

# PLANNING FOR ACTION

This worksheet builds on our Theory of Change to help you decide which action area you would like to pursue and begin to develop a strategy for addressing it.

**Before you begin, make sure that you have:**

- Read our Theory of Change
- Selected a Call to Action that you are motivated to pursue

## PART 1: RELATIONSHIPS

Expanding your network is a great place to start because it can simultaneously build multiple forms of capacity, which is the key ingredient for achieving social change. You may find that another organization is already working on your selected issue, in which case you can support their efforts, work together and/or choose a new problem area to focus on.

**First, consider your existing networks:**

**What relationships do you hold with people who might be relevant to this call to action?**

These might be through work, social relationships, community, etc.

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**How might these support or inhibit your capacity?**

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**Next, consider other connections that could build your capacity:**

**Are there any individuals, community organizations, or institutions that have similar values, needs, or motives? Can you support or collaborate with them?**

For some suggestions of who to contact, we have started a list: [INSERT HYPERLINK](#)

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## **PART 2: RESOURCES**

Opportunity refers to the external factors that allow you to take action, and it is one of the major elements of your capacity for social change. While some of these factors are beyond your control, it is possible to increase your degree of opportunity by building up your resource base.

**Consider what resources you have access to in your current roles:**

**Do you have relationships with any key decision-makers at your institutions?**

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**Are you aware of any funding you might be able to access for this work?**

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**How much time can you make available?**

Remember, one hour a week can be enough to make new contacts or move a project forward.

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**Consider how you might gain additional resources:**

**Do the people you plan to reach out to have time, money, or connections?**

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**Are there grants that you can apply for?**

Grants can be from government or an institution, you might find them through ...

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**Can you plan a meeting with someone who might help you develop or access resources?**

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**Can you recruit volunteers?**

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### **PART 3: CAPABILITIES**

Now that you have established your motivations, relationships, and resources, the next component of capacity-building to consider is your collective capabilities, otherwise known as your knowledge and skills.

**Brainstorm the existing knowledge and skills that you can utilize:**

- Knowledge of decision-making processes
- Knowledge gained from lived experience

- Story-telling abilities
- Interpersonal skills
- Leadership skills
- Policy writing
- Plain language writing
- Grant writing
- Research skills
- Social media skills
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#### **PART 4: REFLECTION**

**Reflecting on your answers, do you feel most capable of working within HEI institutions or outside of them (ie government or community organizations)?**

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**Do you want to work on putting resources into students' hands or making structural changes that reduce costs/barriers?**

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**Consider these questions and their responses when looking at the flowchart. If you click on/hover over each of the four Action Areas, you will get more detailed information about them.**