



**MN Leadership
Council on Aging**



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

Definitions

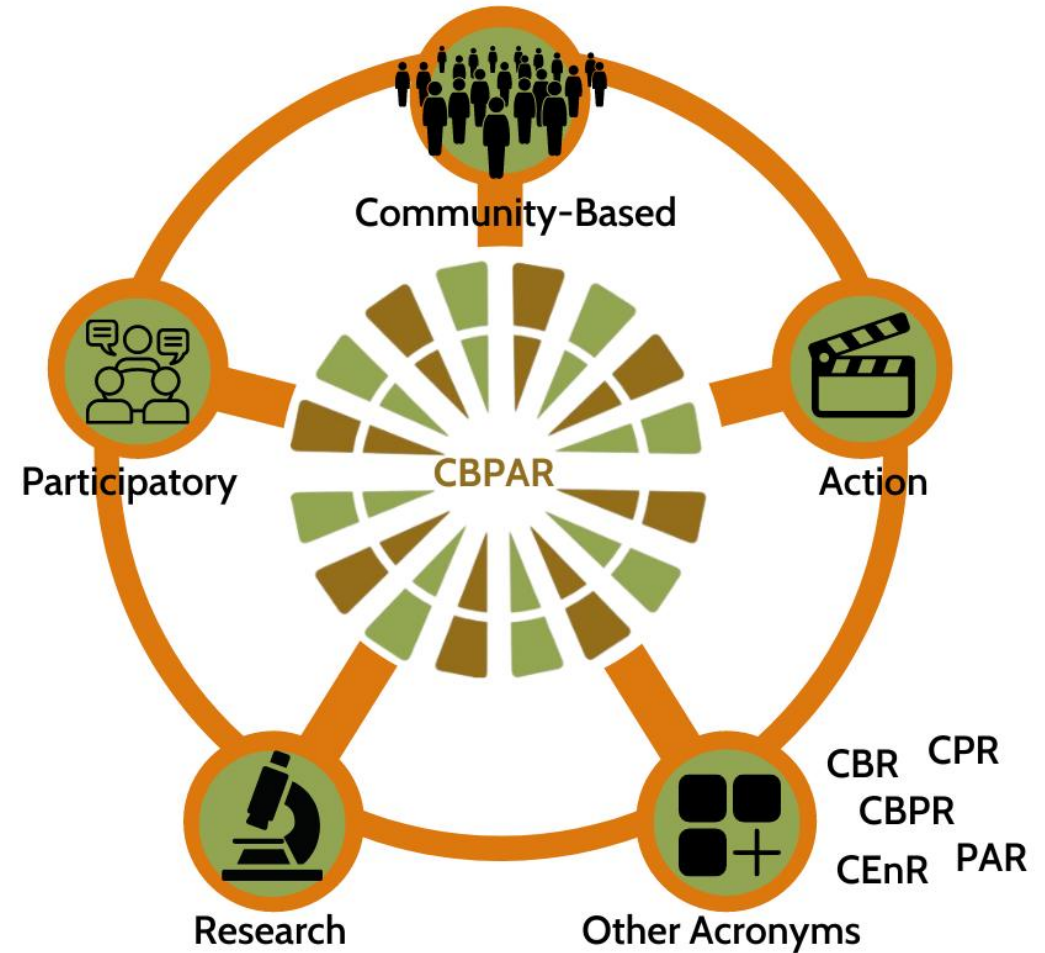


What is Community?

- One project can encompass multiple communities
- Ultimately community self-defines itself
- CBPAR attempts to identify existing communities and strengthen this sense of community through collective engagement



Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR)



What is CBPAR



A partnership approach that equitably involves all participants in all aspects of the process where each person shares their expertise in order to enhance knowledge and develop programs that will benefit the whole community. (Israel et al, 2008)



The approach comes out of Brazilian educator Paulo Freire's popular education tradition and can be adapted to evaluation science and community engaged/educational programming/service provision.

CBPAR is NOT a Research Project



“It is a **social change project** of which the research is one piece. As such, it has three goals:

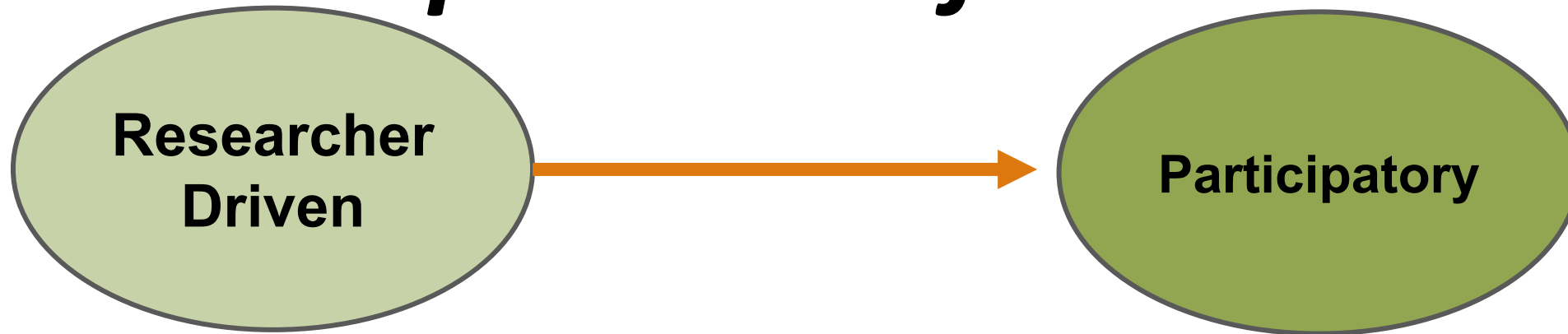
- **Learn** relevant knowledge/skills,
- **Develop** relationships of solidarity,
- **Engage** in action that wins victories and builds self-sufficiency.



Doing research is not, in itself, a goal.

Research methodology is used to achieve these broader goals.”

Spectrum of Research



- **Researchers select research** topics, questions, and methods
- Power and decision-making are **in the hands of the researchers**
- Researchers are the **experts**
- A major goal is **knowledge production** for its own sake

- **Communities and researchers decide** topics, questions, and methods together
- Power and decision-making are **shared equally**
- Communities/researchers are **experts and co-learners**
- Primary goals are **improved health, empowerment and capacity building**

Spectrum of Engagement and Participation



Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Activate (Empower)
Reach out and inform or educate	Ask for feedback on ideas, analysis, decisions	Work with, incorporate concerns, and establish understanding	Partner, co-develop and implement together	Fully community-led, final decisions made by partner(s)

CBPAR

Principles



Partnership Protocol

- **SECTION 1:** Key CBPAR principles that define *how* partners work together.
- **SECTION 2:** Detailed *description* of each CBPAR principle and *examples* of ethical considerations identified through multiple partnerships.
- **SECTION 3:** Checklist for *key steps* in partnership building across the lifespan of a project.





CBPAR Principles

1. Recognize that members of a community may have a shared identity that requires ethical protections
2. Answer questions that are important to the community, and that create solutions built on existing community strengths and resources
3. Create pathways for the collaborative, equitable involvement of all partners in all phases of the work
4. Create a balance between gaining knowledge and creating action for the benefit of all partners
5. Empower partners to actively learn from each other and to pay attention to social inequalities
6. Address how both social and environmental contexts affect health
7. Share findings and knowledge gained with all partners and with communities, in a way that can be used to improve community health
8. Involves long-term commitment by all partners



Recognize that members of a community may have a shared identity that requires ethical protections



2

Answer research questions that are important to the community, and that create solutions built on existing community strengths and resources.



3

Create pathways for the collaborative, equitable involvement of all partners in all phases of the research



4

Create a balance between
gaining knowledge and creating
action for the benefit of all
partners.



Empower partners to actively learn from each other and pay attention to social inequalities.



Address how both social and environmental contexts affect health.



Share findings and knowledge gained with all partners in a way that can be used to improve community health.



Involves long-term commitment
by all partners

Foundations of CBPAR Partnerships

- 1. Trust**
- 2. Shared decision-making**
- 3. Power sharing**

These are also its challenges



Trust



- Bad experiences with partnerships
- Historical trauma, injustices, racism
- Lack of understanding of partner's priorities
- Different levels of commitment
- Actions are not consistent with words

- **Build in time to connect with and establish trust with partners**
- **Acknowledge and work to understand how to support partners to heal from historical trauma**
- **Do not over promise**
- **Be transparent and honest**

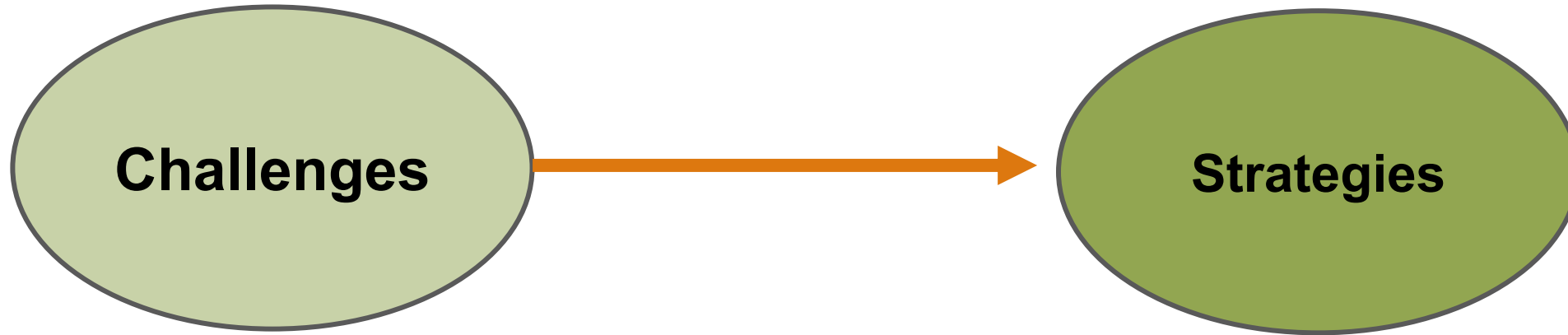
Shared Decision-Making



- Partners have different goals, values, priorities
- Bringing in partners after project has been funded
- Clashing organizational cultures
- Lack of clear process for making decisions

- **Decide together how to make decisions**
- **Make sure everyone has the same understanding of how to make decisions**
- **Talk openly**
- **Be aware of one's assumptions**

Shared Power



- Discrimination: ageism, racism, sexism, etc.
- Power dynamics, roles/positions
- Control of resources
- Lack of respect and value of expertise across all partners

- **Acknowledge and value expertise and skills of all partners**
- **Emphasize needs that communities identify**
- **Share control of meetings/agenda**
- **Have transparent decision-making**

Applying CBPAR Principles



Reflections

1. Which of the eight principles does your organization do well?
2. Which of the 8 principles will be the most challenging to practice in your work? Why?
3. Please share an example of how you were able to build trust, share decision-making, or share power in your partnership(s).



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Find these at mnlcoa.org



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*Partners in Research: Community and Faculty Training Curricula to
Prepare Partners for CBPR Collaborations*

2011 internet publication

<https://med.umn.edu/healthdisparities/community-engagement/resources>

