



Elements and Examples of Successful Coalitions

Membership: As broad based (both by relevant stakeholder group and state geography) as possible.

- Labor
- Education (community colleges, technical schools, four-year institutions, etc.)
- Business (chambers, manufacturers/trade associations, etc.)
- Economic Development
- Public Sector (WIBs)
- Community Based Organizations (training providers, etc.)
- Community Conveners (United Ways, etc.)
- Research Organizations
- Advocates/Other Coalitions
- Relevant Groups with Special Interest (La Raza affiliates, Urban League, AARP, etc.)

Mission: Should reflect the broadness of membership and the big-picture goals (i.e., comfortably fit the coalition for more than one legislative session)

- The Coalition for a Working Connecticut (CWCT) is a coalition with an aligned vision for Connecticut: To promote job creation and economic growth in the state through the development of sustainable, effective workforce solutions to increase workers' skills and advance families to self-sufficiency. CWCT works across organizations and funding streams to meet the needs of Connecticut's employers and workers.
- The Coalition for Workforce Solutions advocates for an effective workforce development system that increases workers' educational level and skill attainment, advances families to self-sufficiency and promotes job creation and economic growth.
- The Workforce Alliance is a coalition of business, labor, foundations, educators and upward mobility advocates whose purpose is to promote targeted state investment in workforce development to avert the collision course between Rhode Island's demographic trends and its job trends.

Agenda Development: Needs to be focused rather than a wish-list and reflect an awareness of state/national political realities and an understanding of what policies (national, state, local) drive the workforce development system to be affected.

- Many different ways to come up with an agenda, but process must have high engagement by membership;
- Need to focus on big-picture system-wide needs rather than individual stakeholder needs;
- There needs to be acknowledgement that those around the table will not agree on everything, but the agenda will reflect those overarching issues that can be agreed upon.