



Alliance for Healthier Communities

Advancing Health Equity in Ontario

EPIC Client & Community Research Partners Program

Frequently asked questions for people who are thinking about sponsoring a Research Partner

If my client becomes a Research Partner, what will they do?

Research Partners will meet over Zoom about once every two months for an hour.

We'll start with an orientation about the Alliance and how we do research. We'll work with the Partners to make some decisions about how to manage the group, and we'll finalize the Terms of Reference together.

At regular meetings, we'll discuss questions that come to us from Alliance researchers and other research partners. For example, we might ask, "Do you think your health care team would provide better care if they knew the answer to this?" or "How would you feel if you were asked to do this task?"

How will Research Partners be compensated and supported?

Being a research partner takes time, effort, and emotional labour. Recognizing this, the Alliance will pay \$50 to each advisor for every meeting they attend. We will also provide training to help them feel confident, and a facilitator will be available to answer their questions within and outside of meetings.

What is the role of a sponsoring organization?

Each partner must be sponsored by an Alliance member organization. The organization may provide practical supports to help with participation, as agreed on with the Research Partner in advance. For example, they may provide child care or language support or lend them an internet-enabled device. When participants can't accept cheques or direct deposits, we may ask sponsoring organizations to deliver cash or a gift card, which we will pay for.

What is the role of an individual sponsor?

Your role will be to ensure the Partner receives the agreed-upon supports and compensation. You will also advocate for them in the event of conflict or perceived harm. You should be a staff member at the sponsoring organization, and you must have a trusted relationship with the Research Partner.

What experience does a Research Partner need?

Right now, we are looking for people who have some experience as a member of a board or an advisory group with their health care team. Later on, we may include people who don't have this experience.

However, partners don't need to start out with any particular education or background. They're already experts about their own health care needs and their life experience. We will teach them what they need to know about research and the health system.

Will my client automatically be a Research Partner after I fill in this application?

No. We'll take applications through the summer, interview the applicants, and select a group with diverse experiences and perspectives. If your client is not selected, there may be other ways for them to contribute.

