

What is Community-Engaged Research?

CEnR “is a process that incorporates input from people who the research outcomes will impact and involves such people or groups as equal partners throughout the research process. This involvement may include co-designing research questions to solve problems, making decisions, influencing policies, and creating programs and interventions that affect their own lives.” (Yale Equity Research and Innovation Center) Community partners could include patients and their families, schools, child care agencies, community-based organizations, public health agencies or public health departments, clinical partners, advocates or policymakers.

Spectrum of Community-Engaged Research and Tips for Supporting this Approach

Research undertaken with community partners who are an equal part of the research process is the most likely to promote health equity. Other strategies for engaging community partners in the research include through community advisory boards or consultants on proposals for their particular expertise. Proposals that include community partners in dissemination efforts (e.g., development of infographics or other easy-to-understand formats such as webinar presentations) back to communities and return results to study participants are more likely to have success in translating research to impact health equity policies and practices. Community partners and study participants should also be funded for their time contributing to the research. Hiring community partners or members who bilingual/bicultural can also lead to greater research success in terms of research rigor and reproducibility. Qualitative research (e.g. focus groups, interviews) is a useful approach to understand the community’s priorities for research. If you wish to use this approach, it is important to find a team member who has expertise in using this approach in your proposal.

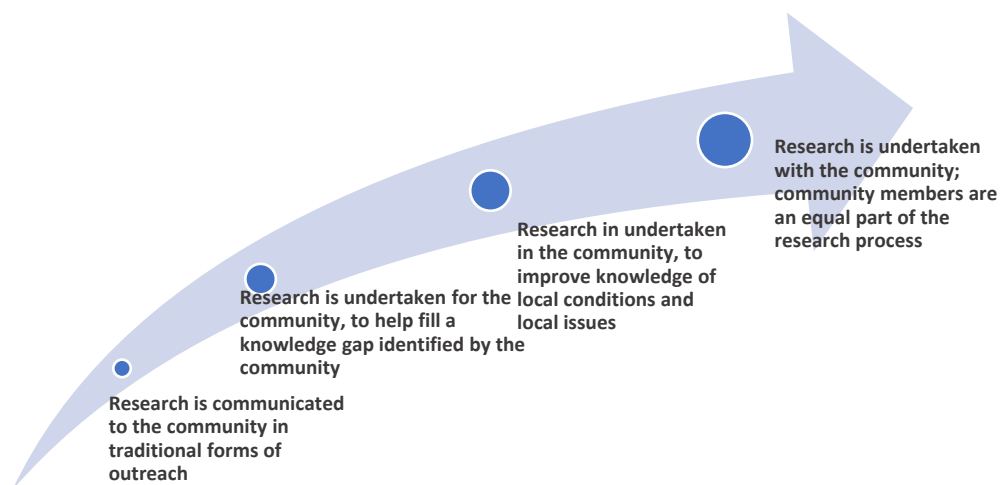


Image adapted from Jordan (2016)

Resources/guidance for Community Engaged Research:

- [MCHRI 2022 Symposium—Community Engaged Research Session and Community Partner Panel Session](#)
- [Tips for Inclusive Community-Engaged Research \(nih.gov\)](#)
- [Community-Engaged Methods Guidebook](#)
- [PCORI’s Approach to Budgeting for Engagement](#)
- [DEI Statement Guidance](#)