



Alliance for Healthier Communities

Advancing Health Equity in Ontario

EPIC Client & Community Research Partners Program

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

Why are Client & Community Research Partners Important?

Client and Community Research Partners can help researchers decide what to research. They want to know that the topics they are researching are important to people.

Client and Community Research Partners can also help researchers know if they are working in a respectful way that makes sense and doesn't hurt anybody.

Client and Community Research Partners can help researchers understand the best ways to share what they learn from their research.

What will the Client and Community Research Partners do?

Client and Community Research Partners will meet about once every two months for an hour and a half (90 minutes). At the first few meetings, you will learn about the Alliance and how we do research. You will also work with Alliance staff to help plan how the research partners program will work. Sometimes, researchers will come and talk to you about their work and ask questions to understand if they are doing it in a respectful way.

How will the Alliance support the Client and Community Research Partners?

The Alliance will work with your health care team to make sure you have what you need to participate. For example, your health care team may provide child care, help you get on the internet, or help pay for transportation. The Alliance will also pay you \$62.50 for every meeting you attend. This is because we know that being a Research Partner is hard work and that what you are doing is important.

Do I need special skills or knowledge?

You are already an expert. You know a lot about your health care needs and your life experience. We will teach you what you will need to know about research and the health system.

Do I need experience?

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 kind of experience.

Will I automatically be a Research Partner after I fill in the application?

We will take applications through the summer and then interview the people who applied. We will use this information to select a group of people who have different experiences and perspectives. Even if you are not selected to be a Research Partner, there may be other ways for you to contribute.

