

# How to Start and Organize Your CRCG

## Plan an Organizational Meeting

An organizational meeting can be useful for developing CRCGs, as well as existing ones. They help to bring people together to focus on shared goals and strengthen the purpose of the CRCG. For communities without a CRCG, the meeting can help determine whether one is needed and help get it started. For existing CRCGs, an organizational meeting can be used to re-evaluate membership and the community's needs, provide an orientation for new members, and set goals for the coming year. For the purpose of this guide, the following outline of an organizational meeting is focused on starting a CRCG.

When planning the organizational meeting, consider the following:

- Reach out to key leaders to determine a date, time, and an accessible meeting site in a centralized location.
- Develop an invitation. A sample invitation is available in the CRCG toolkit. Consider including outreach materials from the [website](#) created by the State CRCG Office.
- Create the meeting agenda. A sample agenda can be found in the CRCG toolkit. Include topics such as:
  - An overview of CRCGs
  - CRCG membership
  - Benefits of CRCGs and why one is needed in the community
  - Next steps to establish the CRCG

## Host the Organizational Meeting

At the organizational meeting, explain the purpose of gathering everyone together. Describe what CRCGs are and how they work. The State CRCG Office developed a brochure and partner flyer (available on the [website](#)) that can help explain CRCGs.

Outline the benefits of CRCGs for individuals, families, communities, and how they can impact agencies' challenges. For example, explain to a probation chief how coordinating community-based resources for a child and family can decrease out-of-home placements. Expand on how CRCGs can help decrease the duplication of efforts, streamline services, and connect providers. Ask attendees that have participated in other CRCGs to share their experiences.

For more information on how to develop or revive a CRCG, review the New CRCG Checklist in the CRCG toolkit.