



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human  
Services

# *Lessons Learned from CBPR Research: A Program Perspective*

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National Institutes  
of Health

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National Heart, Lung,  
and Blood Institute

# National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

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- NHLBI supports basic and translational research:
    - Heart and vascular diseases
    - Blood diseases
    - Lung diseases
    - Sleep disorders
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# NHLBI Supports CBPR Research

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- Funded 3 R01 and 10 R21 grants from the prior CBPR initiatives.
  - Funded 5 randomized controlled trials on changing health behaviors to address health disparities in American Indian communities.
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# Part I: Lessons Learned from The Review Process

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# Before the Review

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- When you receive the institute(s) and study section assignment, check to determine that these were the assignments you requested in your cover letter.
  - Check the CSR web site to determine the dates that the meeting will be held.
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# Peer Review in CBPR

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- ❑ Strict review of the science
  - ❑ Strict review of the community partnerships
  - ❑ Must be strong in both to fare well at peer review
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# Special Emphasis Panel Results

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- Priority scores have tended to run high (worse), with relatively few priority scores below (i.e., better) 200.
  - As a result, percentiles for a particular priority score have been better than at most other study sections.
  - Some ICs will fund based totally on the percentile, whereas others will consider the priority score as well.
  - Discuss this issue with program staff before submitting an application.
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# While You are Waiting for the Review and Funding Decision

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- ❑ From receipt to funding, 9 months is the normal cycle at NIH.
  - ❑ Continue to strengthen the relationships with your partners during this time period.
  - ❑ Some relationships have dissolved during this process, and fundable grants have been declined.
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# Immediately After the Review

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- You may contact institute staff after the review meeting to get a general impression of the reviewers' main points.
  - Your priority score and percentile will be posted on the NIH Commons about 2-3 days after the review.
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# After Receiving the Summary Statement

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- ❑ Summary statements arrive several weeks after the review.
  - ❑ Read the summary statement carefully.
  - ❑ Put it down and walk away.
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# One Week Later

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- Read the summary statement again.
  - Discuss the reviews with your partners.
  - Arrange a phone call with the institute staff person listed on the summary statement to discuss your summary statement.
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# Re-Reading the Summary Statement

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- ❑ Ignore the score—focus on the comments.
  - ❑ Highlight the criticisms, then make a list.
  - ❑ Preliminarily determine how you will respond to each criticism.
  - ❑ Ask yourself if any “fatal flaws” were identified by the reviewers.
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# Discussions with Institute Staff

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- Review each of the main criticisms.
  - Discuss how you plan to respond to each criticism.
  - Ask for advice, particularly if you don't want to change the study to respond to a criticism.
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# After the Discussions

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- Think about how to organize the introduction: by topic or by reviewer.
  - Write a draft 1- or 3-page introduction.
  - Begin: “We are very thankful for the thoughtful and comprehensive comments by the reviewers. Their reviews have improved the study.”
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# Maintain a Positive Attitude

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- ❑ Don't whine.
- ❑ Don't take the criticisms personally.
- ❑ Be as persistent as you would with a manuscript.
- ❑ Think: "Three very smart people have donated their time to help me improve my study."



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# Part II: Lessons Learned from CBPR FOAs on Collaborative Research in Indian Country

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# Beyond Cultural Competence: View Culture as an Asset

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- Community culture can be an important motivation for participation in research:
    - Importance of keeping the culture alive
    - Importance of children and elders
  
  - Community culture should be an integral part of an intervention.
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# The Good Red Road of Life

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- ❑ Tobacco is for ceremonial use only.
  - ❑ Traditional meats are low in fat: bison, deer, etc.
  - ❑ Traditional vegetables are healthy: The Three Sisters are native corn, green beans, and squash.
  - ❑ Native North Americans invented many popular sports such as ice hockey and lacrosse.
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# Good Luck with Your Application!

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"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take!"

-- Wayne Gretzky