



# Network Building for Social Change

Your Ideal Network – How to Get There





“

We envision a world in which all children  
play, learn and grow with nature in their  
everyday lives.

— Children & Nature Network





Children in Nature Collaborative 



The background is a solid green color with a network of thin, light yellow lines connecting various sized yellow circles of different diameters. The circles are scattered across the frame, with some appearing as large, prominent nodes and others as smaller, distant points. The lines create a sense of connectivity and flow, resembling a complex web or a stylized molecular structure.

# Welcome & Introduction



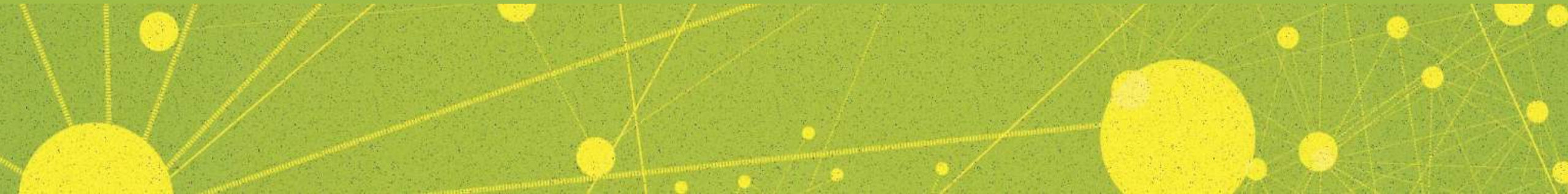
“[A] network can provide an adaptive and sustainable capacity with unique advantages, something no other organizing method can fully achieve.”

- *Connecting to Change the World*



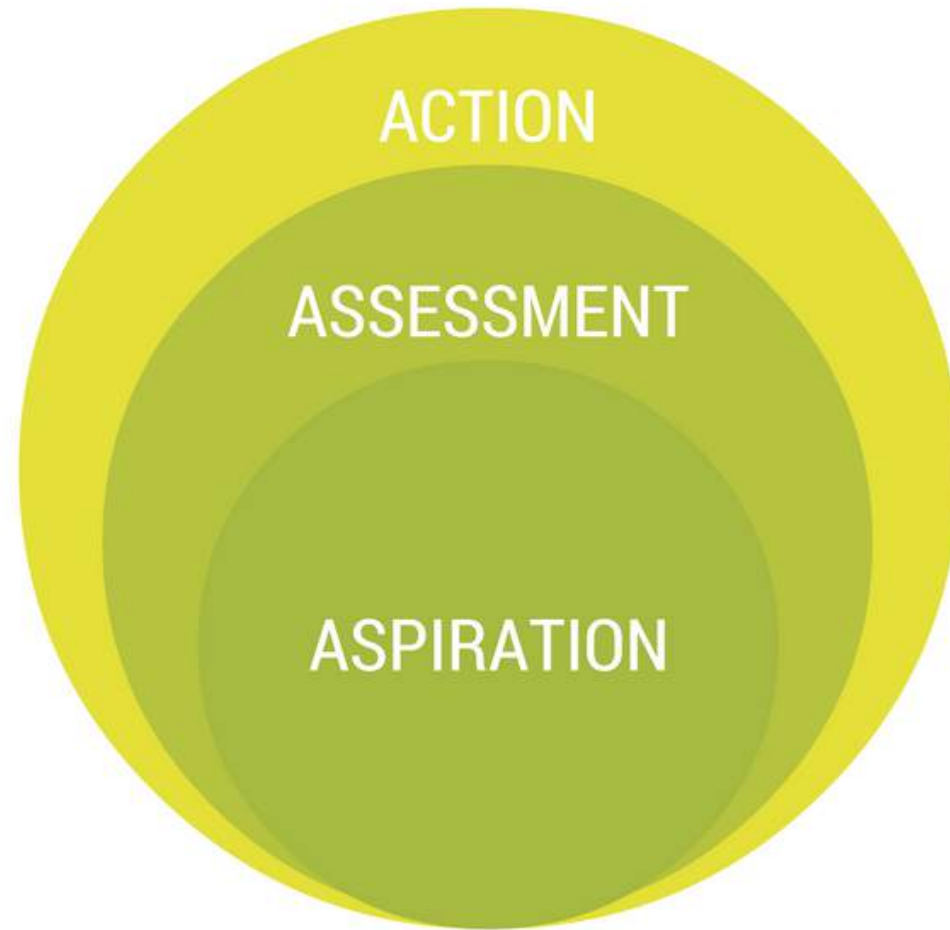
## INTRODUCTION

**This session is about practical ways to be a more effective network.**



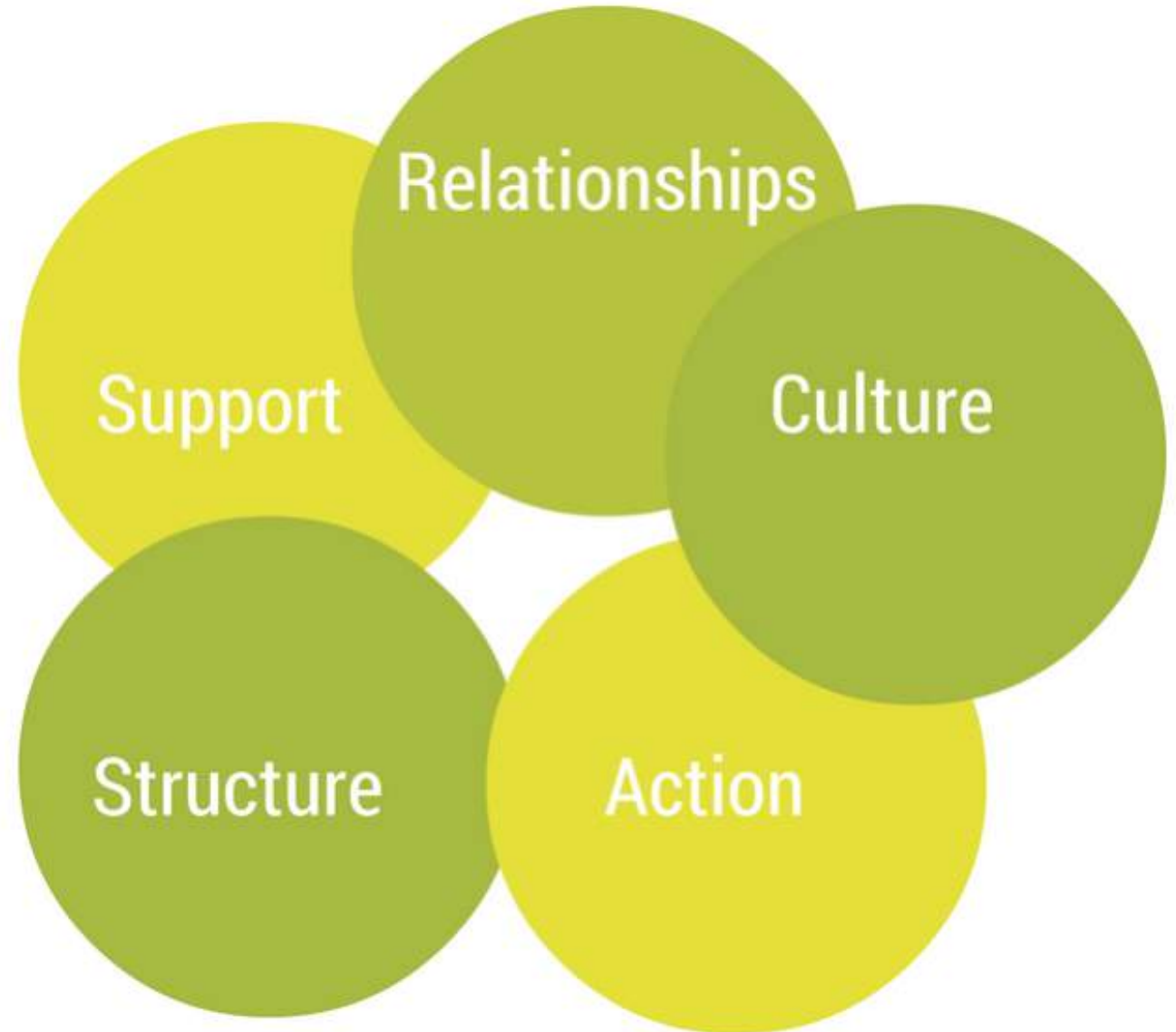


## Three Steps in the Change Process





Every effective network  
needs five key elements  
working together





The background is a textured gold surface. Overlaid on this are numerous yellow dots of varying sizes, some of which are connected by thin, light-yellow lines, creating a network-like pattern. A large, semi-transparent yellow circle is visible in the upper right corner.

# Relationships & Culture



# RELATIONSHIPS



People in the network are...

- Well-connected, interacting as peers, and building trust
- Everyone is a leader, bringing in new people and connecting others





### People in the network...

- Have a **network mindset** and are aligned around a common purpose
- Value openness, transparency, and letting go of control – also value inclusion, diversity, and new ideas



## RELATIONSHIPS & CULTURE



### Mini-Survey

Click on the link in  
the chat and take  
the survey



# Mini – Survey Results





The background is a textured gold surface. Overlaid on this are numerous yellow circles of varying sizes and thin, light-yellow lines that connect some of the circles, creating a network-like or molecular structure. The circles and lines are more densely packed on the right side of the image.

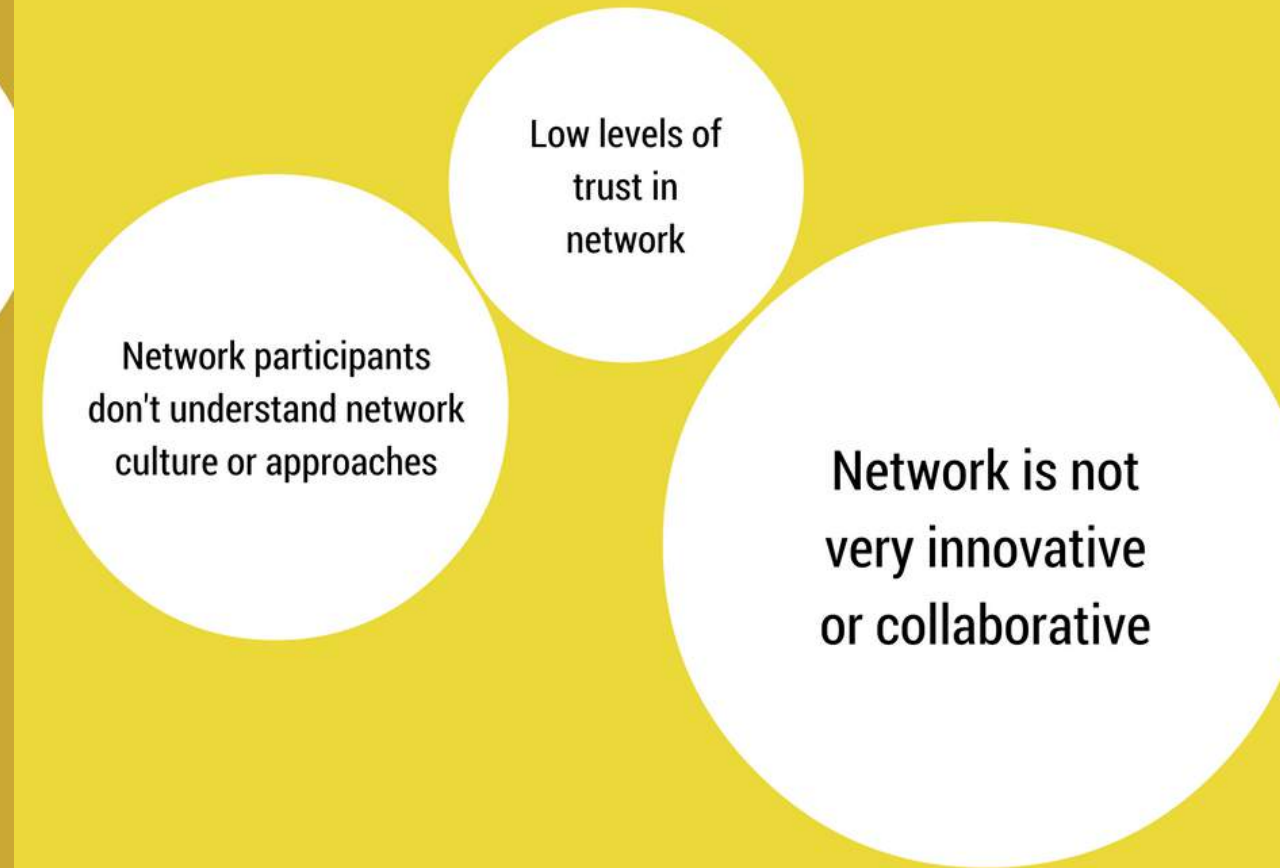
# Discussion: Challenges and Solutions



## Challenges with Relationships



## Challenges with Culture





## RELATIONSHIPS & CULTURE

In the chat, share with us a success your network has had in building relationships, helping everyone cultivate a **network mindset**, and identifying common purpose





## RELATIONSHIPS & CULTURE

### Actions to take...

- Map the network and identify key individuals and groups who are missing or underrepresented
- Have each individual select someone to reach out to and bring them to a meeting or join an activity

For more directions, see *Activity 1: Map Your Network* in the Toolkit





### **Actions to take...**

Have small group time at all your meetings and gatherings to:

- Have people share their stories
- Build trust by getting to know others in the network better





The background is a solid mustard yellow color. It features several large, light-colored circles of varying sizes. Some of these circles are connected to other circles by thin, light-colored lines, creating a network or constellation-like pattern. The lines are thin and light, blending into the background. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

# Action





People in the network are...

- Identifying opportunities for collaboration, pulling together people and resources, and taking action that makes a difference
- Sharing learning and coordinating action with other projects



## ACTION



### Mini-Survey

Click on the link in  
the chat and take  
the survey



# Mini – Survey Results





The background is a solid orange color. It features several large, semi-transparent orange circles of varying sizes. Overlaid on these are numerous small white dots, some of which are connected by thin white lines, creating a network-like pattern. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# Discussion: Challenges and Solutions



# Challenges to Action

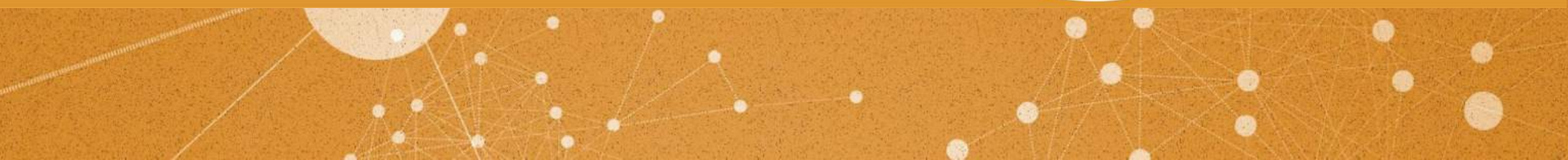
Problems  
working  
collaboratively

Not enough  
leadership to get  
projects going

Not enough getting  
done (talk network)

Few people initiate  
action

Not sure how to  
get action going





## ACTION

In the chat, share with us a success your network has had in self-organized action projects





## Actions to take...

Clustering: Ask people to write an action they'd like to do in the next six months on a PostIt note

- Have someone cluster similar answers
- Have groups meet to discuss future action





The background is a solid orange color with a subtle, abstract pattern of thin, light-orange lines connecting various-sized orange dots of different opacities, creating a network-like or molecular structure. The dots are scattered across the frame, with some appearing as solid circles and others as faint, semi-transparent spheres. The lines are thin and vary in length, connecting the dots in a non-uniform, web-like fashion.

# Structure & Support



## SUPPORT

The network has developed a system of support that includes:

- Interactive communications
- Community of Practice
- Small innovation fund that supports self-organizing
- Tracking to identify progress and areas for further work





## STRUCTURE

The network has a **well-developed structure** for network operations, coordination, governance and decision-making





## STRUCTURE & SUPPORT

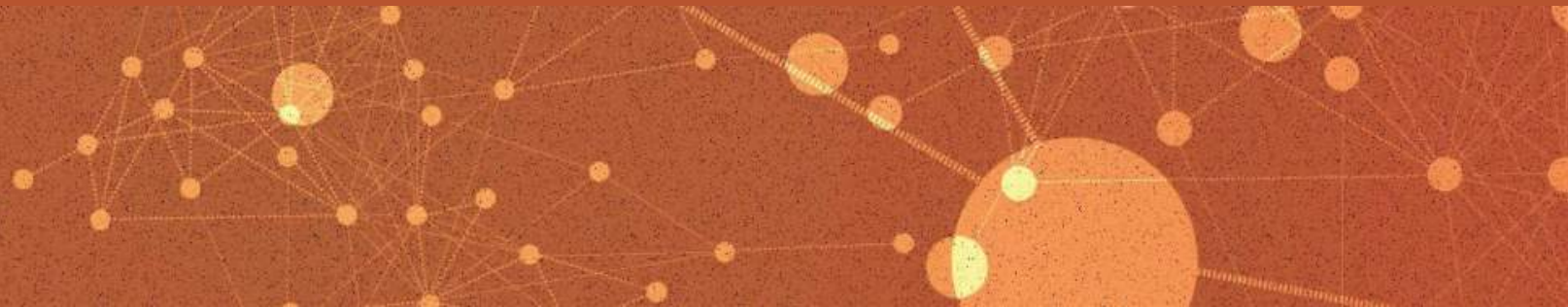


### Mini-Survey

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# Mini – Survey Results





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# Discussion: Challenges and Solutions



## Challenges to Structure

Not enough coordination  
so meetings not regular,  
tasks not followed up on

People don't have a clear idea  
of network structures,  
strategies, etc.

Don't have clear  
decision-making

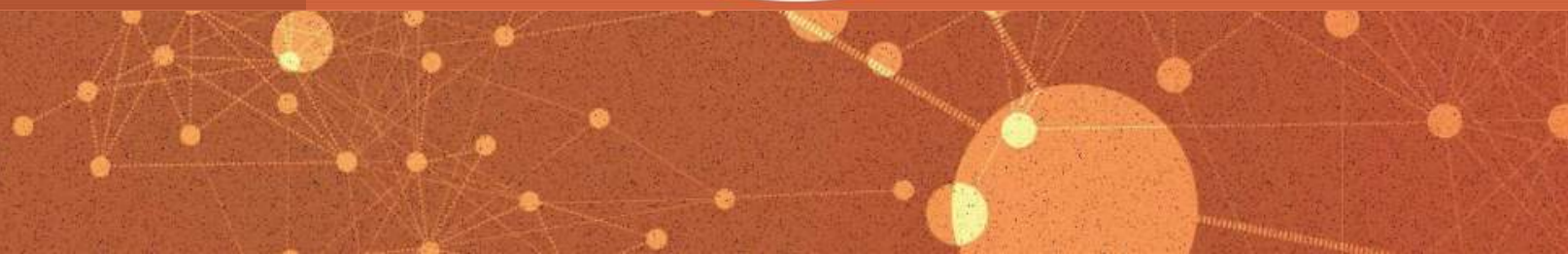
Not sure how  
to decide what  
to do

## Challenges to Support

Lack  
fundraising  
capacity

Not enough money to  
hire coordination or  
support projects

Don't know  
who does what





## STRUCTURE & SUPPORT



In the chat, share with us a success your network has had in creating support and structure



### Actions to take...

Start a virtual or Face to Face (FTF) Community of Practice so people can learn network skills and support each other with challenges that arise

Use Toolkits and/or Network Weaving Handbook





### Actions to take...

Set up a seed fund or innovation fund to support new collaborative projects

Often total fund is  
\$5,000 -15,000 and  
grants are  
\$1,000 - 2,000

[Exploring the Summer Learning Network >](#)

### Network Seed Fund

This Network Seed Fund is an experiment in supporting self-organizing **across** organizations that are interested in learning or working together to benefit summer learning experiences for CA youth. Networks thrive on the initiative of members who see a need or opportunity and step up to do something about it. This fund is intended to support ideas and actions that come from people who see the power of working in more networked ways.





### **Actions to take...**

A coordinator is needed to make sure meetings happen, initiate agenda building, remind and support people with tasks





## Actions to take...

Set up and train people to use Google Docs for coordination

SAMPLE Tasks & Timeline

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was 13 days ago

fx

Tasks

	A	B	C	D	
1	Tasks	Who is responsible?	Who else will be involved?	Due Date	Updates
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					



# Assessment

In the chat, share which area you think might be the highest priority for your network.

There's a longer comprehensive survey – link to access survey is in the **Toolkit** and on the **Resources** slide of this presentation.



## Next Steps

1. Share these slides and Toolkit with others in your network.
2. Send out the survey link on the Resources slide to network participants.
3. Set up a meeting to go over results. List the areas with lowest scores on chart paper. Have people put a dot on one they want to work on.
4. Have small groups form around 2 - 4 areas with the most dots. Have each group list on chart paper the actions they will take in the next few months. Have them identify a coordinator and encourage them to meet between meetings. Check in with them.

**What will you do?**



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# Resources & Acknowledgements



### Tools and Resources

- Webinars 1-3 Recordings, Slides, and Toolkits:  
<http://www.childrenandnature.org/act/webinar/>
- Network Weaving Handbook (SPECIAL2): <http://www.networkweaver.com/shop/>
- Network Weaving Facebook Group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/339757846085496/>
- Ask questions and continue the conversation by joining the Networks for Social Change Google Group:  
<https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/networks-for-social-change-webinar-series>
- Access the longer comprehensive survey:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1E2fdaq7sJzhur6BpmtkchX-qR0yu6ySUMZs4CVyOKsU/edit?pli=1>



### Network Building for Social Change Planning Team

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