

**Collective Capacity Building Tool (CCBT) - A Unique Resource for Supporting the Application and Evaluation of Community-based Participatory Research Principles in Practice**

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The CCBT supports community-campus partnerships' engagement in joint planning/shared decision-making. The tool also supports a rigorous assessment and documentation of outcomes related to community-engaged health research. The 18 items each align with one or more of the eight CBPR principles and feature a space to describe progress and provide an associated rating on a 5-point Likert scale. Academic and community-based partners complete the assessment together at the beginning and conclusion of their grant-funded projects.

Pre/post results documented the most progress in relation to overcoming previously-identified barriers to community engagement (e.g., language, mistrust). Other key findings: (1) Networks of reciprocal ties expanded, providing structures to support dissemination of information and interventions. (2) Partners leveraged expanded networks to pursue follow-on funding and extend the scope/reach of their efforts geographically/with new populations. (3) Projects enhanced trust in the research process through collaboration and sensitive project implementation.

The CCBT can be used at multiple points in time to help project partners achieve the deliberate integration of CBPR principles in practice and mature community-engaged efforts for sustainability. The CCBT is sensitive enough to document the iterative nature of partnership development and CBPR. The tool/process is well-received by academic and community-based partners. Results have strong face validity: More mature partnerships reported stronger community connections and previous successes to build upon. Items captured important nuances: While the formality of defining partner roles varied, and these often had to be reassessed as projects evolved, there was a general trend toward achieving greater clarity in partner roles over time.