CBPR Principles

A number of authors have advanced principles for community-based participatory research. Drawing on over a decade of experience, Barbara Israel and her colleagues in Michigan have identified nine key principles of community-based participatory research that support successful research partnerships and are widely cited [Israel B, Schulz A, Parker E and Becker A. (1998). Review of community-based research: Assessing partnership approaches to improve public health. Annual Review of Public Health, 19, pp. 173-202]

- Recognizes community as an unit of identity
- Builds on strengths and resources within the community
- Facilitates collaborative, equitable involvement of all partners in all phases of the research
- Integrates knowledge and intervention for mutual benefit of all partners
- Promotes a co-learning and empowering process that attends to social inequalities
- Involves a cyclical and iterative process
- Addresses health from both positive and ecological perspectives
- Disseminates findings and knowledge gained to all partners
- Involves long-term commitment by all partners.

While principles are a useful guide, Israel and her colleagues caution that they should not be imposed upon a project, and that they should be allowed to continually evolve to reflect changes in the research context, purpose and participants. The process of developing principles and making decisions about the partnership's characteristics is essential to building the infrastructure of the partnership.

Downloaded 9/20/10 from http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/commbas.html#Principles