Guidelines for Community-based participatory research proposals

Community-based participatory research is a collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community and has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change… (Community Health Scholars Program)

Community-based participatory research is not academically driven research wherein the problem to be investigated arises solely from an anomaly or gap in the professional literature. Nor is it simply responding to the needs and input from community agencies and organizations. While the research project can certainly demonstrate relevance to a current issue from academic literature and can utilize input from community agencies and organizations, it must also demonstrate a true partnership among the researchers, the members of the community, and other stake holders. Such a partnership balances the power among the participants and enables resources to be shared through clear, open and accessible communication.

Therefore, for your proposal to be considered for community based research funding, it must contain the following:

- A description of a clearly defined community or community-based organization
- A research problem developed in conjunction with the community or community-based organization
- A description of the importance of the problem for the community or community-based organization
- An organizational design that facilitates collaborative, equitable partnerships in all phases of research
- A plan that will identify how the community will be involved in all phases of the research including choosing research topics, developing projects, implementing the research project/intervention if applicable, collecting data, and interpreting and disseminating results
- Identification of the best research processes/models to be used based on the nature of the issue and the intended outcome