

Building Research and Working with CTSA's

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Getting started with community-based research and your CTSA:

- Build teams. Start with an inventory of the people in your department/grouping. Who are they, how do they work together? What are their personalities? What interests do you have that are shared? Start building teams!
- Use [Community Oriented Primary Care \(COPC\)](#) methods to map your communities and identify unmet needs and to help identify and engage potential community partners. Observational studies are key to family medicine research, so describe your communities. Define who is out there, meet and build relationships with community organizations. Relationships matter, and this is what often is of interest for CTSA's.
- Now that you have your teams built and community partners identified, organize this information into an inventory of what your community 'assets' are. Learn what your local CTSA's interests are. How can you marry your identified community assets with the interests of the CTSA?
- Be clear in your own mind what you want from the CTSA. Go beyond financial infrastructure support that the CTSA may or may not be able to provide. Is it building relationships within the research community? Collaboration on grants? Publication and dissemination support?
- Schedule time with the CTSA's planning leadership. Exhibit flexibility. Offer to take on a leadership role in community engagement. Start small if you have limited resources and use your success in providing community deliverables to take on even larger roles within the CTSA.
- Be an advocate for community interests. Be sure communities achieve rewards from working with the CTSA and are engaged in communicating outcomes of CTSA research. Form the vital bridge between the CTSA and engaged communities. Become the home for Community engaged research!