

Typology for Public Impact-Focused Research Ways Universities Might Describe their Research Projects

Use Right Column as Checkbox

Timing of External Partner Engagement		
<i>"Partner" – can be neighborhood, City, County, Outside entity, etc.</i>		
1.	University identifies the problem and proposed approach and then seeks consent of community after project is defined.	
2.	Partner and University work together from the beginning to identify and define the problem/project	
3.	Partner initiates engagement approaching University to ask for help to solve the problem	
Potential Forms of Partner Engagement & Connection to Community/Public		
<i>"Partner" – can be neighborhood, City, County, Outside entity, etc.</i>		
4.	The community/public is an incidental and distant beneficiary. Quickly influencing the community or public is not a primary driver.	
5.	The community/public is an anticipated beneficiary with such influence occurring quickly.	
6.	A partner from the affected community/public is involved in some way with the proposed research.	
7.	University initiates project but consults with Partner representing the community regarding the proposed intervention/research	
8.	Partner and University work together to define the research project set in the community.	
9.	Supporting structures for the project/target research area are established between the partner and university with commitments, organization structures, positions etc.	
10.	Partner contributes to the project by carrying out certain functions of the work/research.	
11.	Partner is engaged in all aspects of the research, contributing expertise and sharing decision-making and ownership.	
12.	Partner from the community publicly discusses project and anticipated outcomes.	
13.	Partner from the community approaches university and drives the engagement	
Sectors/External Stakeholders Engaged in the Project		
14.	Residents	
15.	Government	
16.	Industry	
17.	Other Universities	

18.	Interest Groups	
19.	Non-Profit Organizations	
20.	Organizations/Residents from outside of the United States	
University Community Members Involved with Research Community – can be neighborhood, City, County, Outside entity, etc.		
21.	Undergraduate students	
22.	Graduate Students & Postdocs	
23.	Staff	
24.	Faculty	
25.	Alumni	
26.	Friends and Affiliates	
Research Team, Disciplines Represented & Nature of Collaboration		
27.	Single researcher/laboratory with no other collaborators	
28.	Single researcher/laboratory at university but collaborating with external expert(s)	
29.	Multiple research teams from the same campus are working together on the project	
30.	Multiple research teams from different campuses are working together on the project	
31.	Collaboration involves a researcher or team from a university with a researcher or expert from a non-university setting such as industry	
32.	“Multiple” teams includes teams from different disciplines	
33.	Research involving multiple teams includes a framework where the teams from different disciplines work together to approach the project, integrating knowledge, methods and expertise from different disciplines	
34.	Researchers have established history of working together	
35.	Researchers are working together for the first time.	
36.	Research team or partners have experience working in this particular community setting	
37.	Researchers are engaged with more than one community with the anticipation of identifying unique characteristics and/or creating opportunities for transferability	
38.	Research teams are focused on complementary communities with the recognition that the research and interventions potentially could impact other communities or processes. (e.g., town with water shortage and town with frequent flooding)	

Project Characteristics (Commitments & Anticipated Outcomes)	
39.	The project is designed to gather data about some phenomenon in the community
40.	The project is designed to implement and assess a particular intervention in the community
41.	The project has a specific goal/outcome in mind for the benefit of the community, but it is not a novel approach.
42.	The driver for the project is the creation of new knowledge.
43.	It is anticipated that the project will result in a new discovery, new product, new knowledge, new policy/legal framework or other new approach to addressing a particular issue
44.	The project is responsive to a specific, compelling societal need.
45.	The project has set an ambitious/stretch goal of solving a particular societal problem as its organizing principle (with an expected transformational result or change in the community)
Project Governance (How decisions are made)	
46.	Research leader makes decisions regarding direction of the project
47.	Research team has a decision-making process which is used to make decisions
48.	Community members/beneficiaries/stakeholders are consulted before “final” decisions are made
49.	Decisions affecting the community are made only when community beneficiaries have been consulted and consensus has been established
50.	Formal structures exist to facilitate decision-making with community such as shared board or shared working group.
51.	Additional governance or approvals involved by the sponsor/funder of the project.
52.	Advisory group of outside experts not directly involved with the project are consulted for various aspects of the project.
Position of the Project within the University	
53.	Research project is of importance for the portfolio of the individual or research team in terms of impact, future proposals and future funding.
54.	Research project is one of the top-5 most important for the department or school. The Chair/Dean is aware and involved beyond verbal support.
55.	While this project may not be one of the top-5 most important for the school/department/university, it does directly align with the campus’ goal of promoting conducting research in the community for the benefit of the community.

56.	The research project is recognized by and monitored by university administration. Frequently included in campus leadership discussion points.	
57.	The research project fits into a specific university-level program or set of priorities and serves as one of a portfolio that is being overseen by a particular campus administrator.	
58.	The research project is directly linked with and used as an example by campus administration of being aligned with the strategic goals of the university.	
Position of the Project within the Partner Organization		
59.	Research project is of importance for the portfolio of the project liaison at the external entity.	
60.	Research project is one of the top-5 most important for the unit head of the external entity. The head of the unit is involved.	
61.	Research project is important for the external entity as a whole and recognized and monitored by entity leadership.	
62.	Research project is so important for the external entity that it is embedded in the strategic goals of the external entity.	

Sample Guide for Research Meeting Framework Definitions that are Commonly Used:

NOTE THE ATTRIBUTE NUMBERS NEED TO BE UPDATED AS LINES ARE ADDED OR SUBTRACTED ABOVE; CONSIDER A DIFFERENT WAY (MORE COLUMNS) OF TRACKING.

Framework/Initiative	Required Attributes
University-Led Grand Challenges with SMART Goals	33, 44, 45
HIBAR	11, 31, 42
Convergence	32, 33
Community-Based Participatory Research	11, 49

Attributes that Indicate that a Project is not Publicly-Focused Research:

A project does not align with the characterization of “publicly-focused research” if the project meets the characteristics of line 4 or line 27.