Community Based Participatory Research

August 2017

Background:

Community based participatory research (CBPR) is research that is conducted as an equal partnership between traditionally trained experts and members of a community. CBPR can strengthen community-university research partnerships by bridging community partners with research that is relevant to the community needs. In CBPR, the community participates in aspects of the research process including the design and implementation of research and dissemination of results.

Q. What CBPR resources are available?

The University of Florida Clinical and Translation Science Institute (CTSI) is one of UF’s resources working to improve communication with the community by improving access to health information and understanding of research. The CTSI provides consultation to faculty and affiliated health care partners. The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) website (http://research.ufl.edu/hrpp.html) offers a feedback form for community members and research participants to provide their feedback which is critical to improving the HRPP. Information or suggestions from these individuals that impact researchers may be shared more broadly or lead to the development of new initiatives as appropriate. Lastly, some colleges engage in Community Outreach and may offer additional resources in this regard.

Q. What are some of the issues researchers should consider when engaging the community in CBPR?

Investigators of CBPR studies should develop terms of reference or memoranda of understanding that clearly outline the goals of the research study, principles of partnership, decision-making processes, roles and responsibilities of partners, and guidelines for how the partnership will handle and disseminate data.

Q. What do researchers need to submit to the IRB for CBPR?

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) encourages researchers to engage in community participation in all stages of research when appropriate, including the initial planning stages, implementation of research and dissemination of results. Researchers intending to conduct CBPR should document in the research protocol that’s uploaded and submitted to the IRB the process by which key decisions regarding research design were made and how the communities most affected were consulted. The protocol should describe the following issues:

1. A description of how and by whom participants will be approached and recruited
2. Recruitment materials (e.g., letters, advertisements, flyers, telephone scripts).
3. A description of where participants will be recruited from
4. A description of how participants will be included in the design of the research.

If community members hope to engage in the conduct of the research they must:

1. Be listed as study staff in the IRB application in myIRB.
2. Sign an Unaffiliated Investigator Form (http://irb.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/frm-uia.docx) that must be approved by both the IRB Chair and Institutional Official.


Q. Who do I contact if I have general questions related to CBPR?

The IRB is available to assist with education, project-specific questions, and submission requirements related to CBPR, including but not limited to the following:

- Regulatory considerations related to researcher engagement, performance sites, and involvement of vulnerable populations
- Training requirements
- Institutional and/or investigator agreements

Please contact the IRB office (352-273-9600 or ufirb-l@lists.ufl.edu) with any questions, prior to submitting your application.

Additional CBPR Resources at UF

UF CTSI’s Community Engagement and Research Programs include:
- A Community Advisory Board
- Health Street
- Our Community, Our Health
- Citizen Scientist Program
- OneFlorida

Please contact the CTSI at info@ctsi.ufl.edu or visit their website: https://www.ctsi.ufl.edu/community/ for additional information.