Public Abstract
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The purpose of this study was to describe the Telecommunication Community Resource Center (TCRC) Collaborative and its participation in collaborations/partnerships within the community, and to examine the benefits to the TCRCs, partners, and the local communities where the Centers are located throughout Missouri.

The type of research conducted was evaluation and the primary tool used was the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory, which is a tool to assess the elements of effective collaboration. The TCRC Collaborative rated several items high (4.0 or higher) such as history of collaboration, favorable political climate, flexibility shared vision and skilled leadership. Most items were rated in the middle range of scores (3.0-3.9). The only items rated below 3.5 were: appropriate cross-section of members and sufficient funds, staff, materials, and time. Most of the respondents have been involved in at least one successful partnership; the TCRC collaborative felt that having a TCRC located in their community was beneficial to all involved; the majority of partners provided both financial and in-kind contributions to the local TCRC; and over half of the partners indicated that the decision to collaborate/partner was influenced by the type of contribution made.

Findings from this study can be useful for other collaboratives who are contemplating coming together for a specific purpose. The findings from the Wilder Institute Inventory helped to put into context the strengths and weaknesses of the TCRC Collaborative and it can help those groups that are just beginning the collaboration process to help determine their readiness to do so.