

Certificate in Community Research

University of Denver

Rationale

The Certificate in Community Research will involve the training of residents, community leaders, and community organizations in the principles and practices of community-driven research. These individuals will participate in a series of 12 modules (comprising 18-24 hours in total) that address essential aspects of community-driven research. These modules will teach the participants how community-driven research projects are designed and conducted, and how research and program evaluation can build communities' capacity to access resources and power. With this knowledge they will be able to conduct their own community-driven research projects including research design, data collection and analysis, and dissemination of findings.

Scheduling and Delivery of Training Modules

The certificate program will be offered at community-based organizations, non-profits, or schools that are familiar to and convenient for the participants. The first certificate class will comprise mainly Resident Research Assistants (RRA's) that are being hired by Making Connections—Denver (MCD). Each of the 12 modules will last from 1-2 hours and will comprise a combination of brief lectures and hands-on activities using real data, computers, and distributed written materials. The CCBRN Coordinator, Nick Cutforth, will be responsible for the content and delivery of all modules, assisted by Gary Lichtenstein and the certificate coordinator. When appropriate, leaders from non-profits and other community organizations, as well as DU and Regis University professors and DU doctoral students, will contribute their expertise through guest lectures on specific topics.

Expected Outcomes

The participants will receive a *Certificate in Community Research* from the University of Denver. By participating in the certificate's modules the residents, community leaders, and community organizations will grow in capacity together and be able to transfer the knowledge gained to their research interests in their local communities.

Content of Training Modules

The Certificate in Community Research will comprise the following 12 modules:

Module 1: The Value of Research

Participants will learn: how community-driven research is done; the common purposes and features of research and evaluation; the insights and changes that can result from community-driven research; examples of community-driven research in Denver; ethical issues in the Making Connections—Denver Evaluation.

Module 2: Principles and Practices of Community-Driven Research

Participants will learn: how to utilize individuals with different backgrounds, experiences, and skills in community-driven research and evaluation.

Module 3: Local Issues as Research

Participants will learn: how to develop local issues or problems into research(able) questions; how to ensure a representative sample for our data collection; differences in sampling procedures between research in the social sciences and the physical sciences; potential audiences for community-driven research.

Module 4: Incorporating Local Leaders into Study Design

Participants will learn: how to involve community members in the research projects; how to tap these individuals' expertise; the benefits and drawbacks of working with outside researchers and evaluators; time demands of research and evaluation.

Module 5: How to Incorporate Literature into Research

Participants will learn: the role of existing research and information in helping sharpen the focus of community-driven research projects; the relevant publications, databases, websites, and other human and technical resources to support community-driven research; how to access this information.

Module 6: Ethical Issues in Research

Participants will learn: how to make sure that no harm is done to research subjects/participants.

Module 7: Qualitative Methods of Data Collection

Participants will learn: the skills and techniques needed to conduct interviews, observations, and document analysis.

Module 8: Quantitative Methods of Data Collection

Participants will learn: how to develop an effective survey.

Module 9: Analyzing and Interpreting Data

Participants will learn: how to make sense of community-driven data and understand its significance.

Module 10: How to Present Your Findings

Participants will learn: approaches for presenting community-driven research findings; the essential elements and strengths and limitations of a traditional research report; factors concerning authorship of community-driven research; the value of alternative approaches to dissemination, such as posters, oral presentations, and newsletters.

Module 11: Sharing your Study with Important People

Participants will learn: how to capture the attention of the intended audience for community-driven research; how to garner the support of key individuals and organizations; how to translate findings into action.

Module 12. Strategies to Support Research-Based Community Initiatives

Participants will learn: strategies for fundraising and grant proposal development for monies to support community initiatives; how to develop a project concept, goal, objectives, and activities in concert with basic budget design techniques.