

Guidance on Opportunities: Working with Allied Groups November 2015

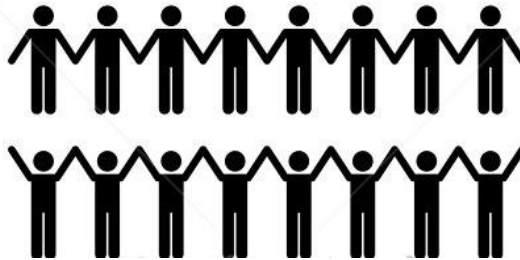
Appreciative Icebreaker:

- What impact does League have in your community?
- Who benefits most from your work? Who in the community is missing?
- How could you connect with those missing segments or groups?
- What's needed to build relationships? Who else can help?



Value of working with other groups:

Allied groups are an excellent way for the League to have a greater impact in their communities. They are a great way to meet other people in the community and increase the League's visibility. The goal of the MLD and of League in general is to increase our impact; other organizations can help us reach people we might not otherwise while giving us an opportunity to create a stronger democracy.



Working with other groups:

- *Identify who to work with.* Focus on organizations who work with your target audience.
 - Which groups will help us reach our goals as an organization?
 - Who has ties to these groups?
- *Have a specific plan in mind.* Propose a specific collaboration rather than a general partnership; this is quicker and easier to advance.
 - Where can we work together?
 - What impact would the collaboration have?
- *Set clear expectations.* Define the roles of the partnership well to avoid miscommunications.
 - What is needed for the collaboration?
 - How can we leverage our combined talents/assets?
 - What benefits us both?
- *Build a relationship.* Follow up and evaluate how things worked.
 - Where were we successful?
 - What might we do differently?
 - How do we continue the relationship?

Why now?

Working with other groups is particularly important as we head into elections. Now is the time to start planning for our 2016 election-related work.

The League has the most impact when it is working with underserved populations and sometimes we need help reaching those groups. This might be working with groups that are new to us. While this may take more time to initiate, the payoff – for our communities and for our organization – can be great.

Think of organizations to partner with specific goals in mind – increasing youth voter turnout, helping new citizens navigate the elections process – and where we can make the most impact on protecting our democracy.

Resources:

[Chapter 3 of the MLD Handbook – Allied Groups](#)

[Guidance on Elections](#)