Effective Project Planning for Students

- ✓ Understand community practitioners' workload and service demands.
- ✓ Understand the difference between a research design as experiential learning and a research project.



THINK NOT ONLY WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THEM.

- ✓ Research projects involving communities need to be planned with your professor or supervisor to minimize unwanted risks and miscommunication with community partners.
- ✓ Understand the community's availability, structure and resource before approaching them with your research needs.
- ✔ Have a clear project plan and timeline
- ✓ Consider your academic course load and busy times for the Fall (Sept.-Dec.) and Winter term (Feb.-Apr.). Schedule meetings in advance with community agencies regarding your project. Keep in mind their busy times too.

Understand Community Agencies and Practitioners Expectations



- Humility and collaboration in research is a must.
- ✓ Recognize the role and importance of practitioners and the community you are researching.
- ✓ Recognize the importance and context of your research for practitioners and the communities they are servicing.

- ✓ Think of the community members as co-researchers, value their knowledge and compensate them accordingly. They are experts on your topic based on their lived experiences.
- ✓ Think of a collaborative atmosphere while working with the agency and the community (sharing food, coffee and tea during meetings works with every culture).
- ✓ Be aware that unprepared students and academic researchers waste time and add to practitioners' workload.

Developing Collaborative Research



Your project-planning framework should include the following:

- ✓ Agency contact person, typically someone who oversees the research.
- ✔ Full project proposal including timeline and budget of your research
- Ethical approval
- ✓ Consent forms
- ✔ Your supervisor's contact address

Credit:

Nimo Bokore, Carleton University School of Social Work and Nadeea Rahim, student, LERRN Project. doi:10.22215/lerrn-2019-02

