

Organizational Self-Interest Worksheet

When you are bringing new members into your coalition, it is important to get clear about what people are looking to get out of the coalition (self-interest) and what they are willing to contribute (resources and capacity). The following fill-in-the-blank worksheet is one that some of our trainers have used in real coalitions as part of new member onboarding. It is also useful to collectively share answers to these worksheets with all coalition members so that everyone is on the same page about what each organization is contributing and hoping to gain.

To support your learning within this workshop, we recommend practicing filling out this worksheet for your organization.

Organization Name: _____

Who are the people that you organize?: _____

(Please list how you identify "your people"- e.g. tenants at X apartment complex; poor and working class residents of X neighborhood, young people in public schools, etc.)

What relationship(s) do you have with people who hold power:

[Add the actual people your campaign is making demands of so groups can be clear about who you mean]

How you want involvement in this coalition to build your organization:

(please check no more than three and provide details if you can)

Benefit	Details
☐ Winning resources your organization can use	
☐ New Relationships with other organizations	
☐ Developing leadership within your organization	
☐ Engaging residents in your community	
☐ Concrete wins related to the xxx campaigns:	

☐ Building relationships with elected officials (who:_____)	
☐ Increasing your organization's visibility	
☐ Increasing your organization's membership (and/or develop leadership of members)	
☐ Other	

How your organization will contribute its resources to the coalition:

(check all that apply)

Resource	Details
☐ Meeting space for hosting monthly meetings	
☐ Bringing members/constituents/clients/ etc. to large coalition-organized community meetings, trainings, events, etc.	
☐ Money ("dues"), based on our ability, to help pay for coalition expenses	The amount your organization is willing to contribute for the 2025-26 year: \$ _____
☐ Staff time to play a leadership role (ie facilitate meetings/coordination and logistics)	
☐ Other things/resources your organization is willing to commit to strengthen and carry out of the work of the insert your coalition	

Use these journal prompts to help you reflect on your organization's self-interest and next steps with your coalition.

? Having answered these questions for your organization, what did you learn about your organization and its reason(s) for being in your coalition?



What's more possible if all the organizations in your coalition fill out this worksheet?
What would be challenging about having them do so?



What are your next steps for learning about member organization's self-interest?
How will you navigate the challenges you outlined above? One option we encourage is to share your specific questions and challenges with us so we can discuss/practice them during our live session together. You can submit them in the learning portal when you are done with the self-paced learning portion.