

Principles of Good Community-Campus Partnerships¹

- 1. Partners have agreed upon mission, values, goals, and measurable outcomes for the partnership.**
 - Partnerships proceed from the idea that participants are members of a common community that they seek to improve for the sake of their own and each other's benefit.
 - In collaborative conversation, partners develop a vision of how their immediate environment-the community in which they live and work-can be strengthened.
 - Resources and skills are pooled and used to help the partnership realize its vision.
- 2. The relationship between partners is characterized by mutual trust, respect, genuineness, and commitment.**
 - Genuine democratic partnerships value the bonds that form between people, and acknowledge that the building of strong community happens through networks of individual relationships that deepen with time and experiences shared.
 - Strong collaborative relationships are intentional and characterized by the following: trust and mutual respect; equal voice; shared responsibilities; risks and rewards; forums to support frequent and open communication; clear lines of accountability; shared vision; and mutual interest.

¹ Community Campus Partnerships for Health, <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/principles.html#principles>.

3. **The partnership builds upon identified strengths and assets, but also addresses areas that need improvement.**

- Document the strengths and assets each partner brings to the partnership.
- It is important to evaluate the partnership's effectiveness, and if it constantly draws upon the strengths and assets of its members.
- How is language used in your partnership? Do you and your partners rely on commonly used terms such as “needs assessments” or “problems”? Consider and reflect upon how often these terms are used, and the reasons for their usage.

4. **The partnership balances power among partners and enables resources among partners to be shared.**

- This concept of shared power and resources is integral to a successful partnership.
- The partnership process should be initiated by incorporating ground rules based on open discussion.
- A clear vision is agreed upon by all partners.
- All partners are given the opportunity to clarify their aims and objectives.

5. **There is clear, open and accessible communication between partners, making it an ongoing priority to listen to each need, develop a common language, and validate/clarify the meaning of terms.**

- Each partner must be aware of their own and each other's cultural viewpoints and take into account the possibility of diversity in values, beliefs, practices, lifestyles, and problem-solving strategies.
- For effective interpersonal relationships to occur there must be a straightforward give and take of ideas and knowledge.
- In a successful partnership, the resources and knowledge-base must be shared.

6. **Roles, norms, and processes for the partnership are established with the input and agreement of all partners.**

- Through discussion and open communication, all partners work together to establish the roles, norms and processes of the partnership.
- Each partner should have equal voice and shared responsibility in this process.

7. **There is feedback to, among, and from all stakeholders in the partnership, with the goal of continuously improving the partnership and its outcomes.**

- A partnership can be evaluated on several levels simultaneously—the impact on participating groups (particularly the community), the products of partnership, and the process by which work is accomplished.
- The results of the evaluation can be used to guide future work and modify existing practices.

8. **Partners share the credit for the partnership's accomplishments.**

- Sharing and celebrating the accomplishments of the partnership strengthens and fuels the partnership.
- It is important to acknowledge successes.
- Through this process of sharing credit, trust builds between the community agency and the partnering institution.

9. **Partnerships take time to develop and evolve over time.**

- Strong relationships take time to build and energy to maintain, but partnerships cannot exist without them.
- Three major elements form the basis of a strong partnership process: a method for revisiting the premises of the partnership; a structure that allows for evolution and growth; and practices that support frequent communication.