



Strategy III.2 Principles of Community Engagement

1. All participants understand what community engagement means.

• Community engagement methods include community service, service-learning, communitybased participatory research, training and technical assistance, capacity-building, and economic development.

2. Strong community partnership.

- All partners understand each other's needs, timelines, goals, resources, and capacity for developing and implementing community engagement activities.
- Structures and processes facilitate sharing information, decision-making power, and resources among members of the partnership, with explicit attention to incorporating the expertise of all participants.
- A formal agreement addresses all aspects of the project, including a code of ethics, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, ownership of data, a dispute resolution process, and dissemination of results.

3. Power is shared responsibly and equitably.

- The community partner is involved in all aspects of the project, from establishing a shared agenda through dissemination of results.
- All partners commit to working together toward achieving the project goals and to honor the commitments made to one another throughout the project lifecycle.
- All partners commit to continuous communications beyond the mechanics of disseminating written progress (such as quarterly reports).

4. Equitable inclusion of diverse perspectives and populations.

- All segments of the community potentially affected by the project are represented.
- Potential barriers to participation are addressed.
- Communication is culturally appropriate.

5. Clear and relevant project goals.

- Impetus for project comes from the community partner.
- Project is designed to bring about positive social change for the community.

6. Mutual benefit.

- Benefits of the project should include improved health status or services for the project population, or prospects of such improvement, within a defined period of time through interventions discussed and agreed with the community.
- The project provides resources and funding for the training, employment, and general capacitybuilding of community members in all aspects of the project process.

7. Capacity building.

- UCLA partners and community partners learn from one another and share expertise and knowledge.
- Project begins with and builds on community assets and strengths.





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- The community partner develops capacities and resources for community health decisions and action.
- UCLA partners learn from the community partners how to work with communities on an individual and organizational level.

8. Respect and recognition.

- UCLA partners respect and follow community values and timeframes.
- UCLA partners ensure that all private information from participants remains confidential.
- UCLA partners explain all aspects of the project using non-technical language before the community partner agrees to participate.
- Community self-determination is the responsibility and right of all people who comprise a community.

9. Continuous communication.

- Communications between the community partner and UCLA are ongoing.
- Communications are bidirectional from UCLA to community partner and vice versa.
- UCLA provides regular progress updates to the community partner, including community members not directly involved in the project.
- Community partner informs UCLA partners of potential concerns and offers constructive solutions to improve the project.
- Communications do not end when the project ends.

10. Transparent monitoring and evaluation process.

- Partners develop a transparent process for evaluating progress and impact.
- Partners use mutually agreed-on evaluation tools.
- Potential measures of success include establishing a continuing partnership and community continuation of the project.

11. Appropriate policies regarding ownership and dissemination of results.

- Partners jointly agree on who has access to project data and where the data will be physically located.
- Findings are disseminated to all partners in language that is understandable and respectful.
- Findings are disseminated beyond the partnership.
- All partners serve as reviewers and coauthors of publications and co-presenters at conferences.

12. Translation of research findings into policies, interventions, or programs.

• Partners monitor effectiveness of translation.

13. Sustain the relationship and the research outcomes.

- UCLA partners engage the community partner before, during and after the project.
- UCLA partners prepare to release control of project outcomes or interventions to the community and help the community take advantage of those outcomes or interventions.