



## Take-Home Tips for Proactively Addressing Ethical Issues When Working with Communities

1. Partner with community leaders from the very beginning to ensure consensus on goals and priorities for the research.
2. Invite additional members to the study team as necessary to meet the needs of the stakeholders.
3. Enter into written agreements at the beginning of the project as to the roles of the various members in the conduct and analysis of the research and the dissemination of research results.
4. When working with Native American tribes and other units with specific leadership structures, be sure to obtain their approval of the research (before submitting it to another IRB).
5. Proactively consider how you will preserve individual (and communal?) privacy in the research setting.
6. Design a recruitment strategy that is sensitive to the community's concerns.
7. If using citizen science to collect/report data, ensure training appropriate to the tasks being completed.
8. Approach the process of informed consent prepared to:
  - a. Discuss the study in the participant's language.
  - b. Address any cultural or social issues that are likely to be important to the community member.
  - c. Describe how you will continue to be in communication with the participant throughout the course of the study.
9. Share the work - and the credit - for results of the research. Proceed according to the written agreement, but be flexible to respond to dynamic changes.
10. Tips for submitting your projects to the IRB:
  - a. Ensure that all of your documentation is in order, including:
    - i. Translated consent forms
    - ii. Approval letters from community sites/leaders
    - iii. Clear identification of, and plan to minimize, risks specific to the population of participants being recruited
  - b. Allow for enough time for the review (at least a month) and be prepared for some back-and-forth with the IRB to clarify your project
  - c. Remember to resubmit any changes to the approved protocol promptly to the IRB
11. Tips for conducting human subjects research at EPA:
  - a. Ensure you leave enough time for HSRRO approval \*after\* IRB approval
  - b. Avoid intentional exposures with pregnant women, nursing women, or children.

**AND DO GREAT THINGS TOGETHER!**