Impact Collaborative April 2019 National Summit Results at a Glance

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Overview

26 Project and Program teams across Cooperative Extension representing 36 institutions attended the Impact Collaborative in Atlanta for a unique opportunity to create impactful results at the local level by increasing Cooperative Extension's organizational readiness and capacity for innovation and change. Teams were connected with skills, tools, resources, and partners that helped expand and deepen their impact.

Partners representing organizations external to Cooperative Extension were invited to attend the Impact Collaborative Summit and participated in our first national Partner Forum, with a guided discussion by leaders from the Institute for the Future. This forum was designed to connect private and public sector organizations focused on community impact, including leaders from Cooperative Extension, and look for future opportunities to engage collectively. After the forum, partners had the opportunity to spend time talking with teams and learning more about the work they are doing to make an impact in their states, locales, and across the nation.

After three days of hard work, teams participated in a LaunchFest where they presented their project or program to a panel of partners and Cooperative Extension leaders. As a result of their work, teams deemed most ready to launch within their region have a pre-approved application for a $5000 grant that brings new capacity to their project. All teams have an opportunity to apply for a $5000 grant to bring new capacity to their project and attend the October Impact Collaborative Summit.

eXtension will continue its support of all project and program teams through *Engage & Empower Online*, our new resource that offers Impact Collaborative teams and Innovation Facilitators unique professional development opportunities including webinars and learning circles, exclusive access to publications and presentations, access to a new online version of the Impact Collaborative Innovation Skill-Building Experience tool, and a place where the Impact Collaborative can continue to connect teams with the resources they may need to continue project or program growth towards increasing innovation and local impact.

New Program Framework and the Impact Collaborative Tools

Project and program teams were guided by assigned primary and secondary coaches (Impact Collaborative Facilitators) and key informants to use the new Propelling Community Impact framework and rubric to gauge their "growth stage" in five key areas, including who their audience is, why/purpose of the project/program, what the project/program entails, how it will be implemented, and is it ready to "launch". To help teams answer the critical questions to a successful project, teams and their coaches used the rubric as a self-assessment tool at the beginning of the Summit and again at the end of the Summit to see their growth, if any, in those key areas of success. Coaches used the Impact Collaborative Innovation Skill-Building Kit Workbook and additional tools like Persona templates, Team Readiness Checklist, and the Project Roadmap to support teams "where they are" throughout the Summit. Visualization Station Key Informants provided additional help for teams to uncover programmatic gaps, focus, and/or "tell their story" using concept mapping, systems mapping, ripple mapping, asset mapping, graphic recordings, etc. Launchfest Appraisers used the Propelling Community Impact Rubric to rate Team presentations/projects for readiness for launching and additional opportunities such as an opportunity grant and/or additional mentoring post Summit.

Results at a Glance

In Attendance

A. 168 Total Participants
   a. 26 teams representing 36 institutions/5 cooperative Extension regions
   b. 16 Trained Impact Collaborative Coaches representing 13 institutions/5 Cooperative Extension Regions
   c. 10 Key Informants
   d. 9 eXtension Staff Members
   e. 25 External Partners

Event Evaluation

A. 87% will recommend the Impact Collaborative Summit to others
B. 86% indicate they now have a path forward to enable them to achieve project implementation
C. Aspects of the event found most useful (Select all that apply)
   a. Time with team (71%)

       b. Propelling Community Impact Framework (68%)
       c. Visualization Stations (58%)
       d. Pop-up Sharing (56%)
       e. LaunchFest (46%)
D. What the Impact Collaborative offers that you can't get anywhere else.
       a. Resources and Support
              i. Sample Responses
                    1. It provided great tools and a collaborative space to walk through many steps of developing an idea into a valuable
                    2. Group of experts outside of my project to give insight and bounce ideas with and individualized coaching
       b. Structure/Organization of Event
              i. Sample Responses
                    1. Engaging environment
                    2. Focused time to work on a project and help from key informants and coaches to to guide the process, provide input, etc.
       c. Content
              i. Sample Responses
                    1. I appreciated the different frameworks for thinking through a project.
                    2. Time with the Visualization Station: graphic recording and Mapping (Concept, Asset, Systems, Partnership, Conversation, etc.)
       d. Supportive Resources
              i. 91% indicated that coaches and key informants were effective, supportive, timely, and engaging.
E. 84% indicated they received what they needed from the Impact Collaborative Summit.
F. Additional Thoughts
       a. Everyone was so helpful. I feel like I gained a lot from the conference even though I was unable to stay for the whole event.
       b. I came in not knowing fully what to expect as our project idea was very new. I loved being a part of the project development process. Thank you for this! I would love to do it again.
       c. Coach John was absolutely invaluable. There's no way we would have been able to present anything without his guidance.
       d. Thank you so much for this excellent learning opportunity
       e. Loved our coach Kit!! She was vital to our success. Renee's contribution was priceless— she was able to clarify and unify our ideas and thoughts when we needed direction.

Team Leader Post Summit Evaluation

A. In what ways did the Impact Collaborative Summit help your team?
    a. New Ideas (81.8%)
    b. New techniques and tools (68.2%)
    c. Team Growth (68.2%)
    d. New innovation or increased innovation (63.6%)
    e. Filled gaps in project planning (54.5%)
    f. Uncover gaps in project planning (54.5%)
    g. Gave ways to tell project story (54.5%)
    h. New support (54.4%)
    i. Refined/new purpose (50%)
    j. New partnerships (36.4%)
B. In what ways did your project idea change because of attending the Summit?
    a. We learned new ways to help motivate participants of our program by speaking with people at the impact collaborative and brainstorming ideas
    b. The summit process in addition to key informant feedback/coaching expanded concept planning while further focusing our project's approach and strategy.
    c. We were able to further think through the innovative steps and utilize the propeller framework to further define the key ideas
C. What additional help does your team need?
    a. Continued access to eXtension resources and tools & networking.
    b. Need for video production training, and funding sources.
    c. Continued support to define and implement propeller, we loved the innovation station in helping us conceptualize things!

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