Research: A Powerful Tool for Creating Change
Sankofa Research Institute

Assata Richards, Director
assata@sankofaresearchinstitute.org

Sheila Heimbinder, Associate Director
sheila@sankofaresearchinstitute.org

sankofaresearchinstitute.org
281.667.4466
Mission: Create Knowledge to Build Communities

Approach: Community-Based Research (CBR) model that identifies community members as collaborators with academic researchers, community partners and stakeholders in the production of knowledge
Collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings.

Begins with a research topic of importance to the community with the aim of combining knowledge and action for social change to improve community...(conditions) ....
Principles of Community Based Research

- Community relevance
- Capacity building
- Ethical review
- Social action outcomes
- Collaborative partnerships
- Rigorous methods
Benefits of CBR Approach

- Bottom-up Approach: community members take leadership roles in defining research priorities
- Capacity Building: adequate training and mentoring to enable community members to participate as co-researchers
- Collaboration: proven processes of collaboration that builds on strengths and knowledge of all partners
- Shared ownership of research and research data: all partners have/feel ownership in research topic and data
Benefits of CBR Approach

- Social action/Policy outcomes: proactive commitment to use research to bring service positive social/policy change

- Community Relevance: research focus and outcomes reflect community priorities

- Inclusion and Equity: at all stages of research and amongst research team

- Sound Ethical Practices: proactive efforts to ensure genuine consent, confidentiality and minimal harm to research participants
What is research?

- Systematic investigation to find evidence to establish facts and reach new conclusions
How does research help us to create change?

- Gather evidence to create a new project/initiative in our community to create change
- Gather evidence to support a new project/initiative in our community to create change
- Gather evidence to prove that our new project/initiative is creating change in our community
Gather evidence to create a new project/initiative

- What is the problem that we are trying to change?

- Does the community identify this as a practical problem?

- Where is the problem and how big or serious is it?
Gather evidence to support creating a new project/initiative

- What community support have we built for our proposed project/initiative?

- What input from the community has been used to develop our new project/initiative?

- What specific changes to we expect to happen because of our new project/initiative?
Gather evidence to prove that our new project/initiative is creating change our community

- How was the project/initiative implemented?
- What were the specific outcomes of the project/initiative?
- Did the changes we expected to happen because of our project/initiative occur?