

State Team

A State Team, consisting of members from various agencies as well as members of the local team, meet on a monthly basis to review progress on the grant, discuss challenges and barriers and determine what action items will be addressed prior to the next meeting. The three standing items on the agenda are updates from the local and state partners, institutionalizing grant knowledge and evaluation.

The State Team is informed by information from the pilot project; a member of the Local Team presents at each State Team meeting to discuss current progress and any barriers. However, communication between local and state teams has been a challenge.

According to the qualitative data collected in Summer 2013, local leaders have felt disconnected to efforts happening at the state and vice versa. Although recent efforts to aid in communication have increased, there is still room for improvement. Suggestions from participants for continued improvement in communication between the state and local levels included improving internal communication, making the process more formalized, better dissemination of information in writing, and a state representative coming to a youth council meeting. A reoccurring suggestion was providing written updates, either via an email or newsletter, which should be brief (one page) and informational.