

# Thinking about Working with External Researchers?

## Checklist for Community Groups & Organizations

Researchers want to work  
with you. But how do you  
decide whether you want to  
work with them?



Here's some minimum expectations you can have  
of good research partners...



### The research is **relevant** to you



*respectful*

*purpose*

The research will be carried out in a way that is respectful  
of and consistent with your group/organization's history,  
values, norms, capacities, and ways of knowing

The research has a clear purpose and main research  
questions (which ideally you helped to shape) that are  
valuable and useful to your group/organization



### Stakeholders are meaningfully **involved**



*includes*

*partnership*

A steering group, which includes people in your  
group/organization and other stakeholders that you identify  
such as people who live the issue under study, will guide  
the research implementation

A partnership agreement will be developed that includes  
principles of working together and a detailed workplan (i.e.,  
tasks, roles and responsibilities, timelines and resource  
allocations if any)



### The research is **rigorous** and sound



*quality*

*ethics*

The quality of the methodology and analysis plan would  
withstand review by other researchers

The research will undergo ethical review, preferably through  
an ethics office that considers the potential of community  
harm (e.g., Community Research Ethics Office)



### The learnings will be **shared**



*sharing*

*audiences*

You and the steering group will help decide how the  
findings will be shared and with whom

Findings will be communicated in ways that are  
appropriate to the various audiences



### People will be **mobilized** to act on the findings



*action*

*acknowledge*

Researchers will take part in activities and/or discussions  
focused on moving learnings into action

Beyond the life of the project, researchers will continue to  
acknowledge the contribution of your group/organization  
(and other community partners) and direct inquiries to you  
as appropriate

Want to learn more about community-  
based research and how to do it well?



Community-Based  
Excellence Tool  
*CBRET*



Other Community-Based  
Research  
*Resources*

