



SUMMARY

While the nonprofit sector has been set at a structural disadvantage in many ways for participating in social movements, it also boasts many unique characteristics and resources that can be leveraged for effective social change that goes beyond daily nonprofit services. Collaboration is a well-known best practice for organizational efficiency and can be enacted in the form of coalitions of social movements for more effective and unified change. Based on a literature review of existing knowledge and expert interviews, this document concludes with recommendations for both individual nonprofits and coalitions as a whole to prepare for social movement work and intentional collaboration for systemic change and success.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this research is to explore the niche abilities and advantages of the nonprofit sector to take part in broader social change through coalitions. It also discusses widely-accepted best practices that nonprofit organizations and their coalitions can adopt for successful coalition action and societal impact. Nonprofits have a significant role to play in social change and bring many resources and talents to the tables of coalitions; however, coalitions must be built with care and intention in order to structure their foundations and activities for long-term relationships and movement success.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is the nonprofit sector's unique role in participating in social movements?
- What advantages and strengths does the coalition platform provide for its members and movement?
- What general best practices can be applied for social movement success regarding nonprofit involvement in coalitions?

METHODS

LITERATURE REVIEW: Examination of existing literature from academic, professional and nonprofit resources, articles and academic journals. The literature review covers:

- The nonprofit sector's role in social movements
- Nonprofit organization's unique abilities and limitations in participating in social movements through coalitions
- The power of coalitions in social movements
- Best practices for setting up coalitions with nonprofit members for success

EXPERT INTERVIEWS: 6 expert interviews were conducted with community organizers, foundation professionals and coalition leaders to gain insight into their perceptions of the nonprofit sector's role in social change,

DATA AND ANALYSIS

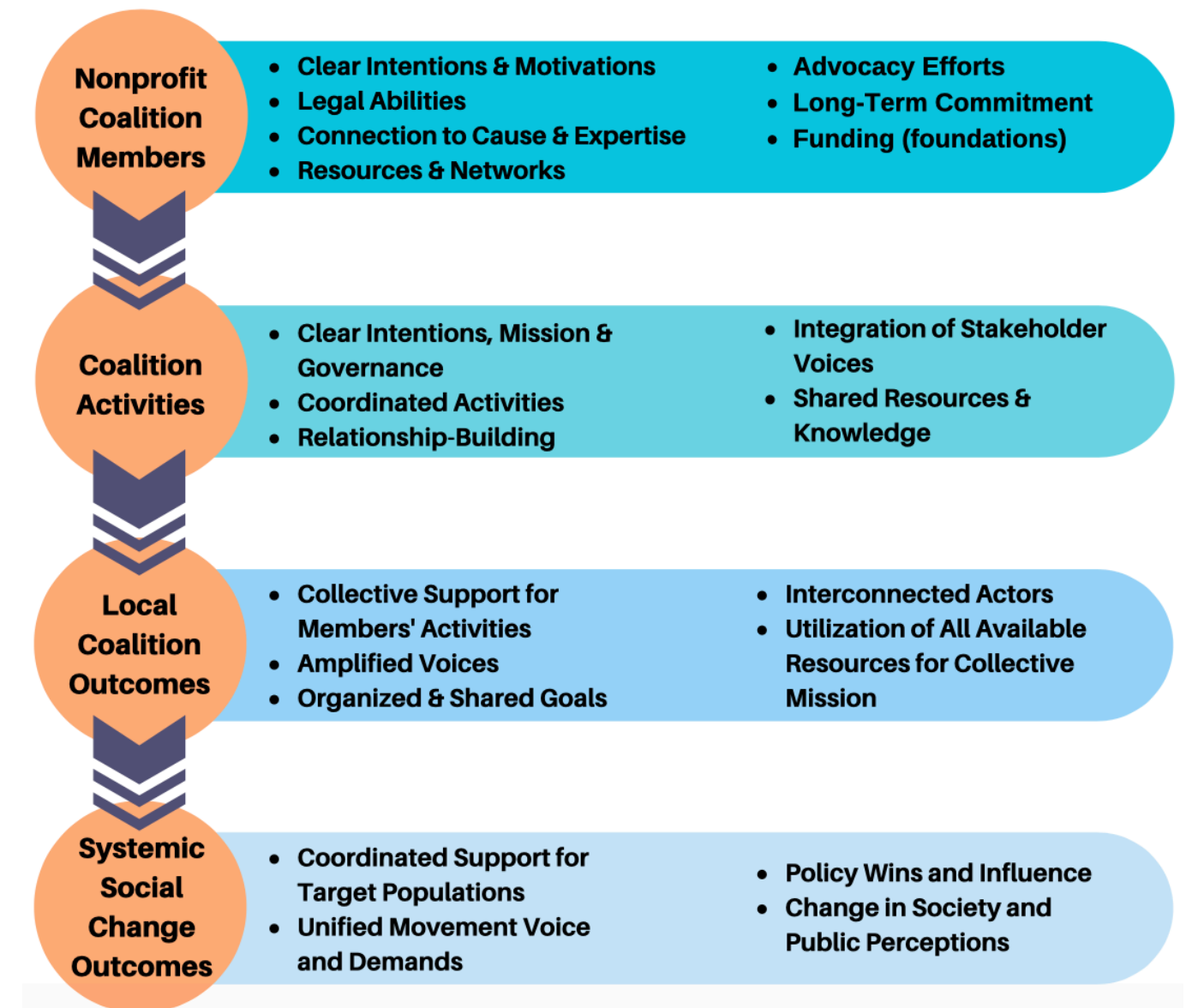
Literature Review

Nonprofits' Roles & Abilities	The Power of Coalitions	Rooting Down Successful Coalitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systemic history of nonprofit industry to continue cycles of oppression • Benefits and limitations of nonprofit legal structure • Connection to the cause • Expertise & Established Networks • Funding Ability (Foundations) • Advocacy & Lobbying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations are more powerful than individuals • Shared Resources • Magnified Voices • Coordinated Activities • Knowledge-Sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating the Voices of the Marginalized • Clarity of Coalition Intentions • Clear Governance & Delegation of Duties • Long-Term Commitment • Engaging & Stretching Across Multiple Constituencies

Expert Interviews



IMPLICATIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS

For Nonprofits:

1. Identify your intentions & resources for coalition participation.
2. Commit for the long run.
3. Foundations: fund consciously to empower the movement, not control it.

For Coalitions:

1. Clarify your intentions, mission and governance structure.
2. Build relationships and network.
3. Coordinate activities and movement actions together.

REFERENCES

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