



SSIP Stakeholders: The Right People, The Right Purpose, The Right Plan

Roundtable Discussion Prompts

Engaging stakeholders in making connections between SSIP and other program requirements/initiatives

- Who else cares about your state SiMR topic and why?
- What are some of the initiatives (or practices) that are underway separately that could deepen results for young children and their families if pursued jointly?
- Have you had any difficulties with aligning state initiatives to help streamline stakeholder engagement efforts? If so, what has been most challenging and why?
- How do other groups express similar work (e.g., unique vocabulary) and what value do these groups bring to our common goals? What value does our SSIP work bring to them?

Refining core beliefs around stakeholder engagement

- What does “stakeholder engagement” mean to you? Has your definition of engagement evolved since the start of SSIP? Have your opinions about the personal and professional value of engaging stakeholders changed?
- Some experts recommend that as collaborations develop, a formal arrangement should outline expectations and commitments. For you and your SSIP stakeholders, what level of formality feels right?¹
- In your experience, is there a difference between “stakeholder management” and “stakeholder engagement” in your state SSIP work¹? Please explain.
- How is your state expressing the core beliefs underlying your SSIP work?

Maximizing engagement of SICC/SEAC stakeholders

- What commitment have you sought from your SICC/SEAC in terms of its engagement in the SSIP process?
- What are some successes or “aha moments” your state has had with partnering with its SICC/SEAC for SSIP?
- In their presentation, Montana noted the state’s vast geographical landscape as a challenge to developing and sustaining a cohesive SICC with representation from diverse stakeholder groups. What unique challenges does your state face with its SICC membership/representation?



Supporting stakeholders on local implementation teams

- What are the best ways you have identified for reaching and staying in touch with your local stakeholders? What vehicles/methods are you using to provide them with substantive updates?³
- Organizational development author Rick Maurer says that, “Resistance causes a fog that permeates the message about what you are trying accomplish.”² What resistance have you faced from local stakeholders, where do you think it originates from, and how are you working to address it?
- How can SSIP teams create opportunities to structure learning and accountability in more “horizontal” ways to achieve SiMR goals?
 - Vertical accountability=associated with traditional hierarchies, decisional authority, the management of resources, bureaucracies, policies and regulations, accounting, prescriptions, and audit inspections
 - Horizontal accountability=associated with engagement in joint activities, negotiation of mutual relevance, standards of practice, peer recognition, identity and reputation, and commitment to collective learning

Engaging families in SSIP and making the work meaningful to them

- How are you partnering with other program/organizations to reach families?
- Are you using social media or other non-traditional communication vehicles to connect with families and keep them informed?³
- What issues have families had with *learning the language*¹ of SSIP, e.g., terminology, practices, fiscal implications, etc.? How are you helping them overcome these challenges?
- What can families and other stakeholder groups teach us about “improving data” and “improving outcomes?”

¹ Taken or adapted from [Stakeholder Engagement: A Roadmap to Meaningful Engagement](#) (Doughty Centre, Cranfield School of Management, 2009)

² Taken or adapted from [Leading by Convening: A Blueprint for Authentic Engagement](#) (The IDEA Partnership & NASDSE, 2014)

³ Taken or adapted from [Communications and Engagement Assessment Rubric](#) (Reform Support Network, 2014)