

# Designing a Systemic Action Learning Infrastructure Guide



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**Systemic action learning** is an iterative, ongoing process where stakeholders across a community define and understand local problems, design strategies to address those problems, carry out actions collectively, and learn about their progress for continuous improvement and adaptation.

A **systemic action learning infrastructure** engages “parallel and interacting” action learning teams across the community in an action learning process (Burns, 2007).

## Key Processes for Developing a Systemic Action Learning Infrastructure:

Define

1. What is our targeted problem/inequity and prioritized systems change targets?
2. What perspectives are needed to problem-solve around the targeted problem/inequity and prioritized systems change targets?
3. What local dynamics do we need to consider?

Design

4. Given this, how should we design our infrastructure?

Citation:

Burns, D. (2007). *Systemic action research*. London: University of Bristol, Policy Press.

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**Question I: What is our targeted problem/inequity and prioritized systems change targets?**

Targeted Problem:

Prioritized Systems Change Targets:

**Question 2: What perspectives are needed to problem solve around the targeted problem/inequity and prioritized systems change targets?**

Consider these perspectives:	What stakeholders in your community should be included? Be specific.
<p>Those <b>experiencing the problem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families, youth, and residents directly experiencing the problem</li> </ul>	
<p>Those <b>providing services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public &amp; Private Service providers working with individuals directly experiencing the problem</li> </ul>	
<p>Those <b>supporting at the local level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders involved in resident-led groups, faith-based organizations, local businesses, and neighborhood organizations</li> <li>Individuals delivering informal supports</li> </ul>	
<p>Those <b>deciding on changes &amp; how resources are used</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funders</li> <li>Local institutions &amp; local organizational leaders</li> <li>Local officials</li> </ul>	

**Question 3: What local dynamics do we need to consider?**

Key Dynamics in Community	Implications for Creating a Safe Space for Authentic Dialogue

Design

4. Given this, how should we design our infrastructure?

**Use the space below to draw potential groups that could make up your systemic action learning infrastructure.**