

COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH TRAINING

Part 1

UCDAVIS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

UC Davis Environmental Health Sciences Center Community Engagement Core

The UC Davis Environmental Health Sciences Center's Community Engagement Core (CEC) is devoted to helping develop partnerships between environmental health researchers and the communities where they work.

The CEC fosters community engagement in the EHSC's Pilot Project Program (PPP) by supporting grantees with training and individualized support services.

The CEC also facilitates a Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee (CSTAC), which helps set the EHSC's research priorities and review PPP proposals.

CEC services to PPP grantees may include

- Help identifying potential community partners and facilitating exploratory meetings (pre- or post-award)
- Assistance in the development of partnership agreements, including budgets, SOWs, and MOUs
- Assistance in IRB applications involving a community partner
- Supporting community partners in navigating UCD resources and administrative processes
- Helping research teams maintain regular communication
- Assist teams in navigating conflict or unexpected developments
- Help developing science communication materials
- If a project develops to Research to Action (R2A), RO1, or other NIH proposal, the CEC can provide assistance in proposal development

The Community Engagement Core Team

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What is Community Engaged Research?



Involvement of community in the formation, implementation and application of research

Metrics of Community Engaged Research

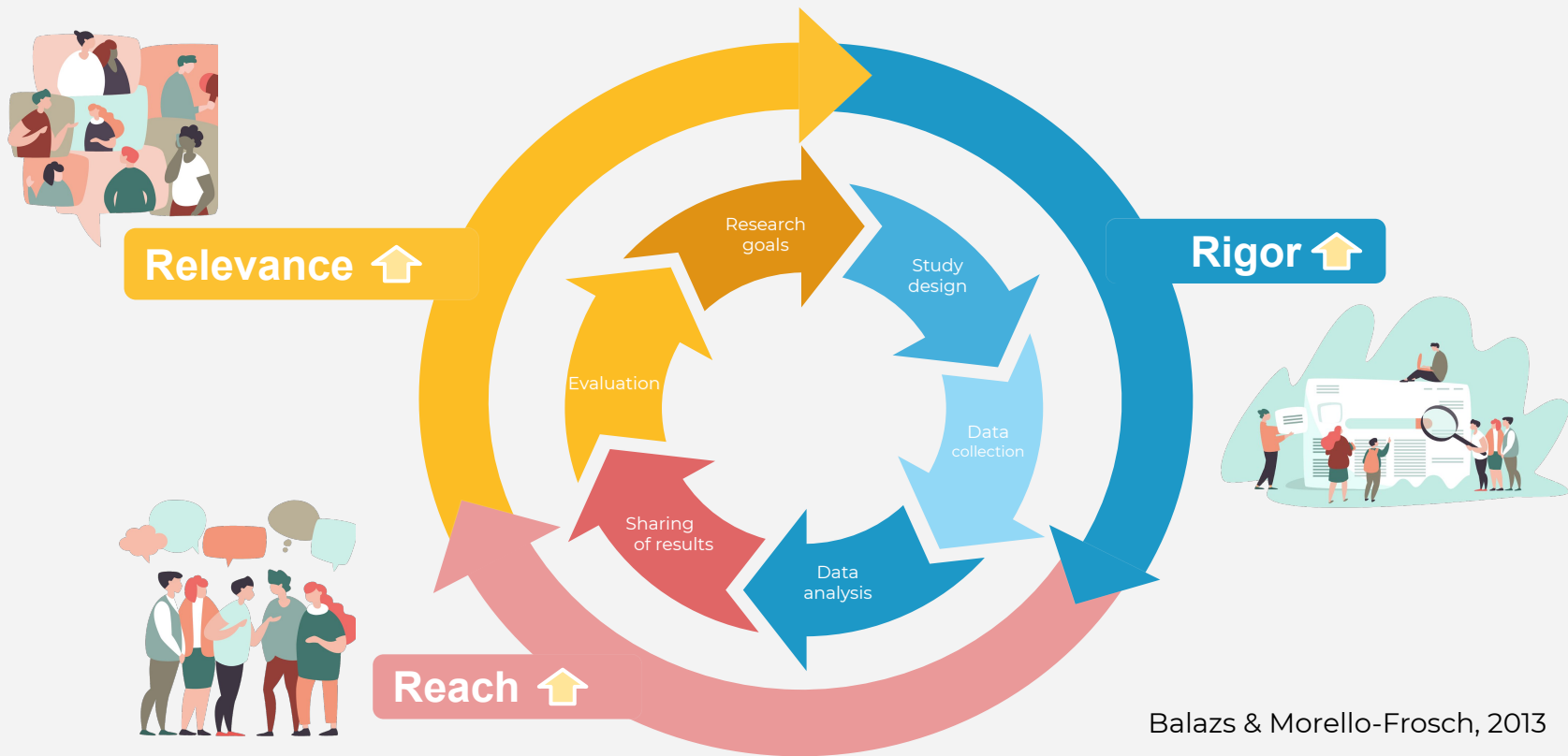
Extent of community participation

the quality and quantity of roles that community partners play in the project

Alignment of the project to its context

the degree to which projects have agreement on the scale and scope of project goals, appropriate levels and kinds of project capacities and resources, and accommodate sociopolitical dynamics affecting the project

Community engagement at each phase of research



Community engagement on a continuum: from participant to partner



“Helicopter Science”

Community stakeholders have **no influence** on study design.

Study may not include social context.



Community **context influences** study design and research questions



Community stakeholders are consulted, may participate in **translation and dissemination of results**



Community stakeholders **frame questions and set research priorities.**



Community stakeholders **leverage study results & partnerships to promote social change**



CBPR

Community stakeholders are **full partners** in research, protocol design, fundraising, and data ownership

Alignment in Community Engaged Research



Benefits of Community Engaged Research to Community Partners



Access to scientific resources and knowledge that can help inform community advocacy and bolster legitimacy in political and public discourse.



Help shape the research agenda of universities to respond to community priorities.

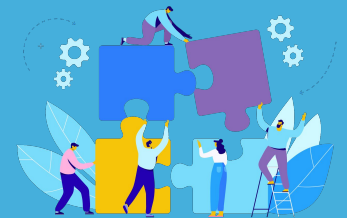
Benefits of Community Engaged Research to University Researchers

Gain firsthand knowledge and insight of local partners



Build bridges between the university and broader community

Develop interventions with greater relevance and feasibility



Support the self-empowerment of disadvantaged communities to take part in the production and application of knowledge

Common Pitfalls & Best Practices

Timely communication and communicating about time

- Avoid last minute asks / give sufficient time for feedback
- Be responsive and follow through
- Communicate project timelines (and any delays) clearly and directly

Incorporating community input

- Researchers should always communicate how community input was used OR explain why it is not being used

Community budgets and payments

- UC accounting processes are slow, and payment delays and miscommunications can negatively impact relationships. Researchers should do everything in their power to expedite partner payments.

Administering community engaged research

Partnership agreements

Payments to community partners

Going through IRB with a community partner

Partnership agreements

We strongly recommend written agreements for all projects

A written agreement is **required** if the community partner is either:

- included as a researcher on the IRB application
- getting paid

The CEC can help you negotiate and write up your partnership agreements.

We request that you provide the CEC with copies of your partnership agreements and notify us of any modifications.



Partnership agreements

Types of partnership agreements include:

- Informal partnership agreement / Scope of Work
- Budget
- Formal MOU
 - The terms of formal MOUs must be aligned with IRB requirements
 - ~4 month UCD approval timeline



Partnership agreements

Components of partnership agreement:

- Decision making process
- Nature of relationship
- Communication
- Ownership of data
- Timeline
- Roles and responsibilities
- Budget, if applicable



The EHSC's intention is that the PPP will support both new science and new collaborations -- both of which we hope will continue beyond the grant term.

You're not just piloting the science, you're piloting the relationship to build into larger projects over time.

Pilots are short and budgets are small - think creatively about reciprocity and shared goals in both the short and long term.

Successful partnerships involve significant time investments in relationship- and trust-building.

Partnership beyond the Pilot



NIEHS administers a **Research to Action (R2A)** grant to encourage multidisciplinary environmental health projects that employ community-engaged research methods and translate research findings into public health actions.

Community engagement can also **translate to higher significance scores** on other types of NIH grants, such as R01s.

Partnership beyond the Pilot





Payments to community partners

PIs are solely responsible for getting community partners paid

- EHSC / CEC cannot pay community partners directly
- Payments will go through your standard departmental accounting procedures
- Community partners will need to be added to the UCD system as vendors and issued POs **before they can start work**



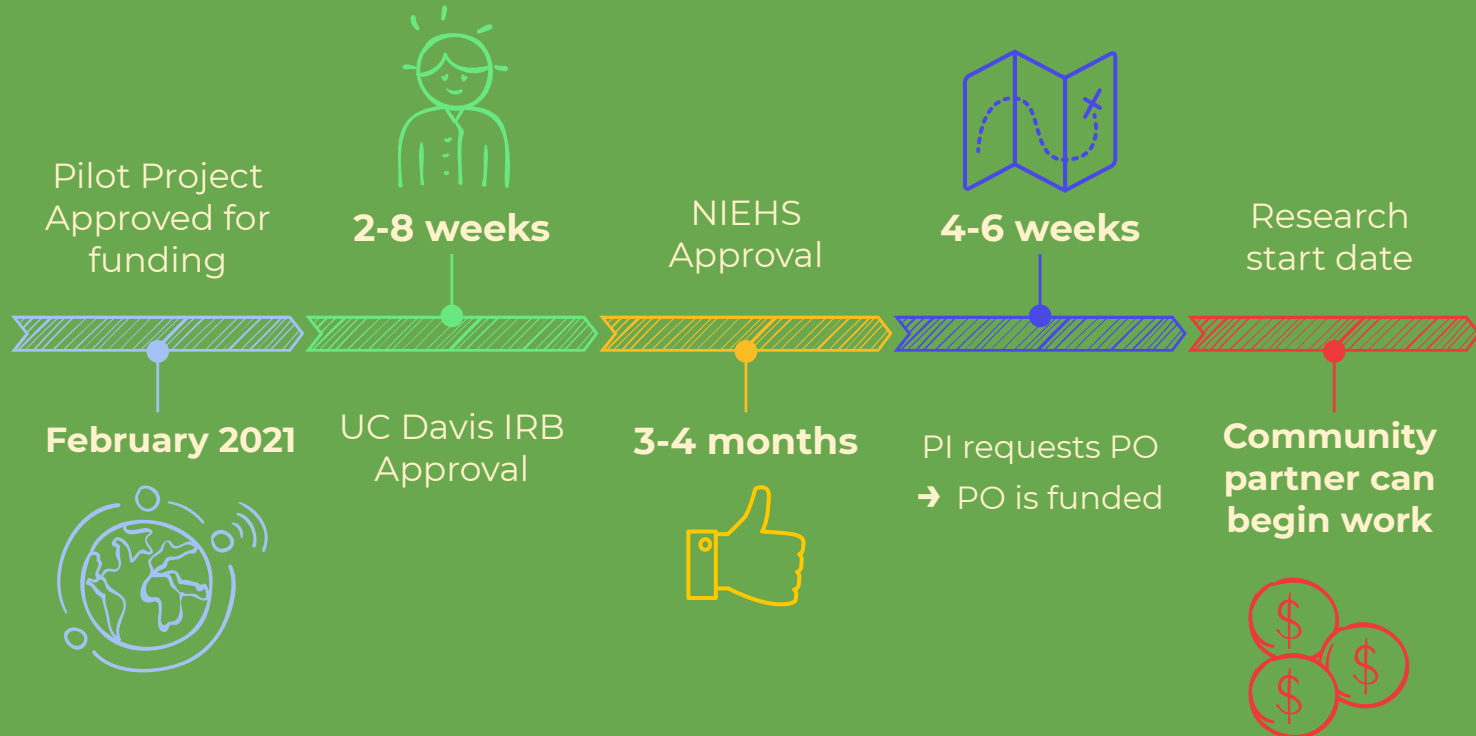
Payments to community partners

Documentation required for university to issue a PO:

- IRB Approval from UC Davis (if human subjects)
- IRB Approval from NIEHS (if human subjects)
- Community partner scope of work
- Community partner budget
- Payment term (default is 60 days)
- Any specific qualifications / resources of the community group



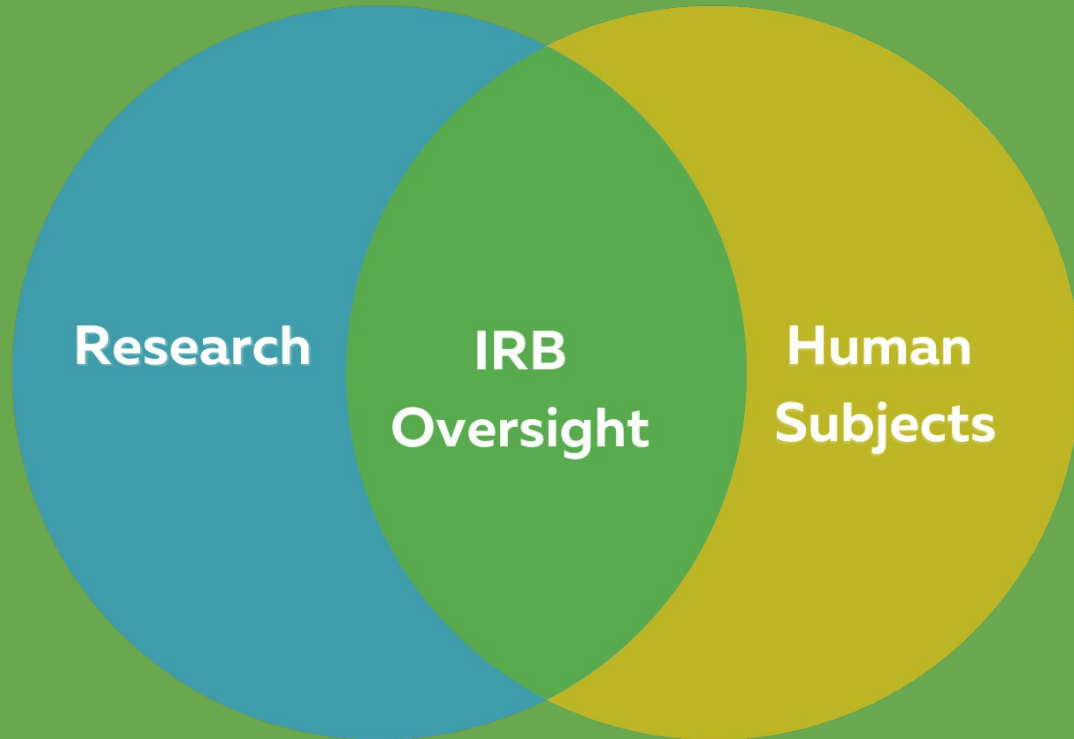
Payments to community partners



Navigating IRB with a community partner

What is IRB?

Institutional Review Board



3 types of IRB review

Full board review

Studies involve more than “minimal risk”

Examples:

Interventions involving physical or emotional discomfort or deception

Studies involving sensitive data or vulnerable populations

Expedited review

Not greater than “minimal risk:

Examples:

Collection of biospecimens by non-invasive means

Studies that do not involve vulnerable populations

Exempt review

Studies involve less than “minimal risk”

Example:

Research with de-identified records or anonymous surveys

Studies that involve normal educational settings using normal practices

What is research?

Research is a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge

If the intent of an activity is to contribute to testing a hypothesis, drawing conclusions, and contributing to generalizable knowledge, **these activities are categorized as research.**

Translating and disseminating findings alone is not “research.”

Source: https://research.oregonstate.edu/sites/research.oregonstate.edu/files/irb/comparison_research_v_non_research_v01292018.pdf

What is human subjects research?

A human subject is **a living individual**

- about whom an investigator conducting research obtains, uses, studies, or analyzes **data or biospecimens**

-OR-



- whose **identifiable, private information** is used, studied, analyzed, generated

Examples of human subjects research

- Collecting blood
- Conducting a survey
- Changing participants' environment
- Administering medicine
- Interviewing
- Collecting data
- Conducting a focus group
- Testing a new educational technique
- Administering a psychological test

Source: <https://grants.nih.gov/sites/default/files/human-subjects-research-infographic.pdf>

IRB with a community partner

-  If a community partner will be engaging in human subjects research, they must be included on the researcher's IRB.
-  UC Davis IRB Policy is to not allow non-university employees on the Research Personnel List.

Available options for including a community partner on an IRB:

Temporary Affiliate Form (TAF)

Reliance Agreement

IRB with a community partner



Temporary Affiliate Form (TAF)

Can only be used for projects classified as EXEMPT by IRB.

Cost: Free

TAF is a process created to grant external constituents (visiting faculty, concurrent students, vendors, and others) access to UC Davis computer resources.

By registering for temporary access, affiliates have access to the UC Davis network, a ucdavis.edu email address, and a unique username and password which is used to verify identity and enable subsequent access privileges to various parts of the network.

Term: 1 year, renewable

*TAF (Temporary Affiliate Form): https://servicehub.ucdavis.edu/servicehub?id=it_catalog_content&sys_id=e729e15d1b9798103f4286ae6e4bcb3e
To create a TAF: <https://computingaccounts.ucdavis.edu/cgi-bin/taf/index.cgi>*

Reliance Agreements



Reliance Agreements allow **independent investigators** partnering with UC Davis researchers to rely on UC Davis IRB for review and oversight of **non-exempt human subjects research.**

Reliance Agreements

An **Independent Investigator** is one whose home institution does not have an IRB.*

Cost:

\$2974 for initial review

\$1620 for continuing review

Contact: hs-irbreliance@ucdavis.edu

*An **external investigator** is one whose home institution does have their own IRB.

Special Considerations for IRBs with Community Partners

- Importance of intentionality around power imbalances
- Include community partner in assessing risk, particularly community-level risk and risks associated with dissemination of findings
- Some non-academic entities may have their own ethics review process that the research will need to go through

Special Considerations for IRBs with Community Partners

- Planning for modification is important but also introduces potential uncertainty around informed consent and predicting risk
- Start early, as the process can take longer with multiple collaborators
- Consult with CEC and IRB if you need to go through the IRB process before you have a partner identified