TYPES OF COLLABORATION

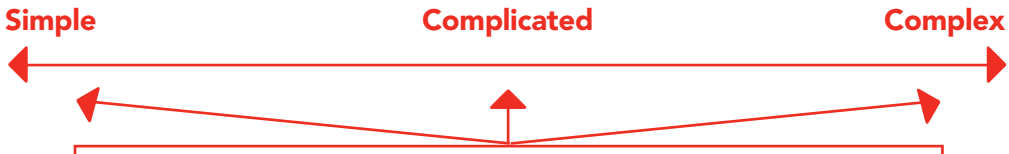
There is a wide range of purposes, sizes, arrangements, and durations of collaborations which make it hard to label them. To better understand your collaboration, place it on a continuum based on the degree of intensity - from those that are simple, to those which are more complicated through to those which are highly complex. Consider the different factors which influence the intensity of collaboration.

Keep in mind that a collaboration can shift along the continuum as it evolves. They may begin as an informal relationship to share information but could grow into a formal arrangement to achieve significant outcomes. They may also form to achieve more complex outcomes and, once achieved, move to a simpler collaboration to exchange information and resources.

The following boxes provide examples of simple, complicated and complex collaborations based on three key factors. Place your collaboration on the continuum from simple tocomplex based on the key factors identified below.

Key Factors	Simple	Complicated	Complex
Collaborative purpose or intent	Share information and expertise	Align resources and/or implement joint program or service delivery	System change
Your organization's role and contribution	Exchange of information, advice and/or expertise	Strategic and integrated leadership and decision-making	Contribute funds with specific conditions and expectations
Partner diversity	Like-minded and familiar organizations	More diverse partners with different purpos-es, structures and cultures	Across public, private and non-profit sectors

DIMENSION:



KEY FACTORS:

- Breadth and depth of impact
- Number and types of issues
- Type of relationships
- Degree of integration
- Level of accountability
- Mobilization of resources
- Depth of commitment
- Formality of processes and structures
- Sharing of power and decision-making
- Level of risk
- Degree of innovation

United Way Toronto

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