

Getting Involved in Research: A Guide for Communities and Researchers

As a Community Partner, you can choose to get involved in research studies in many ways, including in the following activities.

Words in **BOLD** are explained on the next page.



Ideas & Planning BEFORE the study is funded

- helping researchers choose the most important question to **research**
- sharing ideas
- making sure the study makes sense
- suggesting ways of '**recruitment**' and involving different types of people as '**participants**' on the study



Applying for Money to do the study

Making sure that the '**Plain English Summary**' for the **funding application form**, is easy to understand and makes sense.



Helping the Study **ONCE** it is funded

Being part of the research study '**advisory group**' and helping to solve any problems sharing ideas for flyers/leaflets for participants helping with any research interviews if this was needed for the study.



Understanding the Results **AT THE END** of the study

Helping the researchers to understand the results of the study.



Sharing the Results of the Study

Suggesting ways for '**dissemination**' of the results, e.g. sharing on social media, with charities, with support groups, in libraries, at community centres, in doctors surgeries, in pubs.

Research Words Explained

Research Process

Often called Research Cycle. It's how research teams ask questions and find answers, one step at a time.

Community Partner

Also called Public Partner or Public Contributor. Someone with lived experience who gets involved in a project.

Studies

Also called projects. Ways to learn more about something by asking questions or looking at facts. This is **research**.

Recruitment

This is how researchers encourage people (**participants**) to take part in a research study.

Plain English Summary

This is how researchers describe their project in a way that is easy to understand and makes sense.

Funding Application Form

When researchers ask for money to do a study and explain what they plan to do.

Advisory group

An advice group where you can share your thoughts and ideas with the researcher about the project.

Dissemination

How the results of the study will be shared with others.

Helpful Things to Think About When Getting Involved in a Research Project

How would you like to meet with the researcher? e.g. On your own or in a group, in person or online



Where would you like to meet? e.g. In a coffee shop, community centre, library



How would you like to be contacted? e.g. Email, phone, text or WhatsApp



How would you like any information to be shared with you? e.g. Written, audio, video



How would you like to receive payment for your time? e.g. Vouchers or into your bank account.



Design by Sonia Newman and co-produced with Nadine Crew, Community Partner in collaboration with RSS USP PPI Team.

With special thanks to Louise Ting and Lucy Condon, Eva Roberts and Bristol GenR YPAG for permissions to adapt the YPAG's version of the Research Cycle.

Getting Involved in Research: A Guide for Communities and Researchers © 2025 by Sonia Newman is licensed under CC BY 4.0