

Values and Collaboration

2025 Convening
July 28, 2025

- ❑ Welcome! Once you're settled, please write your list of personal values on a piece of paper and leave it with Don (no need to write your name).



Full-Day Agenda



Morning Session

- Welcome & Check-In
- Personal Values
- Coalition Values (Defining, Stress-Testing, Voting)

Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

- Collaboration Context
- Thriving Coalition Practices
- Experimental Approaches

Morning Agenda (9:00am-12:00pm)

9:00am: Welcome & Check-In

Introductions and check-ins

1

2

9:25am: Personal Values Foundation

Reflection and sharing personal values

9:40am: Mapping Coalition Values

Collaborative exploration of shared values

3

4

10:00am: Selecting Coalition Values

Identifying shared values

10:20am: Break

5

6

10:40am: Defining Values

Creating behavioral definitions for selected values

11:00am: Stress-Testing Values

Applying values to challenging scenarios

7

8

11:20am: Finalizing (?) Coalition Values

Reaching consensus on our guiding values



Check-In

Share your name and: What community need or opportunity related to digital access has captured your attention lately?

Values Speed-Networking



Instructions:

1. Pair up with someone you don't know well
2. Each person shares 2 of their top 5 personal values (90 seconds each)
3. Together discuss: "How might these values support digital equity work?" (2 minutes)
4. Switch partners every 5 minutes (3 rounds total)

📌 **Remember:** Choose different partners each round (make sure it's someone you don't already know well)!

Values Common to Digital Equity Work

1. Inclusion
2. Community Voice
3. Accessibility
4. Collaboration
5. Trust
6. Empowerment
7. Fairness
8. Adaptability



Coalition Evolution



Informal Collaboration

Loose networks of individuals and organizations sharing information and occasionally coordinating efforts.



Structured Coalition

Formalized partnerships with shared goals, regular meetings, defined roles, and coordinated resource allocation across members.



Strategic Action

Unified approach with shared impact measurement, joint funding strategies, and coordinated advocacy to transform systems.

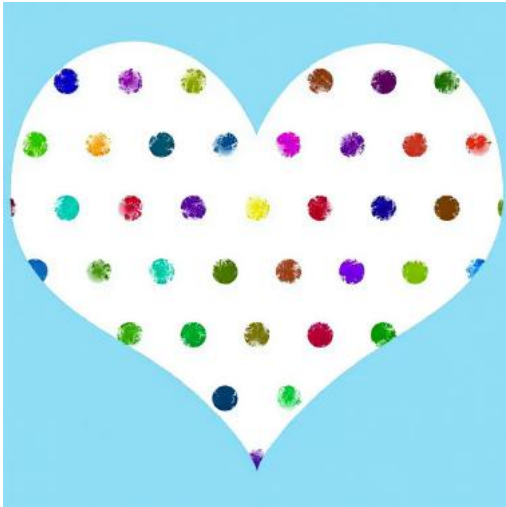
Coalition Evolution: Values

Informal Collaboration
What values served us well during our initial networking and information sharing?

Structured Coalition
What values do we need as we formalize our work together?

Strategic Action
What values will be critical for long-term systemic change?

Let's Vote!



 Place one dot per value – no double-voting! Consider which values will help us navigate challenges as we grow more structured.

Break Time!



Behavioral Definitions

Values Leaderboard

1. Collaboration
2. Influence
3. Financial Stability
4. Equitable access
5. Service
6. Inclusion
7. Leadership
8. Connections

Discussion Questions:



Practical Application

How does this value show up in our digital equity work?



Embodiment

What would it look like if we truly embodied this value?



Alignment

How does this connect to our mission and vision?



Mission

The Western New York Digital Equity Coalition works collaboratively with community members and organizations to achieve lasting digital equity for all Western New Yorkers. We advocate for the access, literacy, support, and resources necessary to thrive in today's digital ecosystem.

Vision

We envision a world where quality of life is enhanced through equitable access to technology.

Stress-Testing Our Values: Scenario One

Limited funding forces us to choose between rural broadband and urban digital literacy programs.



Discussion Questions:

1. How would our selected values guide us through this scenario?
2. What's missing? What additional values would help us navigate this situation effectively?

Stress-Testing Our Values: Scenario Two

A telecommunications company wants to partner but has concerning labor practices.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would our selected values guide us through this scenario?
2. What's missing? What additional values would help us navigate this situation effectively?



Stress-Testing Our Values: Scenario Three

Community members resist a digital equity program, saying it threatens local businesses.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would our selected values guide us through this scenario?
2. What's missing? What additional values would help us navigate this situation effectively?



Stress-Testing Our Values: Scenario Four

Coalition members disagree on whether to take a public stance on a related policy.



Discussion Questions:

1. How would our selected values guide us through this scenario?
2. What's missing? What additional values would help us navigate this situation effectively?

Final (?) Values

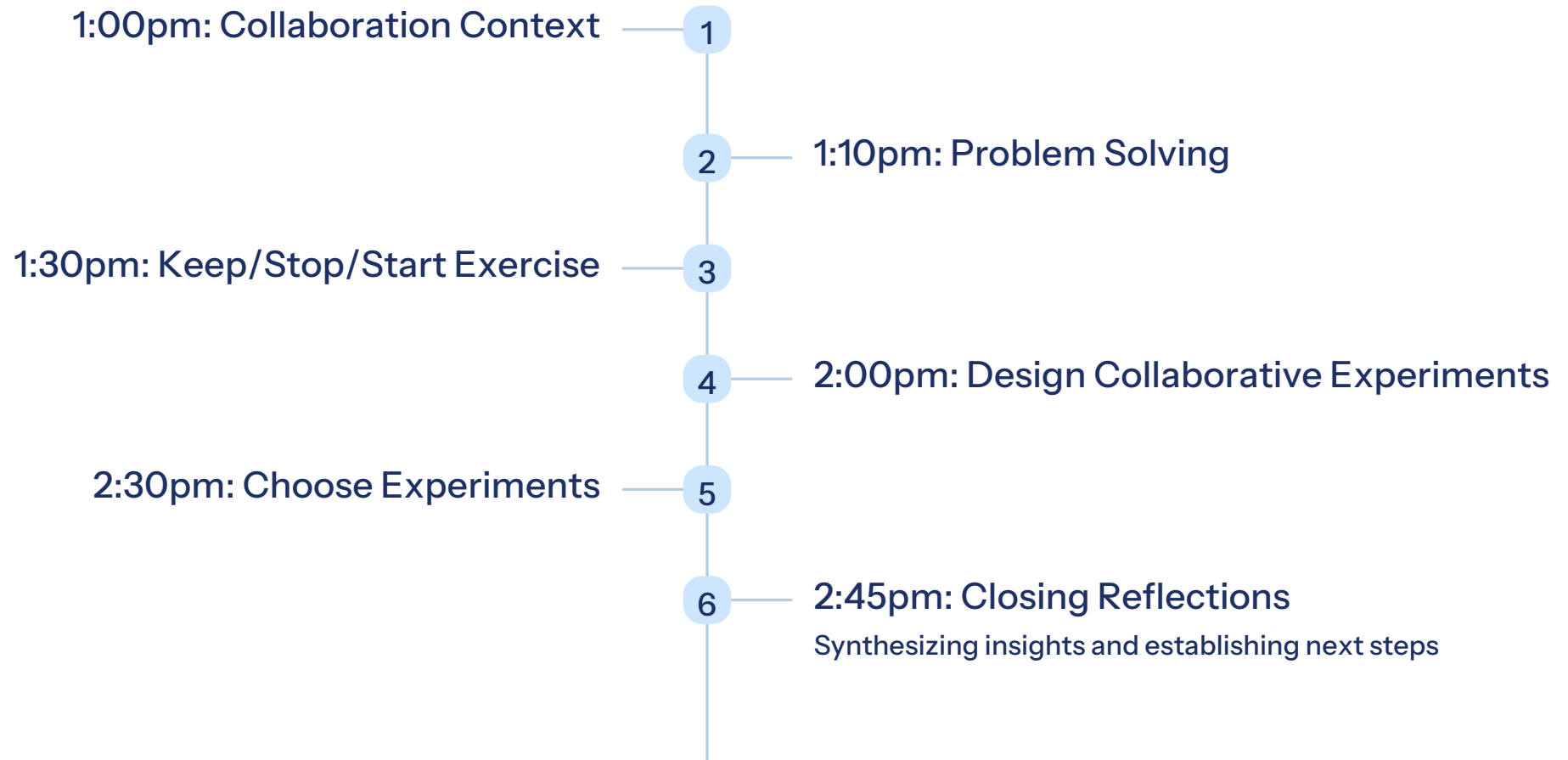
1. Collaboration
 - Connections
2. Equitable inclusion
3. Stability
 - Access
 - Financial
4. Service
5. Influence
 - Leadership





Lunch Time!

Afternoon Agenda (1:00–3:00pm)



Our New Context

-  Digital Equity Act declared unconstitutional
-  Existing partnerships and plans disrupted
-  Fragmented and competitive landscape
-  State-led and alternative funding
-  Heightened advocacy and legal engagement

Initial Problem Solving

How should we move forward together to advance digital equity?

- ② Spend the next 15 minutes working with your small group devising strategies for how we should collaborate in this environment.



Thriving



Keep/Stop/Start



KEEP DOING

What's working well in how we collaborate that we absolutely need to keep?



STOP DOING

What collaborative approaches aren't working any more that we should stop?



START DOING

What new ways of working together should we try?



Spend the next 15 minutes working with your small group to identify what we should keep doing, stop doing, and start doing as collaborators and as a coalition.

Collaborative Experiments

❓ Choose 1-2 new approaches from your START DOING list that seem most promising and identify:



What specifically will we try?



What are the first 2-3 concrete steps?



Who will take the lead on this?



When will we check in to see how it's going?



Ideas Showcase



Review the ideas that other groups came up with. Use your dots to vote for the experiments you'd like to see us try.

What's your takeaway
from the day?

