



INDIANA INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY
**CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE
SYSTEMS CHANGE**

At the Center for Collaborative Systems Change, we help communities tell their stories. Our work brings together diverse groups of stakeholders who address complex social, political, and environmental challenges in their community. The approach we utilize is collaborative because we know that when people unite around a problem, they are powerful forces for change. Effective collaboration, however, requires more than just bringing people together. It demands a process which includes identifying new opportunities and then converting them into action for change. This is Strategic Doing™.

The Center for Collaborative Systems Change provides consultation in the application of Strategic Doing™ via certified facilitators. This is an iterative group process designed by the [Purdue Agile Strategy Lab](#) that helps groups to improve future conditions, opportunities, and practices by creatively linking and leveraging assets. Strategic Doing™ enables people to form action-oriented collaborations quickly, move them toward measurable outcomes, while allowing for adjustments along the way. It yields sustainable, long-term collaborations which can be replicated and used in future projects and to create and revise policies and programs.

Effective collaboration is continually created through repeated analyses of simple, yet profound questions:



What could we do? The process begins by identifying and mapping the assets which exist within the group. These can be resources, experiences, connections, or even passions. By linking and leveraging assets, groups can define and connect new opportunities that allow a vision of future possibilities to emerge. This shifts the group's way of thinking from "What are we missing?" to "What capacities exist for us to build on?" While gaps and need do emerge in this process, it allows for additional or external resources to be more effectively used later on in the process.

What should we do? Once group assets are mapped, the next step is understanding what can be done *now* to begin producing outcomes to move you closer to your group's goals.

What will we do? This step involves defining the pathway to where a group wants to be as well as an action plan that outlines next steps. Strategic Doing™ emphasizes the importance of *everyone* in the group taking small, feasible steps resulting in collective action.

What's our 30/30? Before adjourning the meeting, stakeholders plan for the next 30 days. The question "What will be accomplished by each member of the group before they meet 30 (or so) days from now?" is posed and group members agree on what tasks they will take on before the next meeting date. A subsequent meeting is also agreed on before adjourning. Setting the next meeting allows for accountability between stakeholders but also gives the group a space to offer feedback on their progress, adjust expectations for outcomes and timelines, reassess assets, and then plan for the next 30 days. This process is continuously recreated every 30 (or so) days with stakeholders.

STRATEGIC DOING FACILITATION

Sample Schedule

PRE-SESSION

LEAD TEAM CONSULTATION

Strategic Doing™ works best when there is a core, dedicated team of individuals that can keep the process moving forward. Before the actual sessions, we will spend time working with you to assemble that team and to gain a better understanding of your goals and/or what issues you are trying to tackle. These consultation meetings create a partnership between our team and yours to make the process smooth and maximize effectiveness.

DAY ONE

THE GAME

Participants get an introduction to Strategic Doing™ through an interactive and experiential game. By playing the game, participants take on a unique perspective to a problem they are not familiar with and get an understanding of the process without being weighed down by the issues they are currently trying to solve in their organization or community.

DAY TWO

PUTTING STRATEGIC DOING TO ACTION

Participants put their knowledge to practice and apply the process they've learned to create an actionable plan for the issue(s) they are trying to solve within their own organization or community. Participants will leave with: a rich understanding of how to continue the Strategic Doing™ process, a flexible and realistic plan of how to move forward, actionable steps for what to do next, and a plan for how to work together to get things done.

POST-SESSION

ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Going forward, our team will be available for scheduled, ongoing technical assistance. We will meet with the lead team on a regular basis determined in our pre-session consultation. During these meetings, we will help remove any roadblocks, work through any challenges that may arise during the process, and help make any changes to your plan as needed. We are here to help make this process as easy as possible, so you can focus on your important work!

**Sessions, consultation, and TA can be designed to fit the needs, time available, and capacity of your team. Please contact us to help tailor your Strategic Doing™ experience and start putting your plans to action.*



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