



**Objective: Establish collaborative relationships and share resources across network.**

The Toolkit information-gathering process consistently identified a priority of establishing collaborative relationships and sharing resources throughout the AUCD Network. Resource and information sharing relationships can be mutually beneficial.

Collaborative partnerships, in particular, consist of sharing resources and coordinating efforts to achieve a shared objective. UCEDDs or LENDs, for example, may want to share resources and other information in a joint effort to accomplish a common objective. Resources shared may include information, consultation, and expertise resulting in cost and time savings. Benefits of partnering with other centers also include the avoidance of unnecessary duplication of efforts and services, reaching a wider audience and broader distribution of ideas and services, and greater accomplishments that otherwise might not be possible if working independently.

**Strategies:**

1. Utilize AUCD website resources to identify AUCD network colleagues for collaboration, and resources to utilize.
2. Ensure clear expectations for action following every conference or meeting, and in every collaboration. Develop action items at the end of each meeting, or within 24-48 hours afterward. This will ensure talk is followed by action. Follow-up builds trust.
3. Intentionally recruit people from diverse backgrounds to give feedback related to an event, meeting, or collaboration. Implement continuous improvements based on feedback.
4. Contact people personally, using as much connection as possible (in-person, Skype, phone, email, and social media) to enhance relationships.
5. Create opportunities for staff and faculty to work across disciplines, teams, and the AUCD network to enhance collaborations.
6. (UCEDDs only) Ensure Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) participation in AUCD's Council on Community Advocacy (COCA), and provide opportunities for information flow between Center and Councils through staff participants.
7. Ensure staff participation in AUCD's Multicultural Council (MCC), and provide opportunities for information flow between Center and Councils through staff participants.
8. Identify, share, and present successes in toolkit website, so network members can learn from each other.

9. (UCEDDs only) Use each meeting of Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) members or other advocates as an opportunity to inform all Center staff, faculty, and trainees. Develop materials with participant comments. Share in Center and AUCD newsletters and with AUCD's Council on Community Advocacy (COCA).
10. Ensure that UCEDD/LEND trainees are aware of nearby UCEDD/LEND programs, the AUCD network and trainee community, and the AUCD conferences. Encourage collaboration within the Network.
11. Encourage UCEDD/LEND trainees to share information about AUCD and other disability resource organizations with peers in their own disciplines and/or leaders in their own communities.