



**UC DAVIS**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
SCIENCES CENTER**

**Community-  
Engaged  
Research  
Series**

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**Involving community  
stakeholders at each phase  
of research**

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# Involving community stakeholders at each phase of research



**Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) involves direct collaboration with community stakeholders, often those who are most impacted by the issue being studied.**

CEnR can also involve collaboration with public agencies to enhance the policy impacts of research.

Benefits of CEnR to Academic Researchers include:

- Gain firsthand knowledge and insight of local partners
- Build bridges between the university and broader community
- Develop interventions with greater relevance and feasibility

Benefits of CEnR to Community Partners include:

- Access to scientific resource and knowledge that help inform community advocacy and bolster legitimacy in political and public discourse
- Help shape the research agenda of universities to respond to community priorities

**"Community-Engaged Research helps address concerns of exploitation and research fatigue among members of disadvantaged, marginalized, stigmatized, and underrepresented communities who have often been the subject of research studies.**

**It promotes "research with" rather than "research on" these communities and their members."**

**-Oregon State CBPR Guide**

# Involving community stakeholders at each phase of research



**This guide is intended to help academic researchers begin to think about how they might involve community stakeholders in their work.**

It provides examples of how community stakeholders could take part in and add value to each phase of a research project.

This list is not exhaustive, but rather is intended to serve as a starting point for conversations between an environmental health scientist and a potential community research partner about how their collaboration might look.

If you're interested in collaborating with a community-based organization or California public agency on an environmental health science research project, EHSC provides [pilot](#) and [seed funding](#) opportunities as well as **technical, administrative, and relational support.**

Email Shosha Capps ([sacapps@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sacapps@ucdavis.edu)) to get started.

For project ideas, please also see EHSC's [Community Research Priorities](#), a list of policy-relevant research priorities created in collaboration with our [Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee](#).

# Research goals

## Community partners may be able to....

Illuminate new issues of concern to stakeholders / priority research topics

Help develop action-oriented research questions that consider policy / regulatory environment

Help determine how to make the research most beneficial to key stakeholders, particularly in terms of identifying and prioritizing short-term community benefits

Identify the relationship(s) between research goals and action/community goals. Multi-level community goals could include education, advocacy, policy change, mitigation, etc.



# Study design

## Community partners may be able to....

Assist with instrument development, testing, and revision for efficacy and relevance to addressing community concerns

Help determine cultural acceptability of sampling methods (i.e. blood draws versus hair samples)

Help identify and minimize community and participant-level risks, including, for example:

- Regulatory triggers that may impact risks associated with sampling (i.e. results that require disclosure and could impact land value)
- Risks associated with receiving test results with personal or community health implications

Open up new design possibilities through leveraging of community resources / networks

Identify key stakeholders for inclusion on research team or advisory board

Help determine participant accessibility needs (i.e. language, literacy, sampling/meeting locations, etc.)



# Data collection

## **Community partners may be able to....**

Help develop an effective, culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach plan

Assist with participant recruitment via existing networks / relationships

- Host meetings / events
- Leverage existing communications channels
- Develop recruitment materials

Collect data (conduct surveys, collect water samples, etc.)

Train others to collect data

# Data analysis

A photograph of a doctor with a beard and glasses, wearing blue scrubs, looking at a tablet. A woman with long dark hair is also looking at the tablet. The background is a blurred clinical setting.

## **Community partners may be able to....**

Assist with accurately coding and analyzing qualitative data

Provide additional context for interpreting results (qualitative or quantitative)



# Sharing of results



## Community partners may be able to....

Help develop a dissemination plan to effectively reach direct stakeholders and decision makers.

Develop public-facing science communications materials and/or policy briefs.

Help make connections to key decision makers.

Help design a participant report-back process that is effective and culturally and linguistically appropriate

Help understand and address implications of results with participants and impacted communities.

Follow up with participants and other community stakeholders on any concerning results

- Provide trusted source of information on mitigation, risk management, etc.
- Highlight / leverage existing support resources
- Work with community stakeholders to determine next steps

Host community meetings with project team to share results with stakeholders

# Evaluation

## **Community partners may be able to....**

Help determine next steps for research or outreach planning.

Help assess replicability / relevance beyond original research scope / community context.

Contribute to process evaluation, in particular goals around collaboration

- Evaluate partnership and feasibility of working together again.
- Identify areas of improvement for future collaborations.

Develop criteria for and contribute to impact evaluation.

# Main Takeaways



**Collaboration with community stakeholders can make research better**



**Community stakeholders can be involved at every phase of research**



**EHSC's Community Engagement Core can help!**

**Contact the EHSC Community Engagement Core by emailing Shosha Capps ([sacapps@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sacapps@ucdavis.edu)).**