Guidance on Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is a collaborative process of research between trained researchers and community representatives to solve problems in communities. Members of the community are involved in all aspects of the research including design, analysis, and dissemination of results.

Considerations for Submitting CBPR Project for IRB Review

The UNM IRB acknowledges that a community-based participatory approach to research is an evolutionary process for researchers and community partners. Review of protocols will focus on protection of the subjects and communities. As appropriate, researchers should consider the following principles and aim to integrate them into their protocol development:

Ethical Principles	Protocol Considerations
The research should aim to facilitate collaborative, equitable partnerships with the community at all stages of the research. This includes, planning and implementing the research and disseminating research results. If possible, community members should be involved with the identifying the issues of concern and need for the research. In addition, they need to be involved in designing, planning and implementing the research. This permits building on the community's strengths and resources and promotes co-learning and capacity building among all partners. This also helps emphasize the local relevance of the issues to be studied.	Study Description: Include the community's role in planning, conducting and/or disseminating results of the research. Include a plan to inform community members about the results of the research study and utilize community members to help disseminate results. Consider the following in disseminating and/or publishing results of research: • Are there group harms/risks with unflattering or "bad" findings about the group? • Even if those outside the community cannot identify an individual participant, is it possible for them to identify each other? • Are there agreements up front to avoid problems later down the line? Be aware of the research activities that community partners conduct and when those activities require that community partners be added to the IRB project team. All team members are required to complete HSR training and FCOI disclosure.
The risks and benefits to individuals and the community must be considered. The	Describe any risks and benefits to the community as a whole. Consider:

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community needs to be recognized as a unit of identity. Minimize risks and maximize benefits by: • Using community collaborators to identify culturally appropriate perspectives; • Capacity building within the community to empower; and • Be cognizant of issues that could provide benefit to the community.	• How the research might further stigmatize vulnerable populations; • Emotionally charged topics and possible fractures in the community; and • Describe what has been put in place to minimize the risks to the community.
Researchers need to consider the methods used to be sure they are sensitive and appropriate to the various communities (literacy, language barriers, cultural sensitivities).	Consider how cultural or community attitudes may affect your research. In writing your protocol consider such things as: • Are the research methods sensitive to and appropriate for the community (language, literacy, cultural or community attitudes)? • Are recruitment methods appropriate to the community? • Is the consent process appropriate? • Have appropriate permissions been obtained? • Is it appropriate for community members to have access to identifiable data?
When possible the research should include capacity building opportunities	If applicable to IRB submission, describe capacity building opportunities or tools. • If members in the community will be involved in recruitment and/or data collection has education/training been provided, if appropriate? • How are barriers to community participation in planning and implementing the research being addressed?

Links to Resources

[Center for Participatory Research](#)
[CBPR Model](#)
[CBPR Institute](#)
[Community Engagement Center](#)
[Community Engaged Learning & Research](#)

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