

## Using a Network Survey in Evaluation: The College Access Network Example

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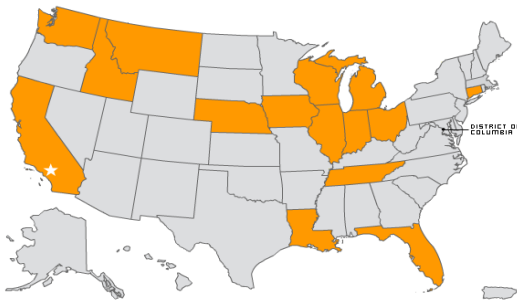
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## 15 KnowHow2Go States and Regions



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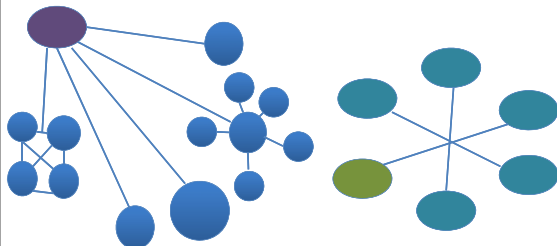
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## Different Network Configurations



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### Dimensions of an Effective Network

**Network Management:**  
Structures, Roles, Responsibilities  
Network is built and grown around a shared purpose of high importance to stakeholders



Developed by the KH2GO evaluation and technical assistance teams from the Academy for Educational Development (AED) and the Public Education Network (PEN)

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### Dimensions of an Effective Network

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**Sustainable Service Systems**  
Systems are designed and strengthened to improve service quality, availability, alignment and sustainability.

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**Sustainable Service Systems**  
Systems are designed and strengthened to improve service quality, availability, alignment and sustainability.

**Data-Driven Decision Making**  
Decisions are driven by testing data relevant to the network's purpose and by lessons learned from evaluations.

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## Dimensions of an Effective Network




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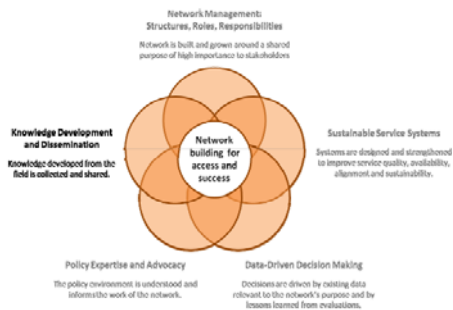
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## Dimensions of an Effective Network




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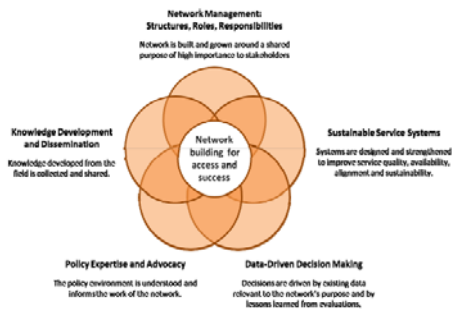
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## Dimensions of an Effective Network




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KnowHow2GO

Network Survey Introduction and Directions

*What is the purpose of this survey?*  
This is a survey for networks working to improve college access and success. The survey will help the networks, Lumina Foundation, and KnowHow2Go partners to better understand the different types of networks participating in KnowHow2GO, how they evolve, and how they work to improve college access and success. If your organization completed this survey last year, please do so again. The survey is being conducted at three points in time so we can assess change. The survey contains questions about your organization, its relationship to the network, features of the network, and accomplishments.

*Who should complete the survey?*  
Each organization participating in the network is to complete one survey. Although your organization may participate in more than one network, please complete the survey with only one network in mind.

*When is the survey due?*  
Please complete this survey by DATE

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Survey Sections

1. Characteristics of network members

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Information about your Organization

1. Which of the following categories best describes your organization or agency?

☐ College access organization (e.g., Gear UP)

☐ Community based organization (e.g., youth serving, faith based)

☐ Advocacy organization

☐ Government (e.g., state, city, or local agency, public library)

☐ Education - school district, or elementary, middle or high school

☐ Education - community college

☐ Education - four-year college or university

☐ Communications/Media

☐ Private sector (e.g., business, chamber of commerce)

☐ Grantmaking foundation

☐ Local Education Fund

☐ Other

Specific to college access, can be modified to other content areas

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## Survey Sections

1. Characteristics of network members
2. Network description

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3. Are there groups in the geographic area served by your network that are underserved when it comes to college access and success services? If so, which groups are these?

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4. What is the name of the college access network with which you most often or most consistently engage? This may be a statewide, regional, or local network. If the network does not have a formal name, how do members refer to the network?

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## Survey Sections

1. Characteristics of network members
2. Network description
3. Organization's relationship to the network

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*Steering committee membership, length of engagement affect knowledge of network functioning*

6. Are you a member of the network steering committee or advisory committee, or do you hold a leadership role in the network?

☐ Yes      ☐ No

7. Please estimate how many times you met as a network in 2011, either face-to-face or through other means (e.g., conference calls, webinars, committee meetings, etc.).

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8. In what month and year did your organization or agency join the network?

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## Survey Sections

1. Characteristics of network members
2. Network description
3. Organization's relationship to the network
4. Network features

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**Network Features**

Networks differ from each other in terms of their shared purpose, member organization composition, level of complexity, structure, and management. Networks change over time due to internal or external factors. We would like to learn more about the features that characterize your network.



*Network structure*

9. Does your network have the following features?

	Yes	No	Do not know
Agreement that members sign to commit their organization to the network (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), charter, other unifying document).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Written policy or document describing the process members agree will be used to make decisions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Written policy or document describing how disagreement or conflict will be handled among members.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Subcommittees or work groups that engage in agreed upon tasks and activities and report back to the full network.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A fundraising/development plan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An advocacy plan that describes, objectives, resources, tools and tactics.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The right mix of organizations to strengthen or expand college access and success services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The right mix of organizations and influence to monitor, address, or influence state, regional, or local policy change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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## Survey Sections

1. Characteristics of network members
2. Network description
3. Organization's relationship to the network
4. Network features
5. Network accomplishments

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**Impact of Network on Members**

The next set of questions asks how your organization or agency has benefited from participating in the network.

12. During the past 12 months, as a result of participating in the network, my organization/agency...

Benefit of network to members

	Not at all	To a small extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Do not know
<i>Communication and Working with Other Organizations</i>					
improved communication methods or materials for our target population.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
worked strategically with other organizations to fill gaps or reduce duplication of services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
worked cooperatively with organizations with whom previously we had rarely or never worked.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
worked cooperatively with local schools or school districts.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
worked cooperatively with other organizations to obtain funding.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
entered into formal service cooperation or coordination agreements with other organizations or institutions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Access and Success Services</i>					
learned about the college access services provided by other organizations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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**Network Accomplishments**

15. During the past 12 months, our network...

Network outcomes

	Not at all	To a small extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Do not know
<i>General Network Accomplishments</i>					
combined resources of network members to conduct joint events, activities, or programs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
shared research-based best practices with members.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
helped members access funding.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
helped strengthen member organizations' capacity (e.g., planning, data, skills, forging partnerships).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
partnered with a variety of organizations (e.g., schools, colleges/universities, business, media).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improved services and the system of support around college access for students.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
made progress in achieving our shared purpose.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
used data to target our services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
captured and communicated evidence of the network's progress, improvement, and success.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
was considered by media representatives & leaders as trusted source of information about college access.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increased general public awareness about college access and success issues.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Accomplishments Related to Policy and Advocacy</i>					
discussed government or institutional policy barriers to college access and success.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
conducted activities to build public will in support of college access and success for low income students.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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16. How satisfied are you with the accomplishments of your network during the past 12 months?

☐ Very unsatisfied  
☐ Somewhat unsatisfied  
☐ Somewhat satisfied  
☐ Very satisfied

17. Please describe specific examples of accomplishments that were achieved through cooperation, coordination, or collaboration that may not have been achieved by member organizations working alone.

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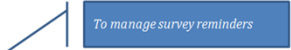
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18. Please describe any challenges related to your organization's work with the network or challenges that the network itself faced.

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19. What is the name of your organization?

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20. Do you have additional comments or questions? If you have a question, please include your email address so that we can respond.

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### Survey Sections

1. Characteristics of network members
2. Network description
3. Organization's relationship to the network
4. Network features
5. Network accomplishments
6. Site-specific questions

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12. Process and Structure To what extent does your network have the following features? [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

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### Lessons Learned about Using a Network Survey

1. Engage stakeholders in the evaluation process.

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### Lessons Learned about Using a Network Survey

1. Engage stakeholders in the evaluation process.
2. Provide support for grantees' Network Survey use and analysis.

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### Lessons Learned about Using a Network Survey

1. Engage stakeholders in the evaluation process.
2. Provide support for grantees' Network Survey use and analysis.
3. Ensure targeted reporting.

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### Lessons Learned about Using a Network Survey

1. Engage stakeholders in the evaluation process.
2. Provide support for grantees' Network Survey use and analysis.
3. Ensure targeted reporting.
4. Provide targeted technical assistance & professional development.

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### Lessons Learned about Using a Network Survey

1. Engage stakeholders in the evaluation process.
2. Provide support for grantees' Network Survey use and analysis.
3. Ensure targeted reporting.
4. Provide targeted technical assistance & professional development.
5. Use network survey results to show progress towards network outcomes.

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The College Access Network Survey  
is available from  
Carrie Warick, Director of Partnerships and Policy  
National College Access Network (NCAN)



[WarickC@CollegeAccess.org](mailto:WarickC@CollegeAccess.org)  
202-347-4848 x203

The College Access Network Survey was developed by the KH2GO evaluation team from the Academy for Educational Development (AED)

Linda Simkin designed the survey and  
directed the evaluation survey activities in 2009 and 2010.  
[lindasimkin@gmail.com](mailto:lindasimkin@gmail.com)

You can find several KnowHow2Go resources at  
<http://www.collegeaccess.org/kh2go>

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