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Day 3 - Creative Collaborations III: Community-Academic Collaborations

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Creative Collaborations III: Community-Academic Collaborations

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Objectives

- Understanding your project and the RFP
- National Funding
- Local/Foundation Funding
- Time Considerations
- Expectations
- Demonstrating Impact
- Budget Considerations
- Finding Community Partners for Research
- Resources at VCU

Funding for Community-Engaged Research (CEnR)

Community-engaged research (CEnR) projects have unique features that impact the grant proposal development process.

Getting Started

- Before you write a CEnR grant proposal, you must first assess where you are in your relationship with your community partner
 - This may determine not only what kind of funding is available to you but also what level of CEnR you will conduct

Getting Started

- Consider where your project is in its lifecycle when writing your proposal
 - Be realistic about what you can accomplish in the timeframe of the grant
 - CEnR comes with unique **time** and collaboration challenges

Understand the RFP

(Request for Proposal, Program Announcement, Funding Announcement, etc.)

Understanding the expectations of the RFP is essential to a successful proposal

- Does everyone understand what the funder is expecting?
 - The entire team should understand the vocabulary that the funder uses
- Understand the scope of project that the funding announcement expects
 - Read abstracts of funded projects
 - Contact the grant administrator or previously funded principal investigators

Understand the RFP

(Request for Proposal, Program Announcement, Funding Announcement, etc.)

- Sometimes there are no explicit references to CEnR in a funding announcement.
 - Consider other keywords and clues that you should look for to identify funding opportunities.

National Funding

Types of Research Activities

- Developing Community Priorities
- Examining Evidence-Based Practices
- Tailoring Community Programs
- Community Engaged Research Methods

Elements of Proposals

- Strong community-university partnership based on CBPR principles....
- Team members have received research training, conducted and analyzed focus group and interview data, successfully recruited participants and disseminated findings in the community.
- The idea of engaging stakeholders in crafting conceptual models arose from the initial successes of the team in modeling various health-related outcomes
- Further, **the team has collaboratively reviewed and contributed to this proposal** and is enthusiastic about building on completed work.....

Local/Foundation Funding

- Who/what have they funded in past?
- Do they understand subtleties of CEnR?
 - Costs and time in building relationships
 - Attrition
- What are their expectations for outcomes?
- What are their expectations for sustainability?

Time Considerations

- Relationship building
 - Starts before the grant process
 - Learn about your community (SES, Demo, market changes)
 - Includes whole community (not generally homogenous)
- Altruism (and Research)
 - Life/social issues are inherent, how will you deal?
- Sustainability
 - At what level is your intent to maintain relationship..be clear!
 - Be mindful of what/who has come before you and who will follow

Expectations

- What are you asking of your partner?
 - Time (limited for most)
 - Effort (cost/benefit)
 - Vulnerability (can you support this)
 - Engagement (at what level)
 - Commitment (attendance/action/attrition)
- What are you willing to bring?
 - Time (limited for most)
 - Effort
 - Vulnerability (Authentic relationships require mutual willingness to be vulnerable)
 - Engagement (Not everyone wants or needs a new friend, but all want the truth)
 - Release of some control..questions/outcomes

Expectations

- Clarifying roles
 - Throughout the process
 - Build in each partners' strength
 - Focus on co-learning
- Communication
 - Frequent and flexible
- Working and group dynamic norms
 - Determined and enforced by the group

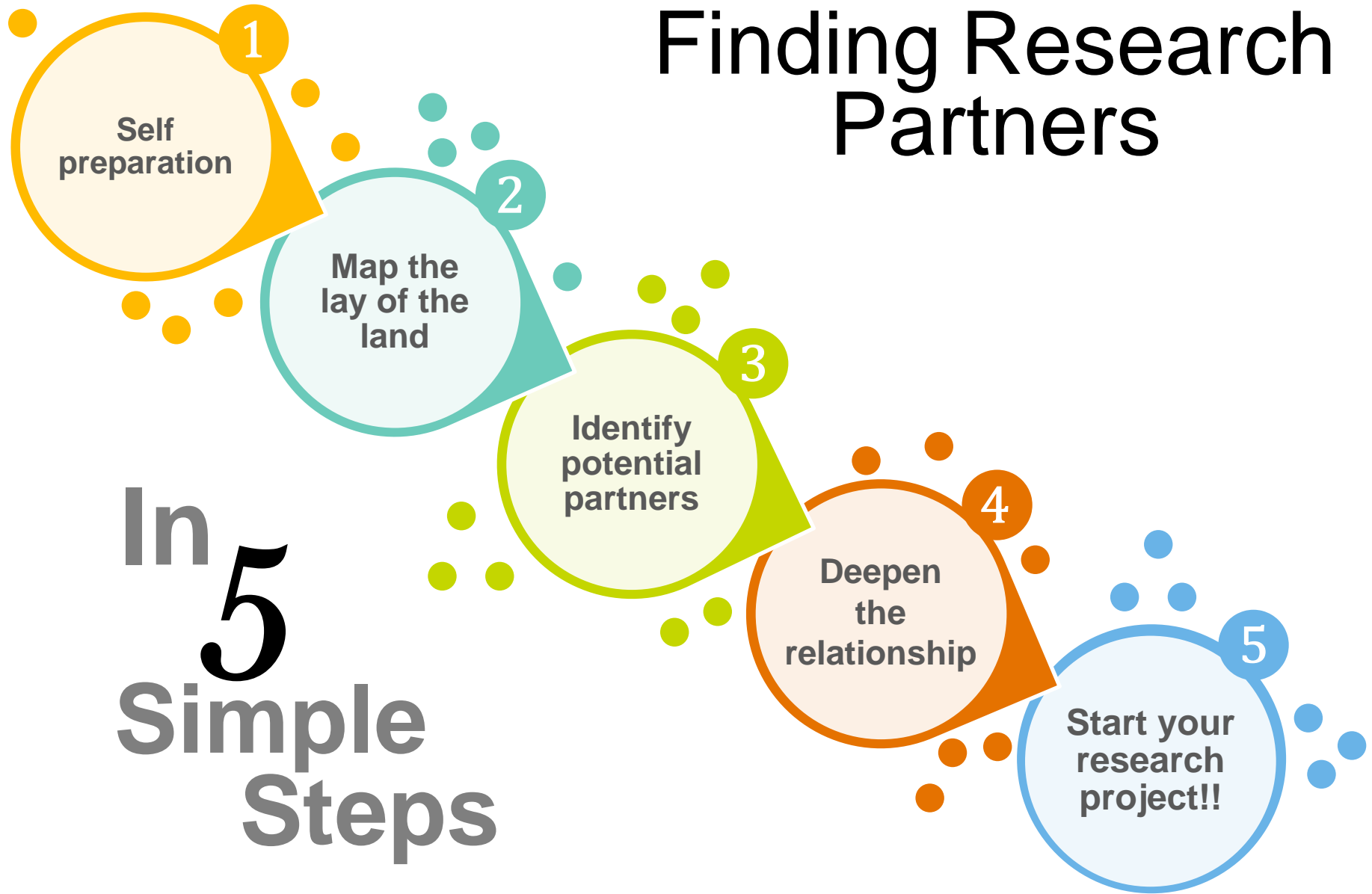
Demonstrating Impact

- Partnership quality
- Shared leadership
- Personal growth
- Academic dissemination
- Program and policy impact
- Future funding

Budget Considerations

- Financial compensation
 - To pay or not to pay?
- Partner costs
 - Time is money
 - Time from family
 - Travel
 - Ensure participants incur no cost for participation
- work closely with your FA

Finding Research Partners



In **5**
Simple
Steps

1 Self preparation

Before you seek out a partner, ask yourself

1. Am I willing and able to respect and inspire others?
2. Do I have the ability to share control, to lead and be led?
3. Do I want to make others' concerns the focus of my research?
4. As a researcher, am I able to supplement my scientific skills with humility?
5. Am I committed to self-evaluation, equal power distribution, and the development of mutually beneficial partnerships?

2 Map the lay of the land

“**Warm up**” **the community** by participating (or having your research staff participate) in community events and activities.

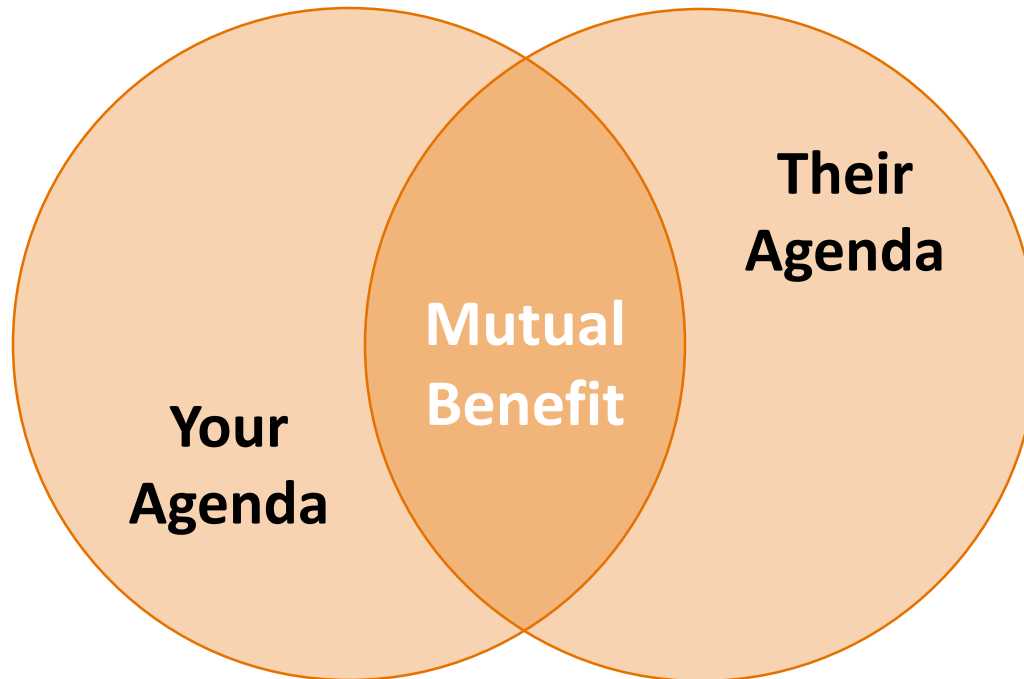
Getting to know your stakeholders, and the work that has been done before you, can help you identify individual collaborators

Show genuine interest!

3 Identify potential partners

- Find local community events, groups, and volunteer opportunities on-line having
 - [Connect VA](#)
 - [HandsOn Greater Richmond](#)
- Utilize VCU's [Partnership Map](#)

4 Deepen the relationship



Developing **trust** among all players requires an initial investment but creates long-term efficiencies

4 Deepen the relationship

Best practices in partnership development suggest that successful partners **deliberately and expressly explore** shared interests, recognize partner strengths and capacity, and establish standards of performance.

This can be done through a formal or informal **“Partnership Agreement”**

5 Start your research project & Utilize VCU Resources

A **Community Review Board** is VCU's structured forum for researchers interested in feedback from community members.

Composed of **expert reviewers** from the community, they provide feedback on all phases of proposed or ongoing research projects.

Attend our annual [Community Engagement Institute!](#)

Community Engagement Institute

The Division of Community Engagement, along with the Center for Clinical and Translational Research, host VCU's Community Engagement Institute annually in May. The Community Engagement Institute provides faculty members, community partners and graduate students the opportunity to build a basic understanding of community engagement through Service-Learning and Community-Engaged Research learning and networking opportunities.



**\$ Get paid to \$
\$ develop \$
your \$
\$ partnership! \$**

[CCE Partnership Development Grant](#)

More Resources

- A Quick Guide to Conducting Community-Engaged Research (2012). Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Office of Community Engagement.
http://oprs.usc.edu/files/2013/01/Comm_Engaged_Research_Guide.pdf
- Israel, B., Eng, E., Schulz, A. J., & Parker, E.A. [eds]. (2005). Methods in Community-Based Participatory Research for Health. foreword by David Satcher, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA.
- Connect VA: <https://www.connectva.org/events/>
- HandsOn Greater Richmond: <http://www.handsonrva.org/>
- VCU Partnership Map: <http://communitynetwork.vcu.edu/partnerMap>
- Community Review Board: <http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/community/reviewboard.html>
- Guidance Documents: <http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/cer/>
- CE Institute: <http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/cei/>
- Collaborative Curiosity: <http://rampages.us/communityengagedresearch/>
- Division of Community Engagement: www.community.vcu.edu
- Center for Clinical and Translational Research: <http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/>
- Teaching Service Learning at VCU: <http://www.servicelearning.vcu.edu/teach-with-us/design-a-course/>
- Models for exploring shared interests—Action Catalogue: <http://actioncatalogue.eu>

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