

A Pilot Project Testing a Two-Phase Community Engagement Self-Assessment Process: Analysis and Results from the Multi-Institutional Collaboration

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Although academic health centers (AHCs) have a unique opportunity to engage patients, families and communities in translational research, the need for self-assessment and evaluation of their success in these efforts is significant.

The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) led a collaboration of eight AHCs nationwide, most of which have Clinical and Translational Science Awards, to pilot a two-phase approach for institutional self-assessment of community engagement. Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) was also a partner in this effort. The project (named the Institutional Community Engagement Self-Assessment (ICESA) project) goal was to determine the usefulness and effectiveness of the two-phase approach by addressing three process evaluation questions:

1. Does the approach help AHCs to identify and map current community engagement efforts?
2. Does it assist in identifying institutional resources and potential gaps in order to set strategic community engagement goals for the future?
3. Does it assist participating institutions in describing their community engagement efforts to internal and external stakeholders?

The ICESA project entailed each AHC site team implementing the two phase approach using the following instruments:

Phase 1: The URMC Framework,¹ developed in 2014, which categorizes an AHC's community engagement activities around 3 major goals.

Phase 2: Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's Community Engagement Self-Assessment² to assess the capacity of an AHC for community engagement and community-engaged scholarship across multiple dimensions.

Authors will share the data analysis methods and results of the project, which demonstrated the usefulness and effectiveness of the two-phase approach.

¹ Szilagyi PG, Shone LP, Dozier AM, Newton GL, Green T and Bennett NM (2014) Evaluating Community Engagement in an Academic Medical Center. *Academic Medicine: Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*, 89(4)1-11.

² Gelmon SB, Seifer SD, Kauper-Brown J and Mikkelsen M. (2005) *Building Capacity for Community Engagement: Institutional Self-Assessment*. Seattle, WA: CCPH. www.ccpH.info