

About Advance RI-CTR

Advance Rhode Island Clinical and Translational Research (Advance RI-CTR) is an infrastructure grant for the conduct of clinical and translational research from the National Institute of General Medical Science for the Clinical and Translational Research Program in Rhode Island. We support Rhode Island investigators through **funding, research resources and services**, and **professional development offerings**. Ultimately, we hope that these efforts fuel discoveries and collaborations that are responsive to the health priorities of our state's diverse communities.

Based at Brown University, we are a statewide partnership between the University of Rhode Island, Care New England, Lifespan, the VA Providence, and the Rhode Island Quality Institute. One of the main charges of our Community Engagement and Outreach Core is to offer Advance RI-CTR Community Engagement Studios.

Advance RI-CTR Community Engagement Studios

The Advance RI-CTR Community Engagement Studios (ACES) facilitate a culturally appropriate, respectful conversation between a panel of community experts (i.e., people that identify as the demographic, type of patient, etc., that a researcher aims to serve) and a research team planning, carrying out, and/or disseminating information about a relevant investigation. The overall goal of the studios is to facilitate the collaborative engagement of community experts and researchers to gather information that is meaningful to all stakeholders.

WHY CONSIDER ACES?

- Community input in the research process helps ensure that communities benefit from research efforts.
- Results from ACES are used to help develop research questions, protocols, and processes.
- ACES are **NOT** focus groups or considered research, as such, IRB approval is not needed to conduct a studio.
- ACES can be beneficial at **ANY** point in the research process to gain better understanding of community priorities or cultural norms, conceptualize a program or intervention, or get feedback on research processes, surveys, and tools from the community.
- The process has been used successfully for both in-person and virtual ACES by multiple sites around the world and with a diverse range of community experts.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ACES consist of a 2-hour facilitated community conversation between a researcher and community experts. The conversation is facilitated by a professional ACES moderator.
- The ACES facilitator provides an overview of the ACES process and ground rules for discussion.
- The researcher or facilitator then gives a 10-15-minute PowerPoint presentation in laymen's terms providing background information about the research or aims and the specific questions they have for community experts.
- Following the presentation, the ACES facilitator moderates a discussion about the posed questions.
- Facilitated by the ACES team, the researcher is required to follow-up with the community panel with a memo to inform them of how their insights and feedback were incorporated into the research.

Advance RI-CTR will provide investigators with a synopsis of the community feedback and input. Schedule a consultation with the CEO core to [learn more](#) about incorporating community engagement in your research.