

DC Social Justice Transformations Network 2024 Report

Social Network Analysis Highlights Brief



The DC Social Justice Transformations Network (DCSJTN) creates space to meet, collaborate, and identify strategic action steps for establishing and advancing anti-racist, anti-poverty, user-centered systems that promote the wellbeing of all District residents. We have begun by establishing a Coordinated Intake and Referral system in DC, ensuring fair and easy access to legal aid services.

Since the first DCSJTN survey in 2021 and the follow-up survey in 2022, the DC Bar Foundation (DCBF) asked the network again in the summer of 2024 for additional feedback about the network status, progress, and existing ecosystem of organizations and community stakeholders. A total of 77 organizations were invited to participate in the Social Network Analysis of their current organizational partnerships. These organizations were sent a network survey using Visible Network Labs' PARTNER CPRM platform (www.partnertool.net). 53 organizations responded to the survey, for a 69% response rate. This is the highest response rate of all the DCSJTN network surveys conducted to date.

The DCSJTN will use the PARTNER data to understand how to build on current collaborative strengths, identify opportunities for effective collaboration in the future and how to develop an effective structure to achieve its goals.

Network Structure

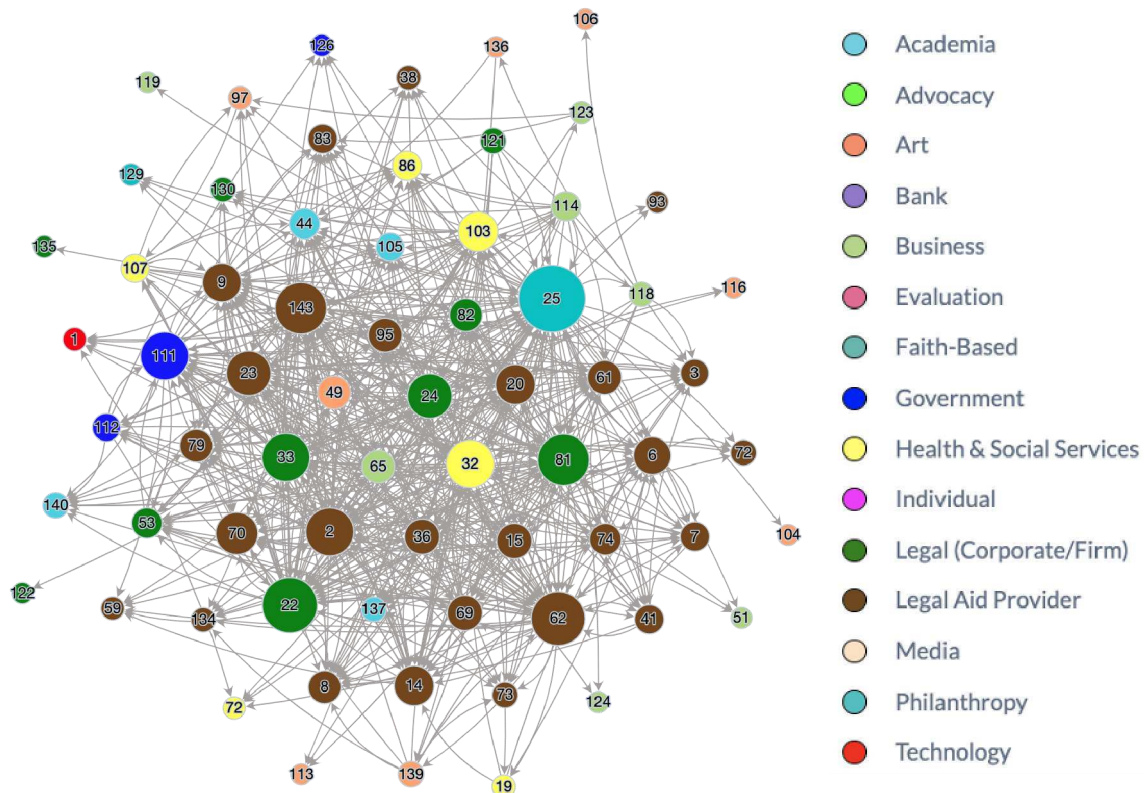
This is the network map of the DC Social Justice Transformations Network.

This map shows each organization represented as a circle (node). The lines among the nodes represent all relationships that were reported by respondents.

Nodes are colored by organizational type.

The size of the node shows which organizations have the greatest number of connections.

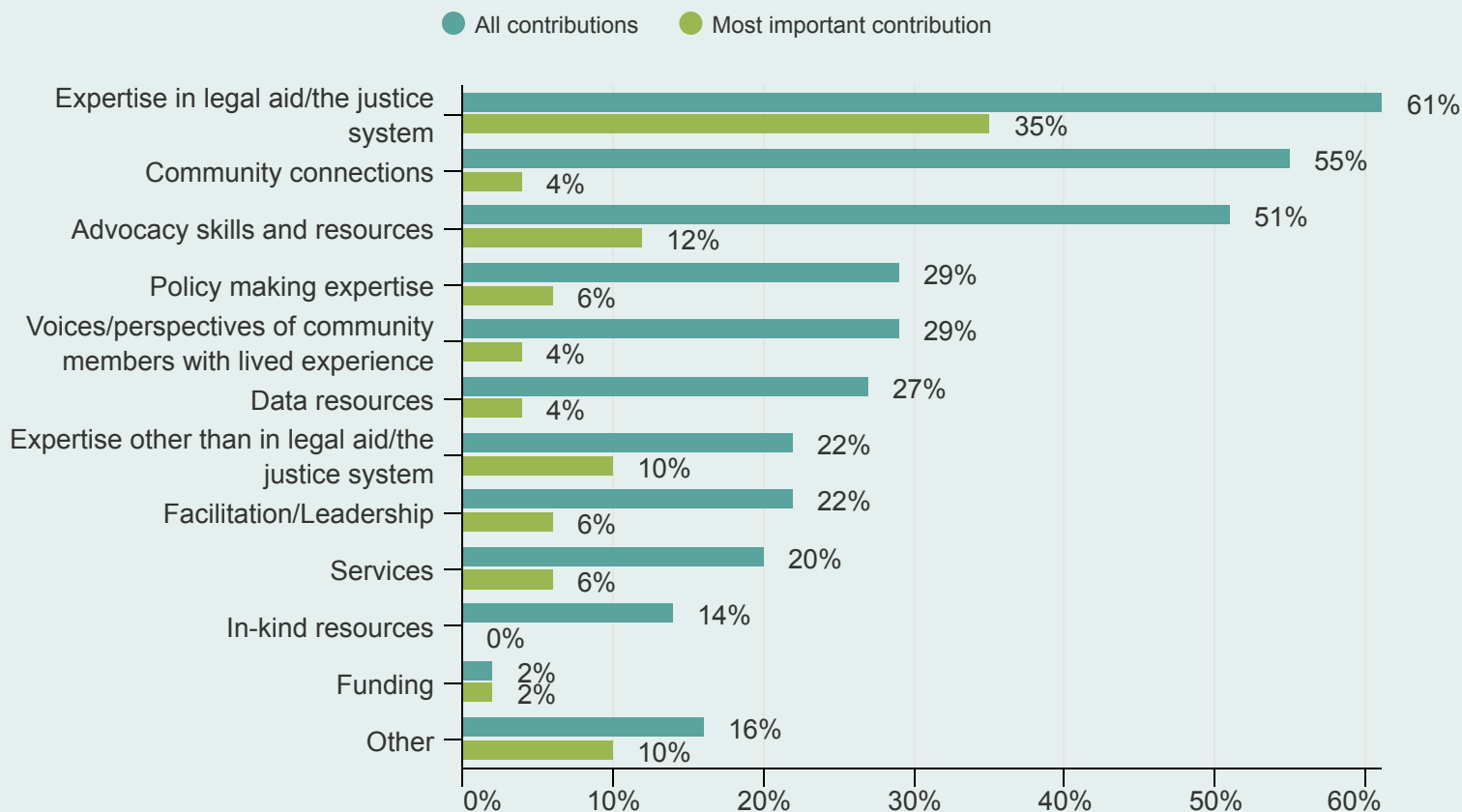
The node labels, their corresponding organization names, and their organizational types are listed in the Aggregate Network Report.



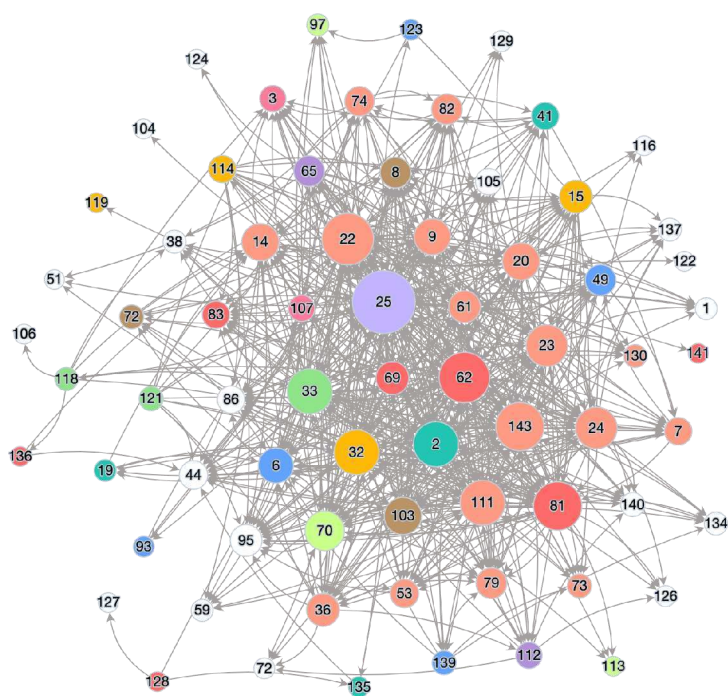
Overall, respondents are the most willing and able to contribute **expertise in legal aid/the justice system, community connections, and advocacy skills and resources**. The highest number of respondents also selected **expertise in legal aid/the justice system** as their most important contribution. In comparison, funding was the least available resource contribution.

Resource Contributions

(n =49 respondents)



Network Map View of Most Important Contributions



- Advocacy Skills and Resources (7)
- Community Connections (3)
- Data Resources (data sets, collection and analysis) (2)
- Expertise in legal aid/the justice system (17)
- Expertise Other than in legal aid/the justice system (5)
- Facilitation/Leadership (4)
- Funding (1)
- Policy Making Expertise (3)
- Services (3)
- Voices/perspectives of community members who have lived experience with legal aid (2)
- Other, please specify (4)
- No data (20)

Which barriers prevent the DCSJTN from having a bigger impact in the community? (n=44 responses)



48%

Lack of staff/capacity to participate



41%

Competing programs and/or priorities



41%

Lack of clarity of objectives/goals of the network

As a result of participation in the DCSJTN, my organization has: (n=45 responses)

56% Connected with more organizations WITHIN our areas of work

49% Connected with more organizations OUTSIDE our areas of work

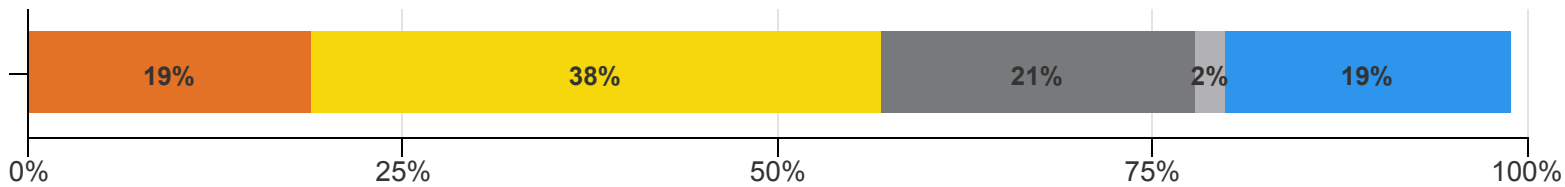
42% Gained new insight/perspective on the legal aid system in DC.

4% Developed a deeper understanding of programs to help residents in DC

Effectiveness at Exploring Anti-Racism and DEI Issues

About 57% of respondents believe that the DCSJTN has been **effective** or **very effective** at creating a forum to explore issues of anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion within and across the network of partners and the work being done in the community. (n=47 responses)

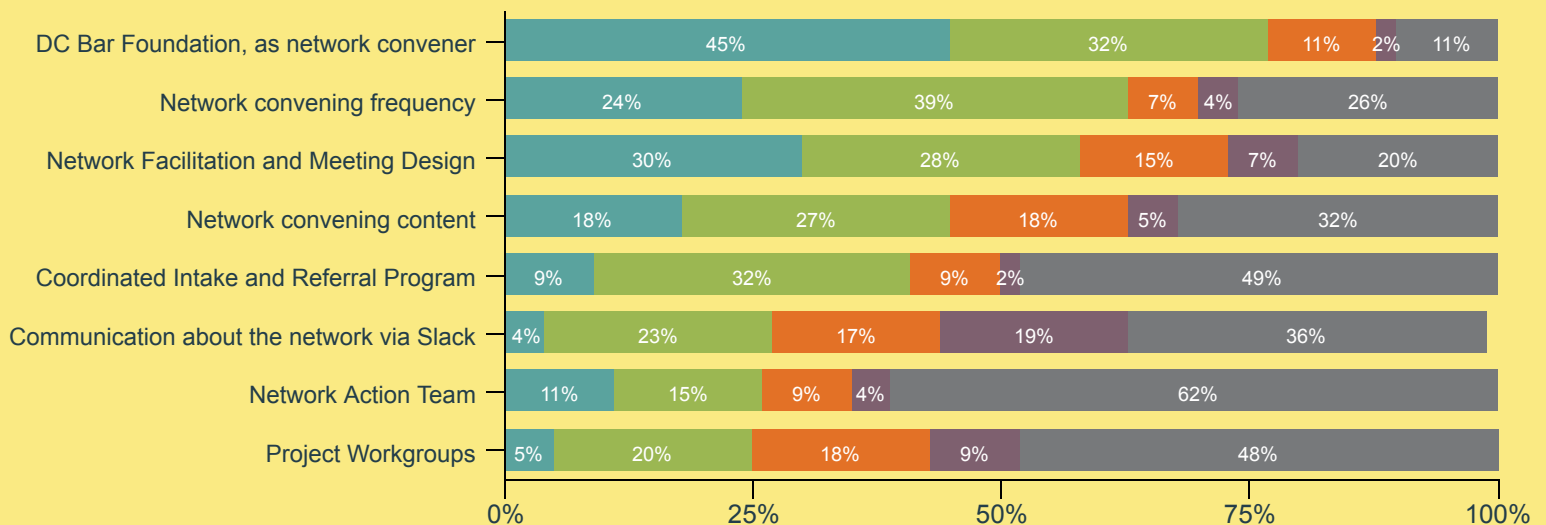
Very Effective Effective Somewhat Effective Not Effective Not sure/it's too early to assess



Organizational and Logistical Effectiveness

When asked how effective the following organizational and logistical aspects of DCSJTN have been, respondents found that DCBF's work as a network convener, the network's convening frequency, and network facilitation and meeting design have been the most effective aspects. (n=47 responses)

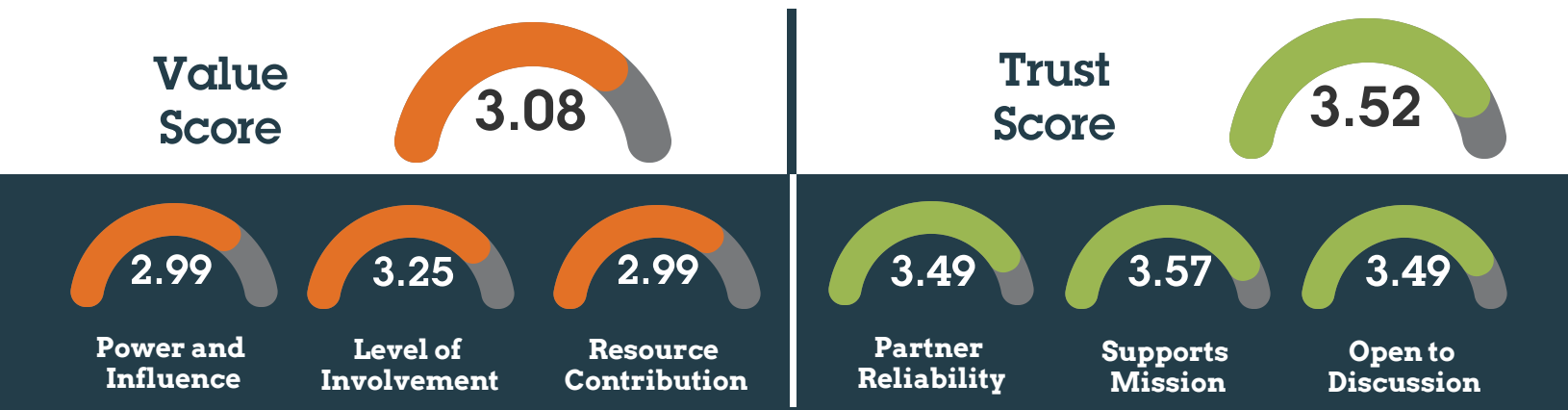
Very effective Effective Somewhat effective Not effective Not sure



Respondents reported **very high levels of trust** in their partners, while **the perceptions of the value of their partnerships were slightly lower but still above the 3.0 benchmark.**

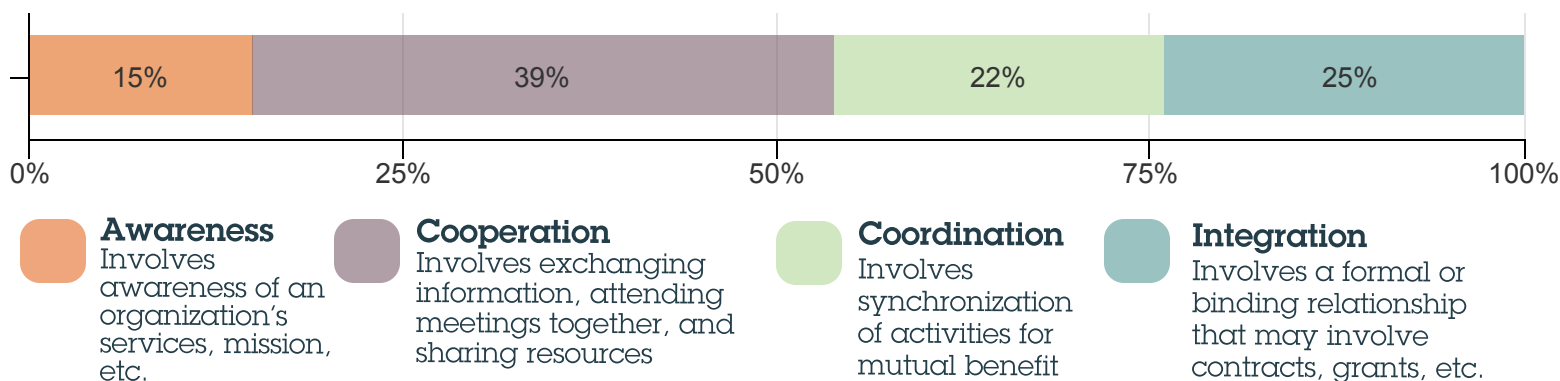
Perceptions of Value and Trust Among Partners

The following charts show the network's average perceptions of partners along three dimensions of value and three dimensions of trust. Survey participants assessed each of their reported relationships on each of the three dimensions of trust/value according to a 4-point scale, with **1 = Not at all**, **2 = A small amount**, **3 = A fair amount**, and **4 = A great deal**. Scores over 3 are considered the most positive. The network has a value score of 3.08 out of 4. The trust score is 3.52 out of 4, which is higher than the value score. Perceptions of value and trust are critical to building a network.



Intensity of Interaction

It is a positive result that connections are somewhat distributed across the levels. (n=606 relationships) As the level increases the cost of the relationship increases as well, i.e., more resources are needed to sustain the network.



Origin of Relationships

When asked how their relationships with partners were developed, respondents reported that about 47% of their relationships were either **developed through the network** or **strengthened by the network**. (n=615 relationships)

- Through the network's meetings, subnetworks, project workgroups, and conversations
- Our relationship was not developed through the network, but the network work has deepened our relationship
- Through other community venues/work not related to the network
- The partnership was mandated for grant funding.
- Through a partner of a network partner agency
- Other

