

WORKSHEET

Exploring Your System

MODULE 2



OBJECTIVE: To understand what a health ecosystem is and how stakeholders in that system impact one another, including financial connections.

TIME: 20-30 minutes (or more if you'd like)

MATERIALS:

- One copy of this worksheet (for leading the discussion)
- Flip chart or white board
- Markers

PARTICIPANTS: *The more stakeholders that participate in this worksheet, the more insightful your diagram will be, so assemble as many members of your multisector partnership or organizational stakeholders as possible; try to get a good sampling of perspectives/sectors.*

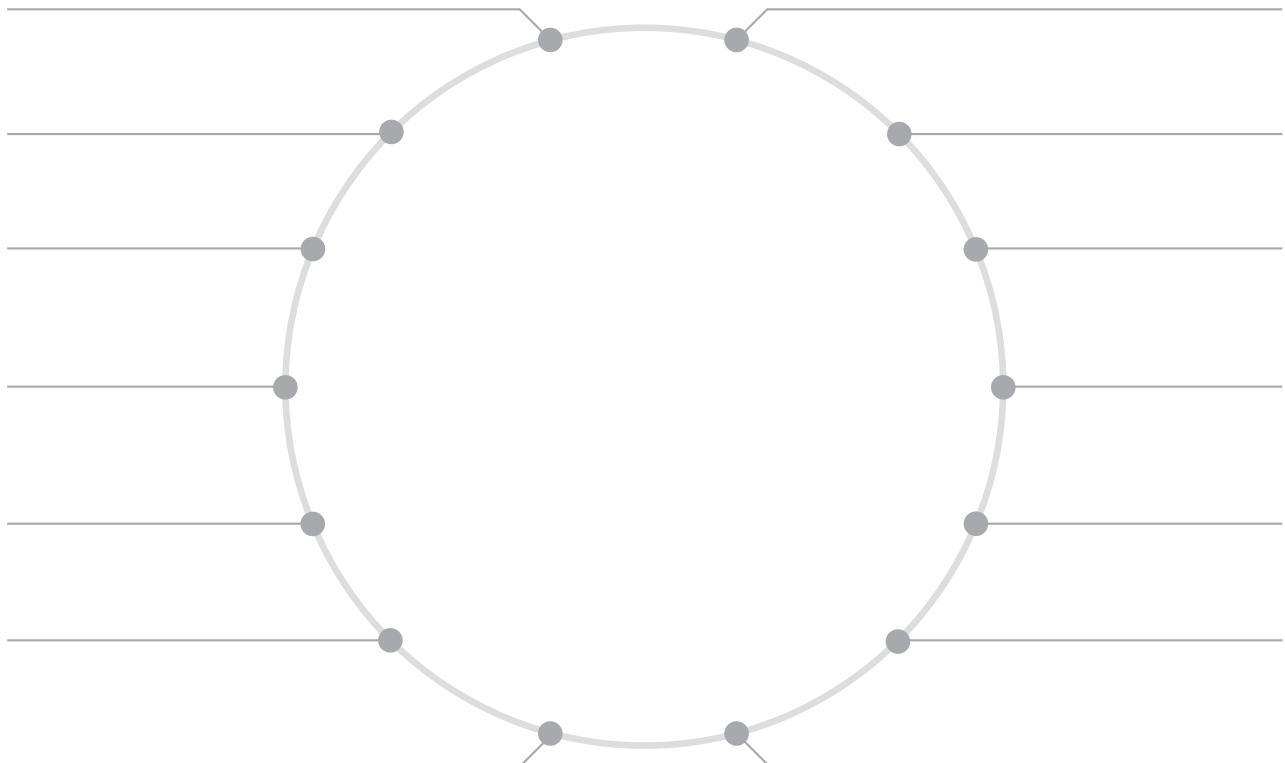
A note before starting

While you've been asked to think about a specific intervention as you step through this workbook, for this worksheet you should think generally about all of the activities in which your partnership or organization is engaged. You need to think broadly in this exercise, and getting too specific in this worksheet will actually limit your ability to do that.

STEP 1

On a white board or flip chart paper, draw a large circle, as shown in Figure 1. Ask each participant to write the name of their organization on the periphery.

Figure 1.

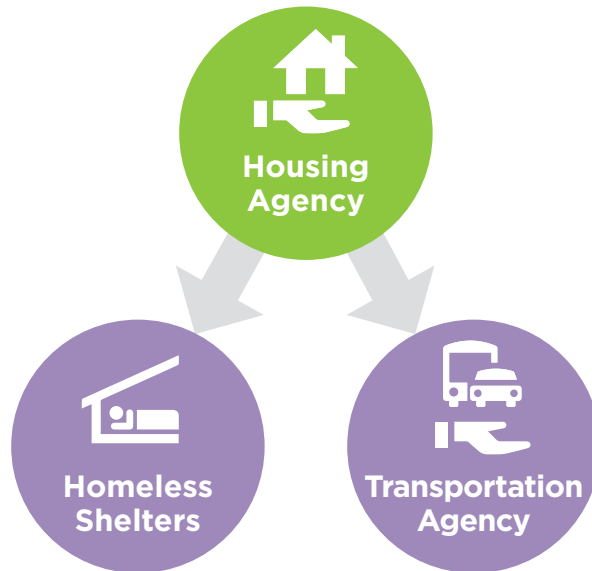


STEP 2

Ask each stakeholder to identify two other organizations represented on the circle whose decisions impact their work. (Examples: a lack of chemical dependency treatment in prison means more emergency department visits for my hospital, the local government's underinvestment in public transportation means less preventive care provided in local clinics, etc.).

On the circle, ask each stakeholder to draw a line between themselves and the other two organizations they identified.

FOR EXAMPLE



STEP 3

Once everyone has completed Step 2, go around the table again, but reverse the direction of the impact by asking each stakeholder to identify two organizations whose work is impacted by that stakeholder.

Ask each stakeholder to draw a line across the circle between themselves and the other two organizations they identified.

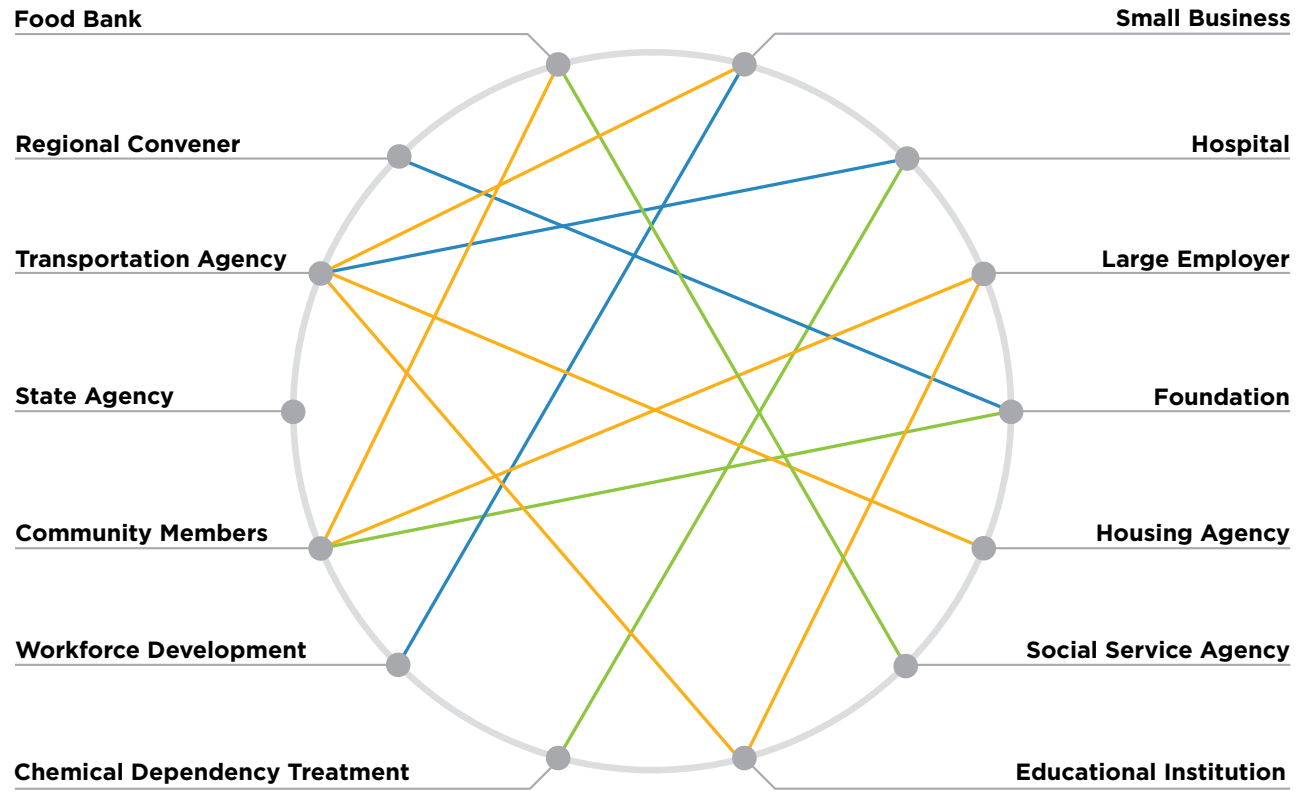
FOR EXAMPLE





Figure 2 below is an example of how your diagram may look after you finish this step. (The names provided are just examples; your diagram should have the names of specific organizations when possible.)

Figure 2.



STEP 4

As a group, look at the resulting diagram and discuss the following questions:

1. What sort of picture emerges? Do some organizations have more connections than others? If so, why is that? Are there any surprises?
2. Beyond the four connections (two in each direction) each participant already provided, what other critical connections may be missing?
3. Does the diagram suggest any important areas for alignment of interests? If so, what are those areas?
4. How are the identified organizations linked financially? What are the implications of those linkages? (For example, perhaps a multisector partnership improves the health of the community and reduces admissions to a local hospital. This would be an important financial connection.)