

A community organization member participating in a research study

I am a community organization member who has been ***asked by a researcher to participate in/help with a research study***. I might have been asked to:

- Run focus groups;
- Find people to participate in the study; or
- Answer certain questions.

Questions to Ask Yourself

Mission/Goals	How would research help my organization achieve its goals and objectives?
	How can I guide the research project to be consistent with my organization's mission?
Benefits & Risks	How might my organization benefit from a research project?
	What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of research?
	What are some of the pressures of traditional academic research that I may come across (e.g., funding timelines and limits, producing scientific results, publishing in professional journals)?
Ability/Resources	How does a research project fit into my job description?
	Is there special staff within my organization who could work on a research project?
	How will the study budget (if any) address the need for extra training, staffing, and/or administrative resources necessary to conduct the research project?

Questions to Discuss with Your Research Partner(s)

Ethics	What are some ethical issues that the research project may bring up in our respective organizations/colleges/universities?
	How will the ethical standards of our respective organizations/colleges/universities be part of the research plan?
Sharing of Findings	How will products be distributed, results (e.g., published papers, topic papers, presentations) be shared, and messages be communicated to relevant target audiences – including other researchers, funders, government agencies and representatives, stakeholders, and the community?
	How will the results be used to support new policy, programs, and research projects?
Partnership	What will we gain through participating in a research project (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 past issues need to be talked about before engaging in a research project (e.g., problems with trust)?
	Are our roles and responsibilities clearly defined? Are these explained in writing?
	What kind of decision-making process will be used throughout this research project (e.g., led by community organization members, led by academic researchers, jointly led by both community organization members and academic researchers)?