A facilitated strategic planning process can help promote effective partnerships. However, a strategic planning process by itself is not necessarily sufficient to promote positive gains, and partners must enter the partnership willing to make the necessary investment of both time and resources to be effective.

**Benefits of Strategic Planning Process**
- Increased mutual respect and trust
- Greater sense of shared success and commitment
- Increase in information-sharing and informal/formal communication
- Improvements in participants’ understanding of the purpose of the partnership
- More positive ratings of team leadership skills

**Benefits of Structured Group Processes**
- Trust and communication
- Inclusion of key stakeholders
- Presence of a detailed focus
- Intentional consensus building
- A clear articulation of goals and objectives

**Benefits of External Facilitator Strategies**
- Prioritization of key issues
- A focus on collaborative and communication mechanisms that support the partnership
- A visioning process that builds team consensus
- Use of examples from other jurisdictions and recommendation of experts on specific topics
- Pre-work
- Building trust
- Reviewing the challenges facing the public/private partnership goals

As resources dwindle and the call for accountability and outcome achievement increases, a facilitated, strategic planning process can play a valuable role in maintaining open communication and establishing clear collaborative processes and structures across diverse agencies seeking a meaningful, productive partnership. The quality of the relationship between partnering agencies can affect client outcomes and promote greater efficiency in service delivery.