

Balancing Needs of Partners

A Quick Guide for Building and Maintaining Partners

Partnerships are essential to the success of any community project. However, not all partners have a perfect connection and fairly share duties and responsibilities. The needs of those involved can vary immensely due to the background and reasoning for entering into the partnership. Most community-based projects have a combination of researchers, clinicians, and community members that may include a couple to several forms of partnerships. It is important to balance the needs of each type of partner so various perspectives can be offered to the project.

[A Clinician’s Guide](Balancing%20Needs%20of%20Partners-Clinician.docx)

[A Community’s Guide](Balancing%20Needs%20of%20Partners-Community.docx)

[A Researcher’s Guide](Balancing%20Needs%20of%20Partners-Researchers.docx)



These various needs often make balance difficult between all partners. There are times when certain partners have more at stake which can cause tension among the entire group. Here are a few ways to balance the needs of all partners.

1. Discuss common goals immediately and make sure they are in-line with all partners.

2. Providing written agreements from the beginning to alleviate any discord later on.

3. Define all roles among the partners so everyone understands their part of the larger picture.

4. Value contributions from everyone involved.

5. Develop a plan for conflict-resolution.

6. Avoid participating in a project for only personal gain

7. Remain open-minded to hear the thoughts and perspectives of others.

8. Feel free to share your ideas, opinions, and concerns

Partnerships allow for combining all types of skills and talents into the project. Each group learns from the others and work to make the projects as culturally appropriate as they can. Although there can be clashes within partnerships, these conflicts can be resolved by being understanding and accepting of ideas and opinions. Once these partnerships have flourished, everyone involved will receive maximum benefit from the project.