

## Strategic Plan Request for Collaboration Frequently Asked and Clarifying Questions

**Q: Is the request for collaboration aimed at individual organizations or collaborative groups? Should my organization submit our story or just if we are part of an existing or forming collaborative effort?**

A: Our goal is to connect with collaborative initiatives, rather than with individual organizations. There are many existing partnerships throughout the state working toward goals that align with the Strategic Plan. By engaging directly with these collaborative partnerships, we can ensure each initiative is supported by diverse stakeholders with shared interests – helping us make progress on collective, statewide priorities, rather than on any one organization’s individual objectives.

**Q: If our collaboration is identified as a Strategic Plan implementation partner, will we be connected to the Strategic Plan over its entire 10-year time horizon?**

A: The timeframe of a collaboration’s connection with the Strategic Plan’s implementation will vary depending on each collaboration’s specific goals, actions, and timelines. If your collaboration is working on short-term actions that align with the Plan, you are welcome to partner with us on a shorter time horizon that matches the duration of your initiative.

A collaborative initiative does not have to touch every strategy and goal of the Strategic Plan to be a valuable implementation partner. We welcome partnership from collaborations working on initiatives that connect with the Plan on any level, whether they tie in with each of the seven strategy areas or only with one specific action item. Please let us know the scope and the expected duration of your initiatives when you send us your story.

**Q: What do you mean when you say we will be working toward common goals, “recognizing that it may mean compromise on individual priorities of participating organizations within the collaboration.” What compromises will we be expected to make as an implementation partner?**

A: For some collaborations, establishing common goals will mean recognizing there are certain individual organizational goals that not be of our collaborative work. For instance, if your collaboration is comprised of organizations with lobbying mechanisms or membership interests, there may be conflicting priorities between overall collaborative efforts and the interests of your individual organizations or members. If this applies to your collaboration, please let us know how you manage any such conflicts between collective goals and individual interests when you send us your story.

**Q: How will initiatives be prioritized when it comes time to marshal resources?**

A: Through this Request for Collaboration process, we will learn which initiatives already have the most interest, energy, and expertise behind them across the state. With a clearer picture of the work that is already being done – and any resource limitations that stand in the way of this work’s continuation and expansion – we will be able to identify where additional resources will have the biggest near-term

impact. We can then work together to identify potential financial resources in support of these highest priority areas.

**Q. Will RFC submissions be published on the DECD website?**

A. Submissions will not be published on the website but referenced in abbreviated fashion in minutes and working documents. This is not a formal procurement process but an effort to align, communicate and collaborate with existing and developing initiatives across the state.

**Q. In the list of “what’s in it for me”, does our collaboration have to agree to all of the listed elements?**

A. No, not necessarily. The “what’s in it for me” section is to give examples of why a collaboration might want to be a part of the Strategic Plan implementation process.