

A community organization member looking for a collaborative research partnership

I am a community organization member who wants to *partner with a researcher to better understand how research might help meet the needs of/improve my community and to engage in an in-depth research project.*

I might be looking for help to:

- Better understand what kinds of information could advance science and help my community; or
- Find research funds.

Questions to Discuss with Your Research Partner(s)

Mission/Goals	What are our goals for doing research together?
	What are the goals and objectives of our partnership?
	How might our partnership help us each better achieve our own goals and objectives?
	Who are the key stakeholders in our partnership?
	How can these key stakeholders take part in the research process (e.g., developing goals and objectives, designing research plans, collecting data)?
	How can we guide the research project to be consistent with the missions of our respective organizations/colleges/universities?
Benefits & Risks	Do we each have significant time and energy to devote to a new research project and partnership?
	What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of research?
	What will we each gain through this partnership (e.g., opportunities for staff development, learning how to best answer research questions, connections to key stakeholders, funding, more visibility, greater access to priority populations, networking opportunities, better image)?
	What are some potential drawbacks of a community-academic research partnership? How might we address these?
	What are some of the pressures of traditional academic research that we may come across (e.g., funding timelines and limits, producing scientific results, publishing in professional journals)?
Ability/Resources	In what ways are our respective organizations/colleges/universities prepared and ready to engage in a new research project and partnership?
	What human, financial, and technical resources are needed for a good, healthy research partnership? (This may include resources that are already available.)
	How will the study budget (if any) address the need for extra training, staffing, and/or administrative resources necessary to conduct the research project?
	How will the resources we have or will receive be shared fairly between us (e.g., staff, time, funding)?
Ethics	How will the ethical standards of our respective organizations/colleges/universities be part of the research plan?
	Do we need an Institutional Review Board (IRB) for this research project? If so, which IRBs will review the proposed project?
Partnership	What will we each gain through this partnership (e.g., opportunities for staff development, help with using technology, connections to key stakeholders, funding, more visibility, greater access to certain populations, networking opportunities, better image)?
	What are the past issues that we need to talk about before starting a new research partnership (e.g., problems with trust)?

	How can we develop shared goals?
Culture & Relationships	How do the cultures of our respective organizations/colleges/universities differ (e.g., norms, expectations, behaviors, approaches, procedures) and how will we address these differences?
	What will our strategy be for dealing with conflict?
	What things do we need to know about each other's respective organization/college/university before engaging in a research partnership?
Roles & Decision-Making	Are the roles, responsibilities, and expectations within our partnership clearly defined and understood by everyone? Are these explained in writing?
	What kind of decision-making process will be used throughout our partnership (e.g., led by community organization members, led by academic researchers, jointly led by both community organization members and academic researchers)?
	What might be some good strategies for working together?
	How will the many parts of the research project (e.g., defining study questions, writing proposals, designing methods, analyzing results, distributing findings) be divided-up between us?
	Who will have: ownership of the data collected through our research project; intellectual rights of the research produced; and authorship of research papers?
Sharing of Findings	How will we distribute products, share results (e.g., published papers, topic papers, presentations), and communicate messages to relevant target audiences – including other researchers, funders, government agencies and representatives, stakeholders, and the community?
	How will we share the results to support new policy, programs, and research projects?
Future Plans	What will we do to build on our research findings?
	How will we make sure that resources are available from internal and/or external sources to continue our research project and partnership?
	If we decide that our partnership should continue, how will we include a review of the partnership's mission and goals as we try to plan for future collaborations?