

Planning with partners: who to involve

Plan who should be involved before the design is settled. Note why their involvement matters, what role they will have, whether they will be paid, and when they will hear how their input was used. Begin with trusted, reviewed partner lists and organizations named by the people affected. Do not choose partners from a quick web search alone.

Content

Inside DHS: begin with the Equity Director for the administration and the people responsible for accessibility and language access. Involve communications, the policy or rule owner, procurement, and county or provider partners when the work requires their knowledge or authority.

Community: begin with organizations named by the person or family and existing groups of people with lived experience. Be clear about what you are asking, how their input will be used, and whether they will be paid.

Tribal Nations: if the work touches a Nation, Native children, Tribal data, services, or land, contact the Office of Indian Policy or follow the Tribal liaison process first. Consultation is government-to-government and is distinct from stakeholder engagement.

For each partner, record the purpose, how they will take part, whether they will be paid, who maintains the relationship, and when you will report back.

Next steps

- **Open a community brief for partner guidance** — program page /minnesota-communities
- **Community engagement path** — program page /practice/gp-3

Practice paths this supports

- New program or service concept
- Community engagement or co-design effort