CIRTification: Community Involvement in Research
Training in Human Research Protections

UNIQUE FEATURES

Relevant to Community-Engaged Research
• All examples and case studies involve community-engaged research projects
• Discussion of why academic researchers engage communities and the additional protections that community engagement provides

Addresses Unique Ethical Issues that Arise in Community-Engaged Research
• Group harms
• Ethical issues in recruiting individuals who receive community agency services or are otherwise known to community partners
• Privacy/confidentiality issues when individuals conduct research in their own communities
• Informed consent challenges in vulnerable populations (e.g., illiteracy, limited access to services)

Simplified Language, Targeted Concepts
• All materials written in lay language
• Glossary of key research terms
• Some introduction to research basics (e.g., How Does Human Research Happen?, What is Research? Is it Research?)
• Unit on research integrity and good research practices

Interactive format
• Discussion-based activities
• Focus on skills-building, especially obtaining informed consent (e.g., role play “Informed Consent in Action”)

“Train-the-trainer” Model
• Provides resources and materials for investigators (with limited training in human research protections) as well as HRP educators (with little knowledge of community-engaged research) that can be adapted to a variety of community research partners
• Facilitator manual includes 3 pages of guidance on how to use the manual, addressing the intended audience, formats/timelines, and fidelity to key concepts
• Facilitator materials include additional background materials with references, discussion and activity guides, and presentation notes
• Materials to help investigators demonstrate suitability of CIRTification to HRP administrators

Developed by Emily E. Anderson, PhD, MPH (while at the University of Illinois Chicago)
Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine