4. Systems

Collective impact is most appropriate if the system that the problem resides in is broken.

How can you tell if the system is broken?

Some key warning signs include:

1. **Silos**
   - Actors in the system are not working together to address the problem (i.e., not coordinated)
   - Beneficiaries face huge gaps in the system that exacerbate the problem
   - Resources are duplicated across the system without much result

2. **Outdated Policies**
   - Current policies either contribute to the problem or impose significant barriers to potential solutions

3. **Little Innovation**
   - Current solutions do not address the true nature of the problem
   - System actors are not empowered to take risks when designing solutions
   - Evaluation and learning are not prioritized

4. Inequity

- Disparate community outcomes for marginalized groups
- Limited power sharing across key stakeholders in the community (i.e., key decisions are made without considering multiple perspectives)
- Lack of engagement of those with lived experience in designing and implementing solutions

5. Lack of Scale

- Solutions have limited reach (i.e. small percentage of the population has access)
- There are barriers to scaling successful solutions in the local landscape (e.g., resource limitations, lack of capacity, etc.)