

Questions to Consider Before Deciding to Participate in Research Initiatives

1. Who are the researchers?
2. How is the research funded?
3. Who do the researchers report to?
4. What is the purpose and goals of their research?
5. Has the research proposal been reviewed by a formal ethics committee?
6. Is there a steering committee guiding the implementation or the research process?
7. How will this research be used?
8. If our organization participates, what policies regarding confidentiality, consent, and release of information will apply?
9. Is it clear to our board what the outcomes of the research might be and how it might affect individuals and the organization?
10. Are we being given an opportunity to collaborate?
11. Who or what is the subject being researched?
12. Are there opportunities to participate at the research steering committee level, or as a research partner?
13. How do the researchers intend to communicate the research findings?
14. What are the possible implications of the study?
15. What resources will be expected of our organization (ie. staff and volunteer time and other expenses)?
16. Are there benefits (honouraria, grants, volunteer reimbursements, etc.) to support our participation?
17. How long will the research be conducted for?
18. How does our participation translate into future partnerships and other opportunities for our organization?
19. What capacity building does the organization and individuals involved gain from this research project?
20. Who will own the final research findings?