

Collective Impact Sessions

The Collaborative is designed to help establish, continue, refine and/or support shared efforts between community partners. The sessions will also provide dedicated time for partners to think through and discuss their work together, including potential applications for funding by Connecticut Community Foundation.

Session 1: The Unified Front of Maternal Health | September 22 | 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

This kickoff session will focus on building a shared awareness of the regional landscape and fostering alignment on the need and value of collaboration among the cohort. The group will use the map of collective services and supports to explore areas of overlap, gaps, and opportunities. Finally, they will prioritize specific areas where collaboration across organizations will better serve the needs of families navigating the maternal health system.

Session 2: Aligning Community Aspirations | October 7 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Building upon the areas of priority identified in Session 1, this session will introduce a human-centered design approach to ground the cohort's collaborative efforts. We will invite individuals with lived experience, such as local mothers, families who have recently navigated the maternal care system, and maternal health advocates, to partner in a cohort brainstorming session. By co-designing with these individuals, the cohort will gain greater clarity on what to prioritize and how organizations can work jointly to address systemic gaps and improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

Session 3: The Playbook for Interdependence | October 29 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

In our final session, we will outline the factors the cohort believes are critical for effective organization-to-organization collaboration and joint grant-seeking. This input will form the foundation of a playbook for action and collaboration. The cohort will define how they will work together as a unified front, establishing clear communication protocols, shared metrics for measuring progress, and mutual accountability measures.

This session will conclude with the formalization of a shared commitment and the outline of a joint grant application concept, ensuring that every participant leaves with a collaborator and the confidence to leverage their collective resources to advance maternal health in Waterbury.

Session 4: Collaborative Implementation in Motion | TBD based on participant schedule

This fourth session shifts the cohort from planning for collaboration to practicing in collaboration. With the grant funded and joint work underway, the group will revisit the playbook built in Session 3 and test it against lived experience. The group will surface what is and isn't working in practice, troubleshoot specific points of friction, and recommit to or revise their shared agreements as needed. The session will also create space to celebrate early wins. The cohort will leave with a refreshed, realistic action plan for the remainder of the grant period and clarity on what kind of ongoing support (including any adjustments to implementation coaching) would help sustain momentum.