

2010 Coalition Self-Assessment Tool

What does my coalition self-assessment score mean?

The coalition self-assessment score is a general indicator of a coalition’s strength based on your answers to questions in seven major areas: General Information, Infrastructure, Coordinator & Funding, Coalition Activities, Coalition Interventions, Environmental Change and policy Change. The score provides you with a general idea of your coalition strength and areas that might be improved if you want to be more involved with interventions in your community.

There is no “right” level for a coalition to be at. Some coalitions primarily provide a forum for information sharing and that’s fine if that’s the agreed to level of the members. Moving to a higher level will likely require a greater investment in resources and staffing, which might not be possible or desired by some coalitions.

Summarized below is a broad description of likely characteristics of coalitions at the different levels. A more detailed description of key characteristics in the major areas listed above can be found on page three.

COALITION LEVEL SCORES:

Level 1 (0-63 points): Coalition has met and shared information amongst members, but has not developed a strategic plan or defined goals and objectives for action.

Level 2 (64-141 points): Coalition has met regularly to share information amongst members, has developed a strategic plan to define the coalition’s goals and objectives for action, is beginning to build capacity (includes networking, facilitating, collaborative leadership, recruiting and retaining members), but has not yet begun to develop a program or intervention.

Level 3 (142-223 points): Coalition has built some capacity, has developed a strategic plan, and has partners and/or sufficient resources. The coalition has started to implement a program or intervention that addresses at least a single focus area (e.g. fruits and vegetables) in a single setting (e.g. schools, worksites).

Level 4 (224-309 points): Coalition has built some capacity, has developed a strategic plan, and has partners and/or sufficient resources. The coalition has planned, implemented and evaluated a program or intervention that addresses at least a single focus area (e.g. fruits and vegetables) in a single setting (e.g. schools, worksites). The coalition is also working on policy and environmental changes.

Level 5 (>309 points): Coalition has built sufficient capacity, has developed a strategic plan, and has planned, implemented, and evaluated a program or intervention that addresses multiple focus areas (e.g. fruits and vegetables and physical activity) or multiple settings (e.g. schools, worksites). and has sufficient partners and resources to implement and sustain efforts.

SECTION	QUESTION #	MAXIMUM PTS	COALITION LEVEL (Approximate point value for each level)				
			1	2	3	4	5
General Information	8-13	(61)	6	18	25	37	44
Infrastructure	15-20	(85)	12	20	32	45	61
Coordinator & Funding	23-26	(55)	2	18	25	40	50
Coalition Activities	28-34	(60)	4	12	19	28	40
Interventions	35-42	(144)	0	16	25	41	58
Environmental Change	43-44	(35)	0	10	25	30	35
Policy Change	46-53	(87)	0	14	19	47	62
Total		(527)	~24	~102	~181	~268	~350
			0-63	64-141	142-223	224-309	>309

Key Characteristics of Coalitions at Each Level

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
General Information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coalition years of existence					
Strategic plan		✓	✓	✓	✓
Defined goals and objectives		✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure					
Regular meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
General partners represented on the coalition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Key partners engaged for each intervention area			✓	✓	✓
Coordinator and Funding					
Has a designated coordinator who is a volunteer	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Has a designated coordinator who is up to ½ time FTE paid			✓	✓	✓
Has a fulltime, paid designated coordinator				✓	✓
Has an operating budget of less than \$10,000	✓	✓	-	-	-
Has an operating budget of \$10,000-\$50,000		✓	✓	-	-
Has an operating budget of \$50,000-\$100,000			✓	✓	✓
Has an operating budget of greater than \$100,000				✓	✓
Coalition Activities					
Primary function of coalition is information sharing	✓	✓	-	-	-
Primary function of coalition is implementing interventions		✓	✓	✓	✓
Interventions					
Started work on an intervention in 1 focus area & 1 setting			✓	✓	✓
Intervention completed in 1 focus area & 1 setting				✓	✓
Interventions completed in multiple focus areas or settings					✓
Environmental and Policy Changes					
Has focused some coalition work to change the environment and/or policies			✓	✓	✓
Has done educational and/or media advocacy activities to change policy			✓	✓	✓

COALITION ASSESSMENT SECTIONS:

General Information (61 points possible) – This section looks at how long your coalition has been in existence, its reasons for forming and its development and use of a strategic plan. Coalitions that are going to be effective in implementing strategies will score high (>25) in this section, indicating that they have a clear mission and a written plan to implement strategies.

Infrastructure (85 points possible) – This section primarily looks at the coalition’s membership and meeting frequency. Although a small number of dedicated or key coalition members may be able to implement a number of strategies, generally larger membership will mean additional resources to help with any interventions.

Coordinator and Funding (55 points possible) – This section is probably the key section for most coalitions. High functioning coalitions normally have a full-time coordinator and a substantial budget (>\$100,000). Although there are exceptions to this, it is a decided advantage when one person is always working on behalf of the coalition.

Coalition Activities (60 points possible) – This section focuses on what types of activities the coalition is involved with and awards points based on key criteria that indicate a well planned and properly staffed intervention. Although it’s unlikely that any coalition will be involved in all the key activities, the more activities that are covered, the more likely the intervention will have some impact.

Interventions (144 points possible) – This section awards points for interventions in key settings or addressing target behaviors. Activities focused on CDC evidence-based strategies from their guidance documents receive additional points. Implementing strategies in one or more settings is a good indicator of coalition strength. Although additional points are awarded based on the number of settings the coalition is working in, focusing on one setting and doing a more thorough intervention is a better idea, especially if working with limited resources.

Environmental Change (35 points possible) & Policy Change (107 points possible) – Coalitions focusing on changing the environment or policies to make it easier to make healthy choices receive points because of the far-reaching impact these types of change can have.

TABLE OF COALITION POINT VALUES

Note: Question number (Q#) refers to the questions in the annual coalition assessment survey.

	Q#	Points	Max Pts	Coalition Level (~point value for each level)				
				1	2	3	4	5
GENERAL INFORMATION								
Communication / web	8	(0,2,2,2,2,2,2,5)	19	4	6	5	10	12
Year Formed	10	(1,3,5)	5	1	1	3	5	5
Reason for forming	11	(2,2,1,1)	2	1	1	2	2	2
Mission / Vision / Plan	12	(5 ea)	15	0	5	10	10	10
Refer to Plan	13	(0,0,5,10,15,20)	20	0	5	5	10	15
			(61)	6	18	25	37	44
INFRASTRUCTURE								
Represented Groups	15	(1 ea)	25	5	5	10	15	20
Represented Professionals	16	(1 ea)	18	5	7	10	12	15
Key Members	17	(5,4,4,4,4,3)	24	0	3	4	8	12
Active members	18	(1-8)	8	2	3	4	5	6
Meeting Frequency	19	(0,1,3,5)	5	0	1	3	3	5
Executive Group meetings	20	(0,1,3,5)	5	0	1	1	2	3
			(85)	12	20	32	45	61
COORDINATOR/ FUNDING								
Coordinator	23	(0,5)	5	0	5	5	5	5
% of Coordinator's Time	24	(0,5,10,15,20,25)	25	0	5	10	15	20
Funding Amount	26	(0 - 25)	25	2	8	10	20	25
			(55)	2	18	25	40	50
COALITION ACTIVITIES								
SEM Level	28	(1,2,3,5,5)	16	1	3	6	8	11
Infrastructure/Coalition Building	30	(1 ea)	12	2	3	4	5	7
Assessment Activities	31	(1 ea)	5	0	1	2	3	4
Prioritizing/Planning Activities	32	(1 ea)	6	0	1	2	3	4
Intervention Activities	33	(1 ea)	13	1	2	3	5	8
Evaluation Activities	34	(2 ea)	8	0	2	2	4	6
			(60)	4	12	19	28	40
INTERVENTIONS								
Settings	35	3 ea	21	0	3	3	6	9
Food Security	36	0, 2, 5	5	0	2	2	2	5
CDC Target behaviors	37	3 ea	18	0	3	6	9	12
CDC Strategy – Fruit & Vegetable	38	()	25	0	2	4	6	8
CDC Strategy – Energy Dense Foods	39	()	12	0	1	2	3	4
CDC Strategy – Sugared Beverages	40		13	0	1	2	3	4
CDC Strategy – Breastfeeding	41		25	0	2	4	6	8
CDC Strategy – Physical Activity	42	(1-4)	25	0	2	4	6	8
			(144)	0	16	27	41	58
ENVIRONMENT CHANGE								
Environment change occurred	43	(0,10)	10	0	0	10	10	10
List of changes (MANUAL)	44	5 ea	5 ea (25)	0	10	15	20	25
			(35)	0	10	25	30	35
POLICY CHANGE								
Educational Advocacy Targets-Local	46	2 ea	14	0	2	2	4	6
Educational Advocacy Targets-State	47	2 ea	14	0	2	2	2	4
Educational Advocacy Activities	48	(2 ea)	10	0	2	2	4	6
Media Advocacy Activities	49	1 or 2 ea	14	0	2	5	5	7
Local Policy change occurred	50	(0,5,10)	10	0	0	5	10	10
List of local changes (MANUAL)	51	5 ea	5 ea (25)	0	0	5	10	15
Organizational Policy change	52	(0,5,10)	10	0	0	5	10	10
List of organization changes (MAN)	53	2 ea	2 ea (10)	0	0	2	2	4
			(107)	0	8	28	47	62
Total Points		Sample Levels	Max=547	24	102	181	268	350
		Point range for each level		0-63	64-141	142-223	224-309	>309