

# RIPPLE EFFECTS MAPPING – REM

## What Is Ripple Effects Mapping?

“A participatory evaluation method that engages program and community stakeholders to retrospectively and visually map the chain of effects resulting from a program or complex collaboration.” - A Field Guide to Ripple Effects Mapping

REM is comprised of 4 core ingredients:

1. Appreciative inquiry: focus is on strengths and capacity of an organization or program
2. Participatory approach: engages all participants
3. Interviewing (one to one sharing of experience) and Reflection (with the larger group)
4. Radiant thinking: hands on collaborative creation of a mind mapping visual\*

Once all information and stories are gathered, they are analyzed within a framework. The most commonly used one is the Community Capitals framework, which strives to evaluate the impacts of a program or organization within and between categories that include human, social, built, political, financial, cultural, and natural.

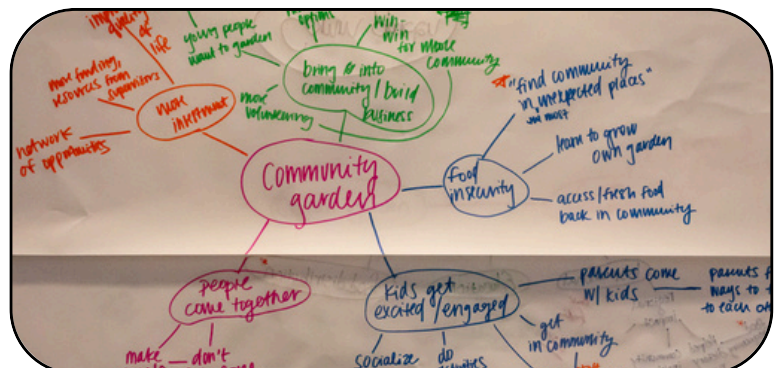
Ripple Effects Mapping offers an in depth understanding of how impactful planned efforts have been, as well new insights into how to improve or showcase the story of an organization or program,

## Is REM the Right Tool? It Is, If:

- Your organization or program is complex, involves a wide range of participants, and is well established
- Intended and unintended effects are likely
- People say they have influenced, contributed to, or have been influenced by the organization or program
- People discuss the impacts the organization or program has on them or others

## Why Use Ripple Effects Mapping?

Assessment  
Strategic Planning  
Qualitative Evaluation  
Storytelling of Organizational Impacts



\*Sample Mind Map created during a REM Training Session

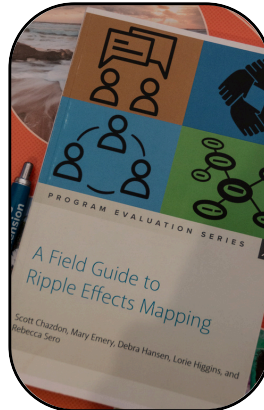
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## What Are the Steps in an REM Process?

- REM Introduction: Questionnaire Review and Initial Consultation
- Facilitated Planning Meetings
- REM Session facilitation & post-session reflection with leads
- Data analysis and evaluation
- Report writing
- Share back of analysis and mind map visual to all participants
- Submission of final report and visual materials

## What If REM Is Not the Right Fit Now?

Please contact us to learn about other evaluation or analysis methods and opportunities at [www.coalescingllc.com](http://www.coalescingllc.com)



## What Are the Deliverables?

Facilitation of REM Session  
Mind Map Visual  
Final Report  
Facilitation of share-back meeting with session participants

## What Is Coalescing's Intent in Applying REM?

to Share the benefits of this qualitative evaluation method  
to Contribute to the professional REM Community of Practice  
to Provide clients with an ethical and exceptional experience

Article on REM: <https://nifi.org/tracing-ripples-strengthening-networks-how-ripple-effects-mapping-builds-community-through-storytelling/>



Ripple Effects Mapping Training Event 2025