

Community-based research

A. Purpose

To provide a summary of investigator responsibilities when conducting community-based research.

B. Revision history

Originally issued: February 2014

C. Persons affected

All NWSU University faculty, staff, students, and agents of the institution

D. Policy

The IRB follows federal regulations and campus guidelines when reviewing community-based research protocols. The IRB may contact a consultant to review any research study where additional expertise is required, including community based research.

Investigators should keep the following special considerations in mind when conducting community-based research:

- Does the community partner have an IRB and/or approval process?
- If community partners are involved in the research activities, there are often issues of “engagement,” under federal law. If the partners are “engaged” in the research, they must complete human subjects training and be listed as personnel on the protocol application.
- Consent forms should be reviewed to ensure that the reading level is appropriate for the planned participants. In addition, translated documents are required if there will be non-English speaking participants.
- The IRB needs details as to how the data will be disseminated/shared with the community partner in order to determine if that information needs to be included on consent forms.
- If any of the research will take place in participants' homes, the investigator must address issues of mandated reporting under state laws.