Things to know about (or consider) when working with civil society orgs:

1. They are typically mission-driven.
2. Some may employ their own journalists or comms team.
3. Most aim to achieve specific impact goals.
4. Funding can vary widely and they probably have rules about spending + allocation.

Benefits of partnering with civil society organizations:

1. They can advocate for outcomes resulting from your work in ways that journalists cannot.
2. They often have local sources + knowledge that journalists might not have.
3. Content can reach audiences who might not see your investigation otherwise.

Things to consider when seeking a CSO partner:

- What role do you want the partner to play?
- What orgs have the same (or similar) impact goals as you?
- What guidelines are in place for collaborating with non-journalism partners?

Ethical questions + other considerations:

- Consider putting the partnership in writing from the start to establish clear boundaries.
- How much do you want the CSO involved in producing content?
- Discuss any editorial separation between the CSO staff + your team.
- How will you be transparent about the CSO’s involvement?
- How do you think your audience will perceive this partnership?

Still have questions? Want further guidance on cross-field collaborations? Contact Sarah Stonbely at stonbelys@montclair.edu.