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Changing systems to strengthen families

9 Best Practices for Developing Strong Hunger Free Community Coalitions

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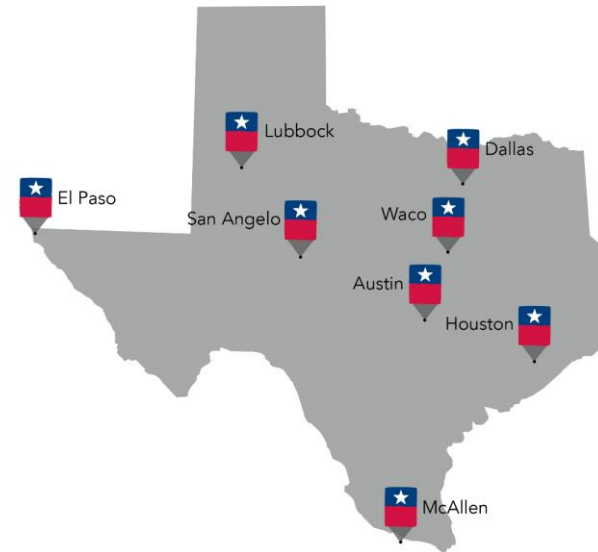
The Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) is a capacity-building, collaborative project dedicated to developing and implementing strategies to end hunger through policy, education, research, community organizing and community development.



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- Government Relations
- Research and Evaluation
- Child Nutrition Programs
- Hunger Free Community Coalitions



- 8 Regional Offices:
 - Houston, Dallas, Lubbock, San Angelo, El Paso, Waco, Austin, McAllen



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions

- Develop and support Hunger Free Community Coalitions across Texas
- Group of organizations and individuals taking action together to end hunger
 - Galvanize the community
 - Empower community leaders
 - Build long-term bonds of collaboration
 - Maximize effective use of resources
 - Ensure mutual accountability
- Backbone, consulting, statewide network, toolkit





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Hunger Free Community Coalitions
Best Practice:
Action and results-oriented

Example:
Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions
SNAP Taskforce



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions Best Practice:

Multi-sector organizational involvement



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Best Practice Example:
Burnet County Hunger Alliance

An active coalition of food pantries, churches, school administrators, elected officials, businesses, and other area leaders.



Volunteers from one church identified 24 different entities to approach

Set up one-on-one meetings

Every person they met with came to the first meeting of the coalition

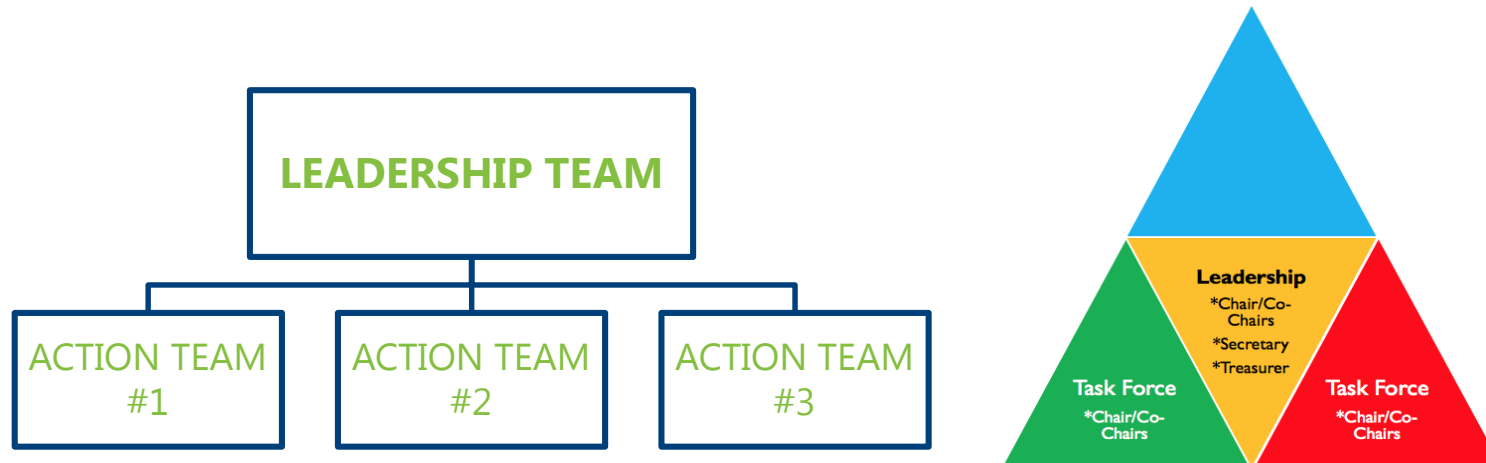
Most organizations have remained engaged and actively contribute



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions Best Practice:

Clear coalition structure that promotes multiple leadership roles, dispersed responsibility and mutual accountability





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Best Practice Example: South Plains Hunger Solutions

*This coalition illustrates dispersed leadership and mutual accountability utilizing a **two-tiered model**.*



Steering Committee (leadership team)

- meets quarterly
- organizes annual Hunger summit

Action Teams

- (hunger & horticulture, child hunger, senior hunger)
- meets monthly
- each team has a chair or co-chair serves on the steering committee
- provides updates to community at annual Hunger Summit



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions Best Practice:

*Open Consensus-Based Approach to
Group Decision-Making*



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Best Practice Example:

Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions

The Leadership Team is comprised of individuals representing 12 different organizations and utilizes a consensus-approach to decision-making.

Leadership Team:

- Meeting facilitation rotates month to month
- Any member can add items to the agenda
- Set and approve budget
- Determine changes to policy or structure
- Determine new membership to Leadership Team
- Issues requiring more in-depth discussion: volunteers lead short-term committees and report back to Leadership Team for final decisions



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions Best Practice:
*Asset-based approach to community assessment
and issue development*

AN ASSET-BASED APPROACH...

Is proactive

Focuses on existing capacity and resources

Views community members as assets and contributors

Maximizes community resources

Involves as many people as possible



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Best Practice Example:
OST/South Union Health Improvement Partnership (OHIP)

*OHIP is a coalition in the OST/South Union neighborhood of Houston.
They created a data based, resident informed asset map of
food resources in the community.*

Comprehensive look at community demographics, SNAP participation, school meal programs, food retail, urban agriculture, summer meals, food pantries and other organizations working on food access

Initial draft was presented to residents and community stakeholders

Residents & stakeholders provided input

Community assets were identified and priority areas for coalition action were determined



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions Best Practice:

*Include people with lived experience of food
insecurity as participants and leaders*



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Best Practice Example:
Working on Wellness (WoW) Coalition

*WoW works in four communities of Hidalgo County, Texas to increase access to physical activities and fruits and vegetables. Early on they completed a needs assessment **with** community members.*

Actions:

- partnered with local community centers
- recruited residents to conduct neighborhood windshield surveys
- residents lead discussions on community assets and challenges

Results:

- built rapport between the WOW coalition and the community
- helped jumpstart WOW's action plans



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions
Best Practice:

*Multi-pronged approach to tackling food
insecurity and healthy food access*



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Best Practice Example:
Tom Green County Hunger Coalition

Utilizing a multi-pronged approach in addressing food insecurity in their community.

Initially began working on a project to provide summer meals

Recognized need to address other components of food insecurity

Created five task groups:

- * Health and wellness
- * Faith-based
- * Senior Hunger
- * Community gardening
- * Education/resources

Helped to engage more people & increase the investment of community leaders



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions
Best Practice:

*Long-term sustainability through staff
support and/or financial resources*



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Best Practice Example:
Boerne Community Coalition

www.boernecommunitycoalition.com

- Boerne is a town in Central Texas with about 15,000 people
- Local financial and in-kind support: 25 Sponsors
- Large corporations: HEB, Wells Fargo, James Avery
- Local businesses: restaurants, rotary club, credit union



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions
Best Practice:

Regular self-evaluation for improvement



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Best Practice Example:
Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions

2012: Launch of coalition after intensive planning process

- 4 action teams: production, distribution, public sector, private sector
- Initial success, but declining in participation and energy

2014: Leadership Team conducted a self-evaluation and re-assessment

- Re-alignment that led to the create of 5 reconfigured action teams:
 - * Child hunger
 - * Senior Hunger
 - * Faith Community Engagement
 - * Urban Agriculture
 - * Neighborhood Organizing
- Re-energized the coalition
- Engaged new leaders and participants
- Success in each action team



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Hunger Free Community Coalitions Discussion: *Diagnosing the Health of Your Coalition Tool*

The screenshot shows the Community Tool Box website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Enter your search..." and a dropdown menu for "English". Below the search bar are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn, along with a "Donate" button. The main navigation menu includes: "LEARN A SKILL" (how-to information), "HELP TAKING ACTION" (guidance for your work), "CONNECT" (link with others), "ABOUT" (the tool box), and "SERVICES" (supporting collective impact). The breadcrumb trail reads: "Home > Table of Contents > Community Assessment > Chapter 5. Choosing Strategies to Promote Community Health and Development > Section 6. Coalition Building II. Maintaining a Coalition > Tools". The page title is "Chapter 5" with a "Table of Contents" link. A numbered list of pages (1-46) is shown, with page 46 highlighted. The section title is "Section 6. Coalition Building II: Maintaining a Coalition". Under "CHAPTER 5 SECTIONS", there are three items: "Section 1. Strategies for Community Change and Improvement: An Overview", "Section 2. Community (Locality) Development", and "Section 3. Social Planning and Policy Change". The "Tools" tab is selected, showing "TOOL 1: DIAGNOSING THE HEALTH OF YOUR COALITION". The tool description states: "Developed by Gillian Kaye, President, Community Development Consultants, Brooklyn, New York. We hope that the maintenance principles we have described are clear to you. But our real goal is for you to use these principles to improve the work of your own coalition."

Source: Community Tool Box at the Center for Community Health and Development

[HTTPS://CTB.KU.EDU/EN/TABLE-OF-CONTENTS/ASSESSMENT/PROMOTION-STRATEGIES/MAINTAIN-A-COALITION/TOOLS](https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/assessment/promotion-strategies/maintain-a-coalition/tools)



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Questions?



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