

Tri-Cities Community-Based Planning Project



Tri-Cities CBF Model

Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership facilitated the Made in Tri-Cities Community-Based Planning Project (CBP) from 2022-2024. The aim was to explore if a Community-Based Planning & Funding (CBF) approach could lead to the development and delivery of more effective and responsive services within the local settlement sector. Social Research & Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) was the learning partner focusing on the research components.

Components of the Funding Model

- Accountability and Reporting:** Promote the systematic gathering of accurate, timely, objective, reliable and useful information for the community and funder.
- Community Outreach and Engagement:** An ongoing process that could include community consultations with newcomers and community members. It seeks to provide information and updates as well as receive input from the community.
- Newcomers' Access to Services:** The system that is required to implement the CBF and improve efficiency and access to services.
- Community Entity (organization):** The entity which would liaise with stakeholder organizations and people with lived experience to manage engagement, provide administration and oversee operations.
- Community Advisory Group (CAG):** Consists of organizations (large and small) and those with lived experience who directly or indirectly provide support to newcomers in the Tri-Cities. They would review the community-based funding plan and identify priorities and funding allocations.
- Governance:** Provide stewardship, sensemaking, oversight and foresight of structures, systems and practices in place to assign decision-making and strategic directions that advance the purpose of the community-based planning in the Tri-Cities.
- Call for Proposals / Projects / Innovations:** The process reflects the priorities identified by the community advisory group. The call would be streamlined and simplified to make it as inclusive as possible for all organizations. Support and training would be available to enable smaller organizations to participate.



Strengths of the CBF Model

- Funding allocation decisions shift from funders to community members
- Increased transparency and credibility between funders and community organizations and members
- Relationship between community organizations, groups and individuals, and funders can be developed and strengthened
- Can lead to better coordination and delivery of services and reduce duplications
- Can build community capacities



Supports Required for the CBF Model to Work

- Collaboration from community partners
- Decision making shifting from IRCC to the community
- Community to make decisions on priorities and how to allocate funding/resources, and will monitor and evaluate success
- Lead time for program development and capacity building for the community while newcomers continue to receive seamless services
- Recognizing that it will likely still operate in a competitive environment and how it could impact the process
- All processes involved need to be inclusive, equitable and transparent
- Continuous community engagement to maintain interest of those involved
- Sensitivity to conflicts of interests
- Streamlined reporting to IRCC



Best Practices Identified

- To support collaboration and trust building, the individual outreach and ongoing engagements carried out in this project was key in supporting and sustaining collaboration and building trust. However, it does need an individual(s) with the appropriate communications skills
- Engaging newcomer participants in co-designing session can bring lived experiences to the discussion and solutions. The experience also empowers newcomers and build their confidence
- Providing honorariums to small/grassroots organizations to participate in the project when they are not funded by an organization or elsewhere
- Having individuals who are not in service delivery but has a good understanding of the settlement sector facilitate the co-design workshops



Recommendations for Next Steps

- Clearer or more information about the parameters that affect the design and implementation of the approach from the funder
- Full support from the funder to implement community-based planning and to trust the community to make the decisions
- Enough time needs to be allocated for building trust at all levels; funder, organizations, staff, community and newcomers
- Funding allocated to activities that may not have been previously funded, but are necessary elements of community-based funding (e.g., outreach and engagement activities)
- The need or reason for change needs to be communicated well from the funder to the service providers and the community, and it needs to resonate with them to encourage more acceptance of the change
- A lead in time required for preparation and to examine community's needs in implementing this change. (e.g., looking at training needs or to bringing in the required talent from outside the sector to support a careful roll out)