

## 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, and the VA Providence. One of the main charges of our Community Engagement and Outreach Core is to offer and provide training on how to conduct Studios.

## Advance RI-CTR Community Engagement Studios

The Advance RI-CTR Community Engagement Studios facilitate a culturally appropriate, respectful conversation between a panel of community experts (e.g., people for the population that a researcher aims to serve or other stakeholders) and a research team planning, implementing, and/or disseminating information about a planned or in progress study. 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 STUDIOS?

- Community input on the research process helps to ensure that communities benefit from research efforts.
- Results from Studios are used to help develop research questions, protocols, and processes.
- Studios are **NOT** focus groups or considered research, as such, IRB approval is not needed to conduct a Studio.
- Studios can be beneficial at **ANY** point in the research process to gain a better understanding of community priorities or cultural norms, conceptualize a program or intervention, or obtain community feedback on research processes, surveys, tools or findings.
- Studio can be implemented in-person or virtual with a diverse range of community experts.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Studios consist of an up to 2-hour facilitated community conversation between a researcher and community experts.
- The conversation is facilitated by the Investigator with support from a trained facilitator as needed.
- The Investigator provides an overview of the Studio process and ground rules for discussion.
- The Investigator then gives a 10-15-minute presentation in laymen's terms providing background information about the research and the components they want feedback on.
- Following the presentation, the Investigator poses questions and moderates a discussion.
- A notetaker takes detailed notes throughout the Studio.
- Following the Studio, the Investigator is required to follow-up with the community panel to inform them of how their insights and feedback were incorporated into the research.

Advance RI-CTR is only able to coordinate and fund a limited number of Studios per year. Current and recently funded Advance RI-CTR investigators and Community Advisory and Action Board (CAAB) members are prioritized for available Studio slots. [Eligible investigators](#), CAAB members, and PI's in the CEPBRN can apply for a Studio on our [Website](#). Advance RI-CTR also offers consultations to [eligible investigators](#), CAAB members, and PI's in the CEPBRN and who seek guidance on how to conduct a Studio session independently. Please see [our Website](#) to access Studio-related information and training resources or request a consultation.