

STAGES OF A PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

A proactive, strategic approach can move our community from being defensive, and reactive.

Below outline lists some of the key steps entailed in a community-driven research project intended to advance a community-driven campaign agenda, in the larger context of community organizing and movement-building.

In implementing below steps, we encourage you to identify team members to fill complementary roles -- i.e., community experts as political leadership and research participants (they are 'researchers' and 'research subjects' *all-in-one!*), technical experts, policy experts, overall coordinator, and organizer, etc.

Once you assign roles, timelines, and funding needed for each of the steps, you're well on your way to developing a concrete project plan that serves as a proposal in soliciting funding support as well as workplan for your team - often consisting of community members, your organization, along with expert allies, such as technical assistance partners, and academic/policy expert partners, etc.

I. DEVELOP YOUR RESEARCH STRATEGY

Stage 1: What is the larger change goal?

Stage 2: What is the information needed?

II. DEVELOP YOUR RESEARCH PLAN

Stage 3: What is the capacity/resources (incl. funding and any timeline restrictions like calendar hooks?)

Stage 4: What is the 'research methodology'? (sources/methods/tools)

III. EXECUTE YOUR RESEARCH

Stage 5: Collect data

Stage 6: Analyze data

Stage 7: Synthesize data to generate 'new knowledge'

Stage 8: Package knowledge/learnings



IV. BUILD ON YOUR RESEARCH FOR ACTION: PUT YOUR FINDINGS TO WORK!

Stage 9: Disseminate/use it to amplify your voice, build political momentum!

→ *We consider this stage critical to establishing/building your community's presence as that of a 'widely recognized expert' by all the target stakeholders you seek to "move" towards your agenda.*

V. TAKING STOCK OF GAINS/CLOSE-OUT

Stage 10: Reflect/evaluate and what did you learn from it, measure against goal and outcome stated in Stage 1.

Remember...Any research project, regardless of methodology, can be participatory by design. Research projects often happen in various phases of a campaign, from 'campaign feasibility' to 'power structure research' to 'evidence-gathering' to documentation, and more. Each research project is often unique, tailored to the specific intended outcomes and target audiences, as well as the specific stage in the life cycle of a campaign the research is intended to serve.