COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH SUPPORT

Whether you need a champion, guide, facilitator, or resource wrangler, start with the Office of Engagement and Community Affairs (ECA). We have a single purpose: to make it easier to forge meaningful and more effective collaborations.

CONNECTOR

- **We help researchers connect to regional problem-solving initiatives** and opportunities for partnership in community-led efforts.
- **We help researchers identify community-based collaborators** and we maintain an array of relationships and networks.
- **We help researchers connect to additional University supports**, including relevant public data to bolster your problem statement and Pitt offices with which you may need to engage, like risk management, facilities management, policy guides for working with minors, and more.

CONSULTANT

- **We help researchers develop their projects through individualized coaching and consultation** to help you develop or refine your theory of change, identify publicly relevant dissemination outlets, and more.
- **We help researchers navigate institutional processes** by providing insight into how other engaged research projects have successfully navigated Pitt administrative systems, like contracting and paying community partners and describing the role of partners in IRB applications.

CAPACITY BUILDER

- **We help researchers learn about community-engaged research** through a variety of learning and development programming, including an annual conference, online modules, a project development cohort, and more.
- **We help researchers seek recognition for their work,** whether through connections with other researchers who have successfully articulated the impact of community-engaged research in their promotion and tenure dossiers or by identifying national award opportunities.

CONTRIBUTOR

- **We help researchers facilitate planning exercises** through sessions with research teams on stakeholder engagement, communications planning, regional engagement strategy development, and project sustainability planning.
- **We help researchers communicate to local audiences** through a variety of communications channels that reach communities throughout the city and region.

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Engagement and Community Affairs

CONNECT WITH ECA

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Visit in person: 1723 Cathedral of Learning
Email: communityinfo@pitt.edu
Call: 412-383-5600

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ECA also maintains unique community engagement infrastructure that can help researchers engage particular communities in the city and the region:



NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITMENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS

Pitt's Neighborhood Commitments are the University's flagship place-based community partnerships. The commitments, focused on the Oakland, Homewood, Hill District, and Greater Hazelwood neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, provide long-term commitments of staffing, infrastructure and coordination to facilitate mutually-beneficial collaborations between Pitt and the local community.

The Homewood and Hill District neighborhood commitments are anchored by Community Engagement Centers (CECs)—vibrant, welcoming facilities that facilitate engaged scholarship, engaged learning, capacity-building, and economic inclusion. At the CECs, community members can access resources and services they need, community organizations can partner with Pitt programs to strengthen their efforts, and Pitt faculty and students can work and learn with the community.

For engaged research projects based within the neighborhood commitments, ECA can provide clear and timely insights into community contexts that support effective and equity-based approaches.

Researchers can also engage with the Homewood and Hill District Neighborhood Advisory Councils, comprised of residents and members of community organizations, to help co-create mutually-beneficial community-engaged projects.

Note: The CECs do not facilitate research subject recruitment on-site.



OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Pittsburgh is a dedicated learning community for adults aged 50 and better.

Through delivery of noncredit, nongraded, five-week courses designed specifically for adult learners, OLLI at Pitt promotes cognitive engagement, provides opportunities for social interaction, and enriches lives.

Because OLLI members are intrinsically motivated and curious learners, they are an ideal population for the dissemination of current research, especially in areas that directly impact older adults.

These areas include healthy aging, physiology of aging, mental health, technology literacy and access, social connectedness, healthcare disparities, and other areas of research that affect overall well-being.

Research proposals often contain educational objectives, broader impact statements, or other criteria that advance knowledge to benefit society. Teaching an OLLI at Pitt five-week course or delivering a one-time lecture can be activities that help meet target outcomes for broader impact activities. OLLI staff can work with researchers who are interested in designing courses, lectures, or events tailored for older adult learners.

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