

Possible Ways Around Obstacles

From survey of Iowa State Association of Counties members, November 2006

Collaborations tend to work when:

1. The potential benefits/outcomes are clearly articulated at the outset.
2. There's widespread public belief that current situation needs to be changed.
3. A group of elected or top appointed officials championing the effort.
4. There a sense of urgency for this collaboration among local leaders

Additional ideas by ISAC members:

- The launch must take place with the right people in position to get things rolling (positive enthusiasm).
- There's an awareness of competing agendas; open-mindedness.
- There's a successful history of joint efforts.
- The collaboration has to be designed from the ground up by those directly affected and responsible for its implementation.
- Cooperation must start at the easy and obvious end with very little threat to either side.
- The initiative must have citizen leadership. Elected officials are risk averse and need others to introduce new ideas.
- There must be reassurance that elected officials won't lose their jobs or have their offices combined with others.
- There should be a great deal of publicity about the need for this collaboration, with its potential benefits and outcomes.

You'll find a report on this workshop – plus other resources about regional cooperation – posted on the Civic Strategies web site and the ISAC web site:

www.civic-strategies.com/onlib/regionalism.html

www.iowacounties.org (Look for “hot topics area”)



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