

## Implementation Strategies Simplified: Approaches to Support Change

# Learning Collaboratives

### What



**Learning Collaboratives (LCs)** assemble groups of organizations, teams, or providers with the goal of implementing a new program and/or improving outcomes.

**Activities may include:**

- Shared learning and problem-solving
- Expert topical didactics
- Collecting & reporting on common metrics
- Conducting rapid change cycles

### Who



**are LCs intended for?**

- **Multidisciplinary teams** of program providers and leaders from multiple sites who may benefit from peer-to-peer, expert-facilitated organizational change.

**are LCs conducted by?**

- **Experts in: process improvement**, implementation support, or technical assistance; **presenting** pragmatic experience; **and engaging systems leaders** who might provide financial and logistical support.

### How



**do LCs work?**

- **Scheduled meetings** (monthly or quarterly). Duration varies by topic complexity, funding availability, and requirements for measures being used.
- **In-person meetings are optimal** to build relationships, **though** virtual collaboratives are becoming more common.
- **Between-meeting activities** include emails, listservs, didactic webinars, and facilitation.

### Why



**use LCs?**

LCs are often used for **complex programs supported by multidisciplinary teams in general and behavioral healthcare**, such as

- integrated behavioral health in primary care,
- medications for addiction treatment, and
- assertive community treatment for persons with severe mental illnesses.

## Considerations



Variants such as **learning communities or communities of practice** may be used when the evidence for the innovation is less robust, resources are limited, or provider motivation and time is more variable. However, research shows these are less likely to result in practice change.

When planning a learning collaboration, other **considerations include:**

- **Input from diverse partners**
- **Attention to cultural adaptations** (e.g., program leads review language access, translation of materials)

## Resources

Key citation: [Learning Collaboratives: a Strategy for Quality Improvement and Implementation in Behavioral Health](#)

Planning tool: [Planning with Purpose: A Guide to Learning Collaboratives](#)

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