

# 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 Outdated Policies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.)

