

Collective Action Network

ECHO Housing and Community Development

Social Network Analysis Highlights Brief



The Collective Action Network is a forum to continue and enhance the collaborative collective impact spirit among community development stakeholders in the Evansville area.

This highlights brief is part of a larger project focused on developing a database of community partnerships as part of the Collective Action Network. The database will serve as a resource for community members and community organizations to learn about the ecosystem of partnerships in Evansville and to strategically work toward shared outcomes. The database was designed to track key indicators of healthy partnerships, including measures of trust in relationships and the value that partners get from their relationships.

In November 2024, 102 organizations were invited to participate in a social network analysis survey, of which 68 responded, resulting in a 67% response rate as of January 2025. The survey included a number of questions about the respondents' organizations as well as about the other organizations in the network that the respondents may have a formal or informal relationship with. Respondent organizations also added 40 additional partners that were not among the 102 organizations that were originally invited to participate in the survey. Together, they reported 1,647 relationships. This report summarizes the results as of January 2025.

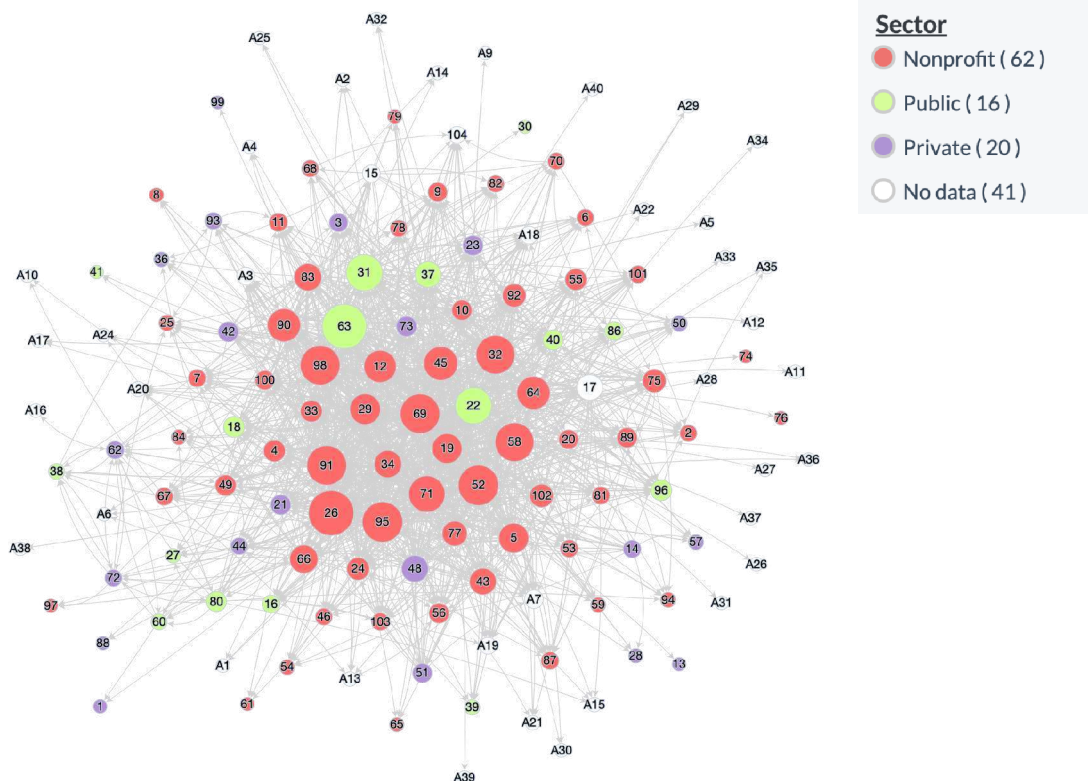
Network Structure

This is the network map of the Collective Action Network. This map shows each organization represented as a circle (node). The lines among the nodes represent all relationships that were reported by respondents.

Nodes are colored by organizational sector.

Nodes are sized based on their level of connectivity to others in the network.

The node labels, organization names, and organizational types are listed in the Aggregate Network Report.

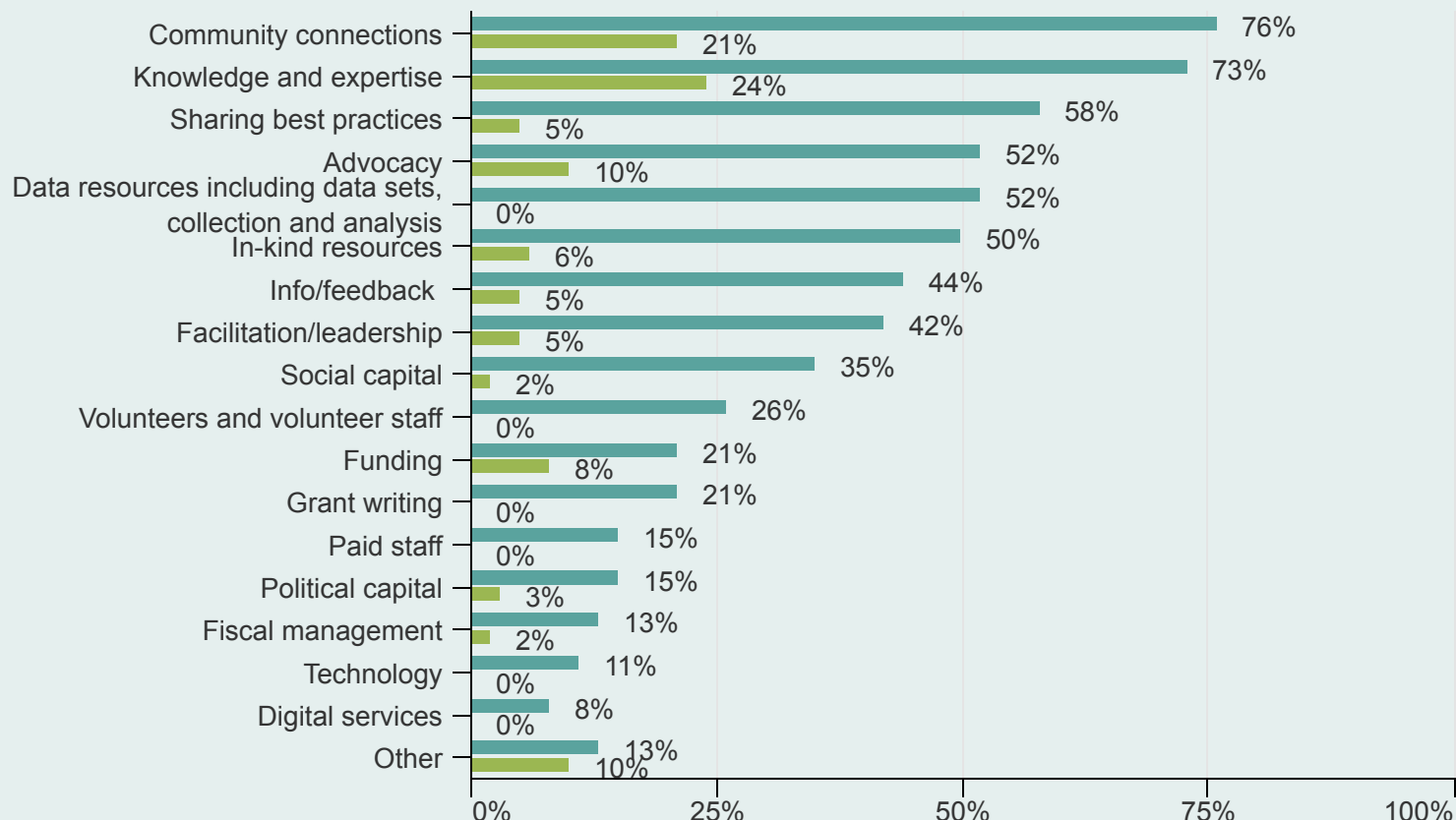


Overall, respondents are the most willing and able to contribute **community connections, knowledge and expertise, and sharing best practices**. The highest number of respondents also selected **knowledge and expertise** as their most important contribution. In comparison, technology and digital services were the least contributed resources.

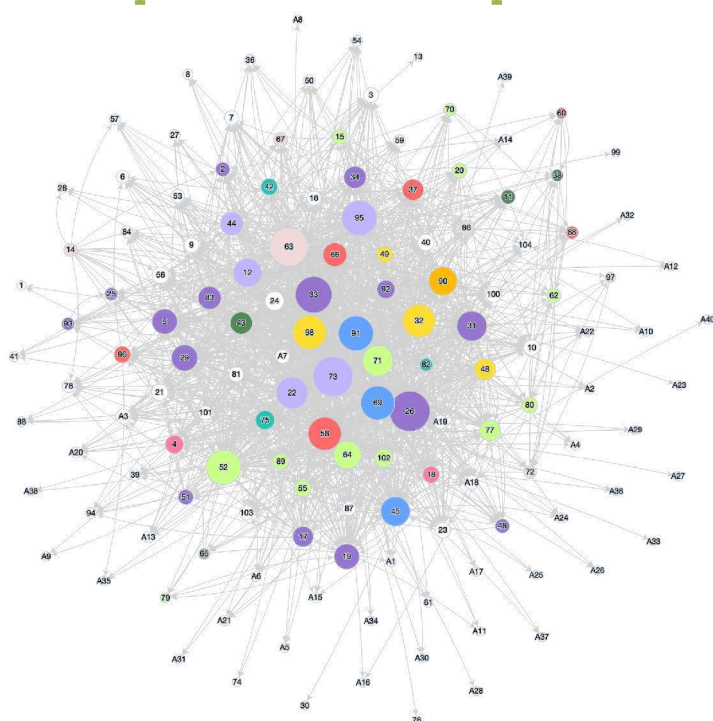
Resource Contributions

(n=62 respondents)

● All contributions (Q4) ● Most important contribution (Q5)



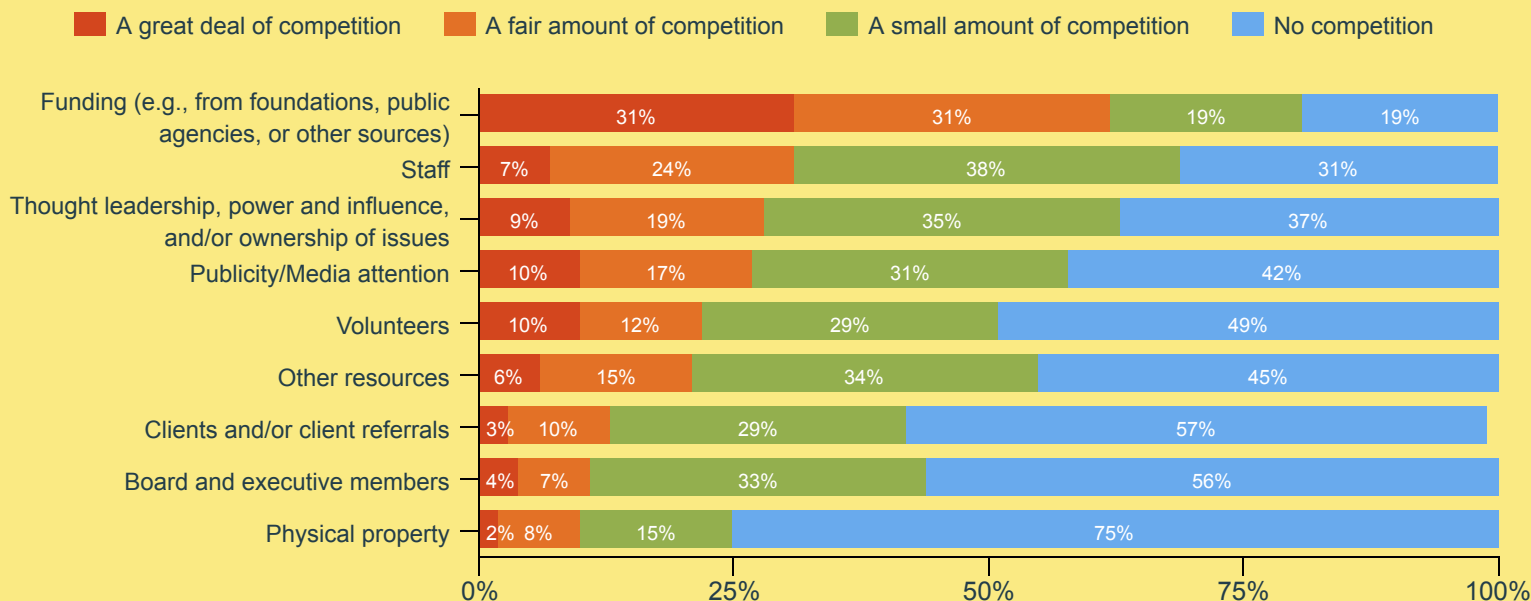
Network Map View of Most Important Contributions



- Advocacy (6)
- Community connections (e.g., connections to people with lived experience) (13)
- Facilitation/leadership (3)
- Fiscal management (e.g., acting as fiscal agent) (1)
- Funding (5)
- In-kind resources (e.g., meeting space) (4)
- Info/feedback (3)
- Political capital (connections with political actors) (2)
- Sharing best practices (3)
- Other, please specify (6)
- Knowledge and expertise (15)
- Social capital (1)
- No data (79)

Competition for Resources

When asked how much organizations compete with each other for different resources, respondents reported considerable competition for funding, followed by staff, thought leadership, and publicity/media attention. (n=59 responses)



Barriers or challenges that hinder outcomes: (n=49 responses)



73%

Lack of financial resources



67%

Competing initiatives, priorities, and/or resources



41%

Lack of long-term strategy

The top five outcomes of the Collective Action Network's work could potentially include: (n=62 responses)

73% Align efforts for collective impact

66% Enhance collaboration

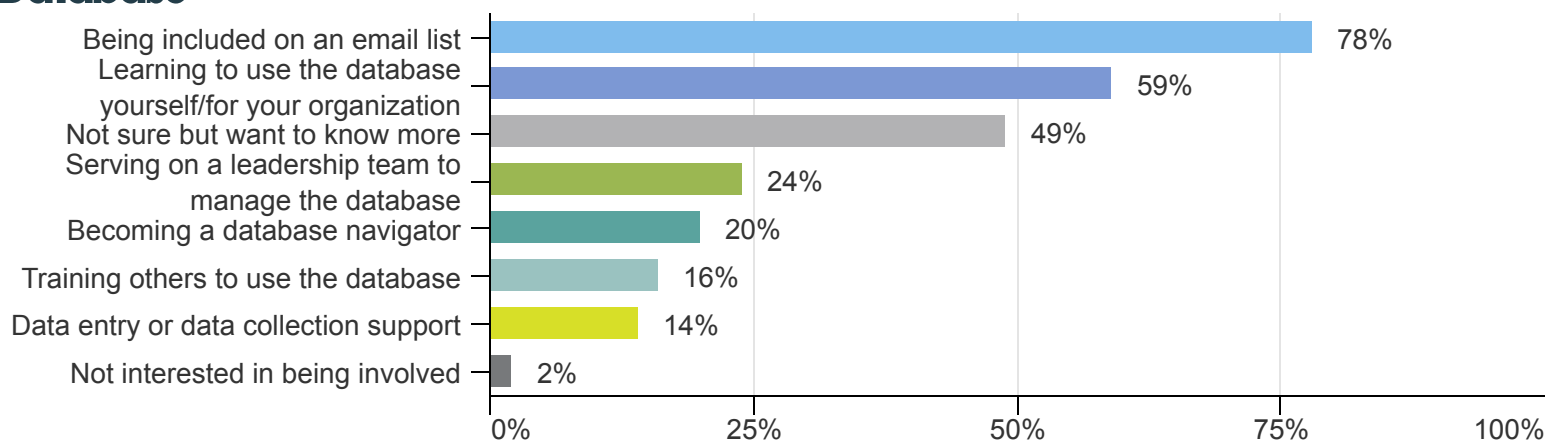
53% Improved communication

45% Reduction of redundancy

42% Amplify community voices

Involvement with the Database

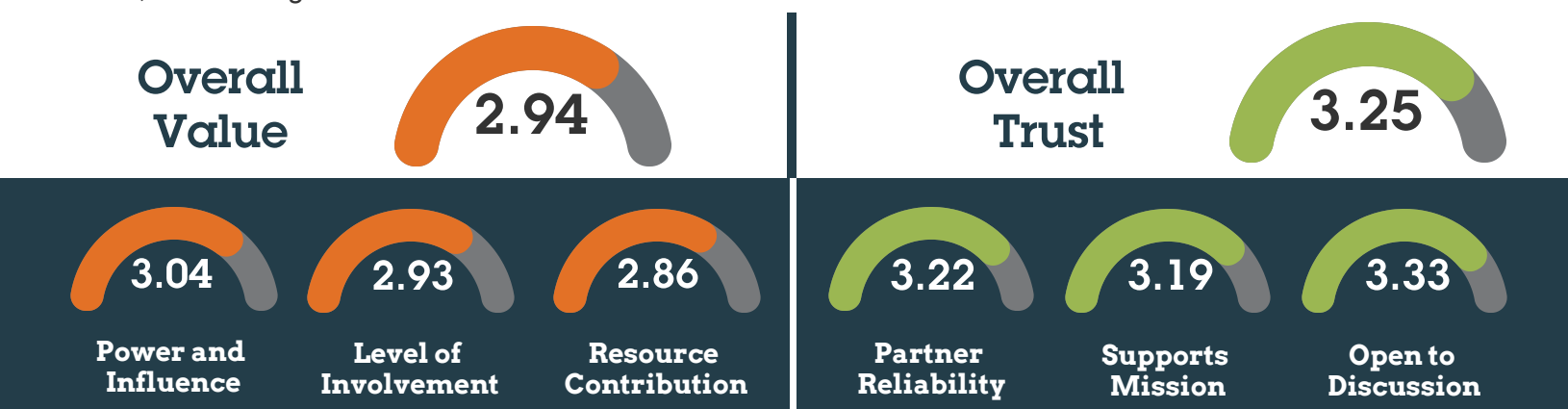
When asked how they would like to be involved with the Collective Action Network's database, 78% of respondents wanted to be included on an email list while 59% indicated they would like to use the database themselves. (n=51 responses)



Respondents reported **very high levels of trust** in their partners, while **the perceptions of the value of their partnerships were slightly lower**.

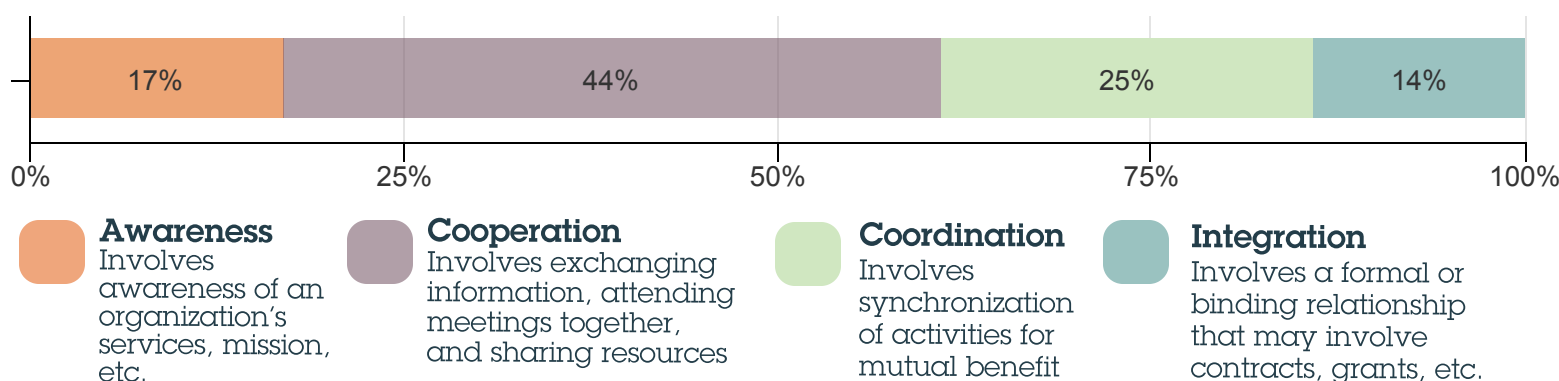
Perceptions of Value and Trust Among Partners

Perceptions of value and trust are critical to building a network. The following charts show the Collective Action Network's average perceptions of partnerships along three dimensions of value and three dimensions of trust. Survey participants assessed their reported relationships on three dimensions of trust and three dimensions of value using a 4-point scale, with **1 = Not at all**, **2 = A small amount**, **3 = A fair amount**, and **4 = A great deal**. Scores over 3 are considered the most positive. The network has an overall value score of 2.94 out of 4. The overall trust score is 3.52 out of 4, which is higher than the value score.



Intensity of Interaction

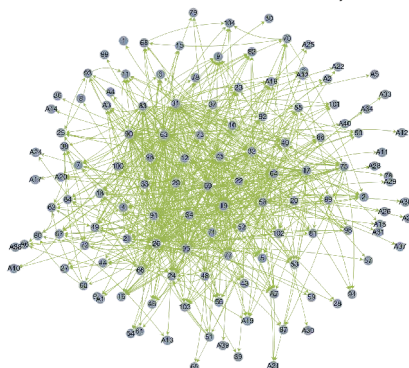
It is a positive result that connections are somewhat distributed across the levels. (n=1450 relationships) As the level increases the cost of the relationship increases as well, i.e., more resources are needed to sustain the network.



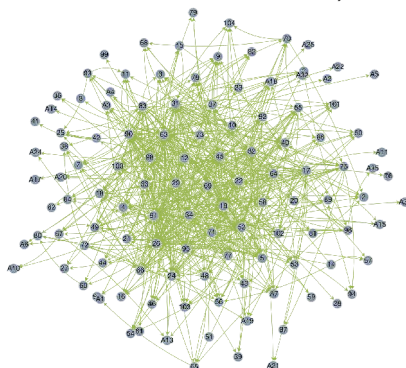
Relational Activities

The most reported partnership activities among Collective Action Network members were **exchanging general information**, **attending events**, and **advocacy**.

Exchange general information
(697 relationships, 130 members connected)



Attend events
(673 relationships, 119 members connected)



Advocacy
(577 relationships, 115 members connected)

