

## **What Factors Influence Success in Public-Private Partnerships? Lessons for Neuroscience Policy**

**Author:** Fisher, Nicole Fender

**Abstract:** Since the 1600s, public-private partnerships (P3s) have been a means of uniting the greatest strengths of the public and private sectors to create unique collaborations that share risk and reduce cost to produce public and semi-public goods. Despite P3s being used for centuries, they have only been integrated in the American health system and research activities since the 1990s, with very little research conducted to understand their strengths, weaknesses, and appropriateness in health and science. This is particularly true in burgeoning areas of scientific research such as neuroscience, where application of P3s is almost nonexistent.

This dissertation investigates factors leading to successes and failures in existing P3s in neuroscience and examines how lessons learned might be used to construct public policy that, where appropriate, facilitates and supports P3s that move neuroscience forward. Exploratory methods are used, including 30 online questionnaires and 12 key informant interviews (KIIs) collected from six key stakeholder groups.

The questionnaires revealed eight factors that either facilitate or hinder P3 creation and sustainability. KIIs revealed another five subfactors. All 42 participants discussed their perspectives on definitions of success and failure of P3s, resulting in a variety of definitions that often consolidated around stakeholder groupings. Results also exposed a number of anticipated factors that were either previously misunderstood or not as important to P3 creation and sustainability in neuroscience as they are in other areas of focus.

Findings suggest P3s could play an important role in advancing neuroscience research and work but much more is needed than federal and state-level policy recommendations for the uptake of P3s in science. Major barriers to neuroscience P3s exist within U.S. organizational culture and a guiding model for how to partner is lacking. Thus, the plan for change explains how modified public policy, a new P3 model, and an effective communication strategy may improve the pursuit of P3s in neuroscience. The plan for change proposes 1) federal and state policy changes to incentivize neuroscience-based P3s, 2) the creation of a new science-based P3 model, and 3) a communication strategy to improve public and private sector understanding of government P3 objectives and capabilities.

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**Advisor:** Weinberger, Morris

**Committee member:** Fichtner, Jason; Helm-Murtagh, Susan; Powell, Byron; McNerney, Windy

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