

Sustainability

Seven Habits of Highly Sustainable Coalitions

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) studied the practices of coalitions that have withstood the test of time and have identified the following commonalities:

1. Guard capacity. Do not extend beyond the limits of the coalition.
2. Track progress. The coalition must know its status relative to its goals.
3. Focus on the goal and do not get distracted by the other issues that may arise.
4. Seek local support first.
5. Always add value. Look for ways to seek new partnerships, raise funds, or develop partnerships that will add value to the program.
6. Tell a story. Stories tell funders about coalition priorities and build capacity by promoting solidarity, sharing the past present and future.
7. Keep learning. There is always room to learn and grow. Keeping an open mind allows coalitions to become resilient and better able to adapt to changes.

Dean, A. (2005). Sustainability primer: Fostering long-term change to create drug-free communities. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute. To view PDF visit: http://www.coalitioninstitute.org/Coalition_Resources/PrimerSeriesHome.asp.