We are inviting you and your community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects to participate in our recently-funded study of community-researcher health partnerships involved in CBPR. CBPR, also sometimes known as “participatory or action research,” is an approach to health research which aims to maximize community involvement in and control over research studies. Key goals of current CDC and National Institutes of Health (NIH) initiatives include 1) reducing health disparities in communities of color and 2) translating scientific discoveries into strategies for improving clinical practice and public health programming.

Towards these goals, we are conducting a research project on the promoters and barriers to CBPR in American Indian/Alaska Native communities, other communities of color, and other marginalized communities. We believe that a better understanding of the promoters and barriers to CBPR will help us to make recommendations about how to more effectively engage underserved communities in both future research projects and public health intervention efforts. As such, we hope to contribute to the scientific base of knowledge about how to reduce health disparities in these communities. It is critical for us to include a broad and diverse sample of CBPR research projects in our study, and we are eager to invite your participation.

Research teams participating in the study will have the opportunity to contribute to our understanding of the promoters and barriers to CBPR, which may facilitate their own future work. All final research results will be shared as aggregated data with research teams participating in this study.
This multi-method study, which includes both quantitative and qualitative components, is funded through the NARCH program, National Institutes for Health (NIH) and Indian Health Service. The study will be conducted from 2009 – 2013. The research methods include:

1. An internet survey questionnaire will be conducted nationally, of CBPR projects with two years or more commitment to their research project. Key informant interviews will also be conducted with team members of these projects to primarily assess factual characteristics of the overall partnership.

2. Case studies of eight CBPR sites to probe similarities and differences across key contexts, partnering processes and outcomes. Through the case studies, we hope to deepen our understanding of the variability of meaning and interpretation of differences/commonalities across our CBPR research model. (Model in: *Wallerstein, Oetzel, Duran, Tafoya, Belone, Rae, "What Predicts Outcomes in CBPR: Community Based Participatory Research for Health," From Process to Outcomes, 2nd edition, (Minkler and Wallerstein, eds). San Francisco, Jossey Bass 2008.)

Our Aims

1. To identify the variability of CBPR projects within diverse underserved communities across the nation.

2. To assess relationships between larger contexts, partnering relationships, and three intermediate CBPR outcomes: community capacities, policy and practice changes; and interventions which are sustainable and culturally-centered.

3. To identify best practices, tools, and measurement instruments for use by partnerships nationwide.

Study Methods

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How to Participate

Please share this handout with your CBPR colleagues. For more information about this project or to participate in the study, please email Leo N. Egashira, Research Coordinator (University of Washington), at seattleo@uw.edu.

Core pilot funding for this project from 2006-2009 was provided by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities.