

# WHY WORK TOGETHER IN COMMUNITIES?

America faces great challenges as we approach the year 2026 – the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding.

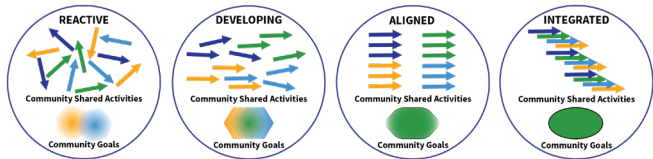
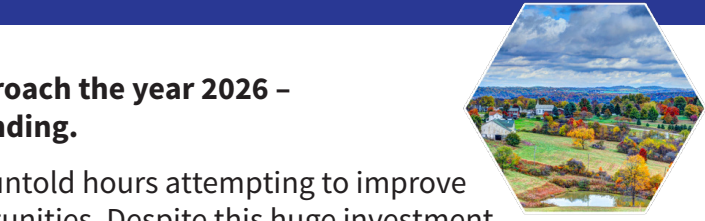
Every year we invest trillions of dollars and untold hours attempting to improve our health, education, and economic opportunities. Despite this huge investment, many U.S. communities are struggling to provide adequate health care, education, and jobs to their residents and are ill-prepared for natural, environmental, economic, or other disasters.

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated how important it is for us to work together. Competition for resources, siloed activities across sectors, and duplication of efforts across organizations and businesses in communities are just a few of the many challenges we are facing. Communities benefit from a systematic approach familiar to and used by all entities within their communities that ensures federal, state, local, and private sector efforts are aligned and integrated to maximize their benefit and impact.

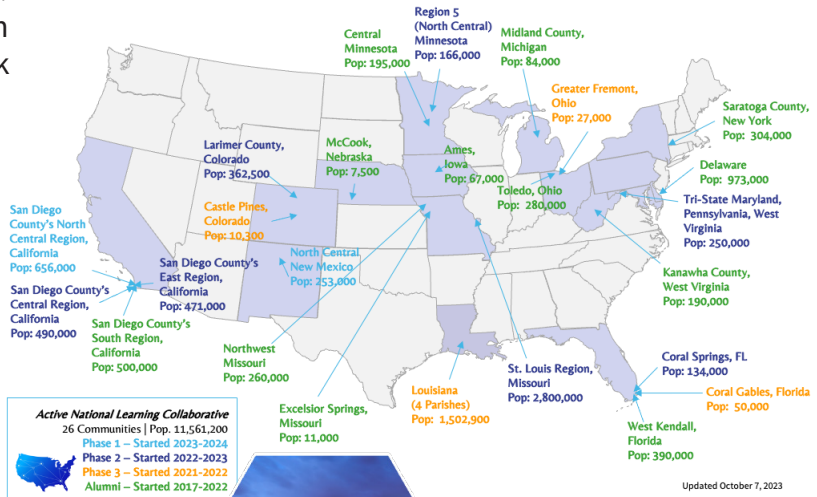
An approach exists to address these issues at a community level!

The Communities of Excellence Framework and National Learning Collaborative guides leaders in applying systems-thinking and performance excellence concepts and values to their multi-sector collaborative work.

This framework is being used by 26 communities in 15 states representing a collective population of over 11,000,000 people as a roadmap to addressing their most pressing problems. It is based on criteria developed by the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program. For 32 years the Baldrige Program at NIST has provided a framework to enable and achieve a systems approach to excellence within organizations, generating an estimated \$1 billion in economic benefit annually. Now they are partnering with Communities of Excellence 2026 as a private sector partner to do the same for entire communities.



## communities of excellence<sup>2026</sup>



# communities of excellence<sup>2026</sup> National Learning Collaborative

## TAKE YOUR COMMUNITY TO THE NEXT LEVEL THROUGH A BIG PICTURE APPROACH

The Communities of Excellence National Learning Collaborative provides multi-sector groups with a facilitated roadmap for leadership development, communitywide collaboration, and data-driven decision making and action planning to improve outcomes.



Contact us today to learn more:

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# WHAT IS THE COLLABORATIVE?

The Communities of Excellence National Learning Collaborative is a three-phase program that includes communities from across the country learning and sharing together. With the guidance of facilitators and mentors, they work in their respective communities to grow community engagement and visible progress towards community performance excellence that improves outcomes in the areas of health, education, economy, housing, and other key aspects of quality of life.



A Systems Approach in Communities



## WHAT YOU WILL EXPERIENCE

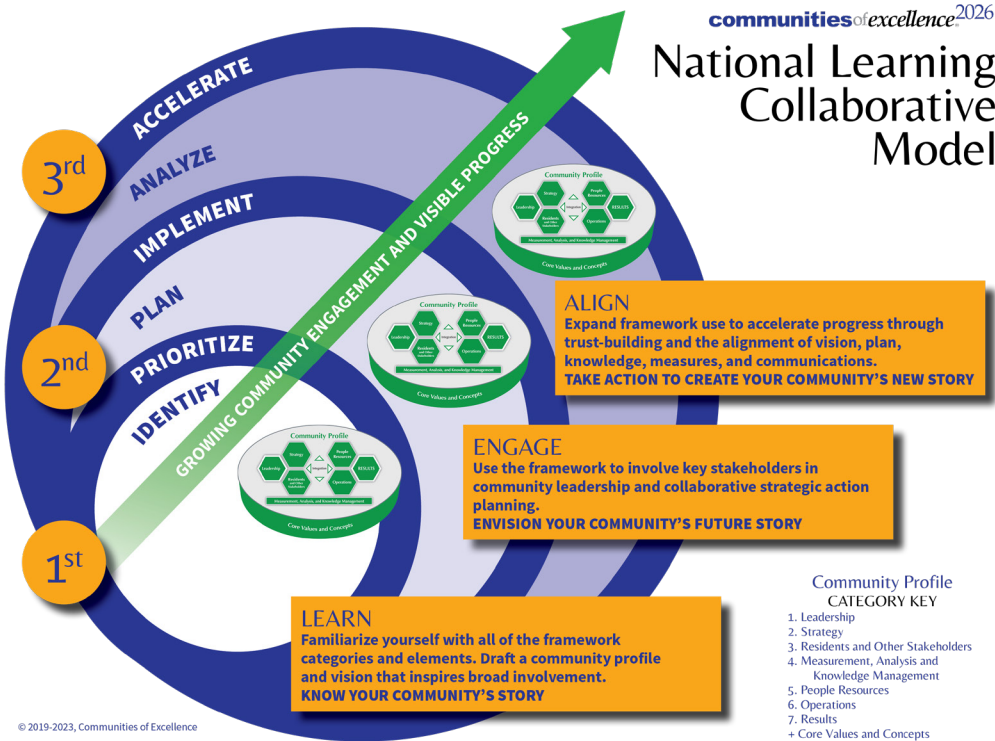
- 1. Guided support** to adopt the Communities of Excellence Framework as your roadmap to build your cross-sector collaborative team, its leadership skills, and achieve meaningful, equitable, and accelerated social impact through strategic thinking and action.
- 2. Leadership training** in systems thinking, team building, listening, collaborative decision-making, and other critical skills we all need to ensure the capacity within our communities to succeed in this work.
- 3. Data scorecard and decision support** to understand your community, believe that you are making the best decisions possible for your residents, know what's working and track progress, and successfully tell the stories that need to be told.
- 4. Mentorship and connections** to other leaders through a network of participating communities and experienced community development and Baldrige professionals.

## ARE YOU INTERESTING IN JOINING US?

### We are looking for groups of individuals in communities that:

- Have commitments from members of key sectors such as health, education, business, government, social services and safety, as well as generations to participate; OR
- Have a pre-existing community collaborative team representing multiple sectors. This could take many forms including regional coalitions or a pre-existing collaborative.
- Have an identified backbone organization(s) that will provide the ongoing support required to sustain the effort and serve as the main contact.
- Possess a strong desire to learn.
- Are willing to share generously and commit the time and resources required to meaningfully engage in implementing the Communities of Excellence Framework.
- Have an interest in OR knowledge of quality improvement principles (including the Baldrige Excellence Framework) OR a strong desire to learn.

# A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT IN A HIGH-PERFORMING TEAM FOR YOUR COMMUNITY'S SUCCESS!



## communities of excellence 2026 National Learning Collaborative Model

**SIGN UP AND PAY FOR ALL THREE PHASES AT ONCE AND RECEIVE A \$10,000 DISCOUNT!**

**Phase 1 - \$25,000/year  
Phase 2 - \$25,000/year  
Phase 3 - \$25,000/year**

**STAY ENGAGED!**

**Alumni Network - \$2,000 or \$5,000/year with mentor and two COE Fall Conference registrations.**

### Participation costs include the following from Communities of Excellence Experts and Partners:

- Leadership Skills Workshop
- Hands-ons Guidance from COE Faculty and your own Mentor on implementing the COE Framework
- Tools and Worksheets for every step of the journey
- Online COE Common Scorecard, Cascading Measures, and Data Toolkit
- Strategic Planning, Process Design, Storytelling, and other key support methodologies matched to your group's readiness level and need.
- Communities of Excellence Framework and Detailed Journey Roadmap (10 printed copies)
- Access to a 2-hour monthly online session with your phase cohort taught and facilitated by the COE Faculty Team.
- Access to a 1-hour monthly Special Topic All Cohort session • Access to a 1-hour monthly meeting with a COE mentor.
- 2 COE Fall Conference registrations.
- Access to the COE online portal for community members.

