership Models		
Cooperative Model	Collaborative Model	Integrated Model
<p>Each partner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains its own decision-making responsibility. • Remains autonomous. • Retains its own identity. • Has its own staff & budget. • Has full responsibility for its actions. 	<p>Each partner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shares decision-making responsibility & authority. • Has specific roles and responsibilities. • Is accountable to the other. • Contributes resources. • Surrenders some measure of its autonomy. 	<p>Each partner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfers decision-making authority to a new structure/new entity. • Integrates resources with other partners. • Administers according to common policies and procedures. • Surrenders a considerable amount of its autonomy.
<p>Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By consensus. • Agreement not necessary in all cases. 	<p>Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By consensus. • Agreement necessary. 	<p>Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By vote if necessary. • Agreement necessary.