

STRIDE Community Investigator Position Description

Strengthening Translational Research in Diverse Enrollment (STRIDE) seeks individuals from the community to serve as Community Investigators.

STRIDE is a research study that will test new methods to increase community understanding of research and encourage participation by Latinos and African-Americans in clinical research studies that test new medical procedures or medications. Community Investigators will be a key part of the research team at each of three STRIDE study sites and help shape activities and products. Community Investigators will collaborate with their peers across the sites and help develop the STRIDE community engagement model. The model will both help in STRIDE efforts to develop best practices for culturally informed research consent and be applicable to other research studies.

In addition to contributing to STRIDE, Community Investigators can develop skills to serve in a medical student standardized patient training program (*for more information about standardized patient programs, go to <http://www.umassmed.edu/icels/reservations/interested-in-becoming-an-sp/>*).

Responsibilities

1. Provide feedback and input on an ongoing basis to ensure community voice in development and refinement of materials for all STRIDE components (video storytelling, the informed consent process, and the informed consent document).
2. Recruit community members to tell their stories on camera about their personal experience participating in research or why they did not agree to participate.
3. Recruit community members for group discussions.
4. Help facilitate these community member group discussions.
5. Receive training in cultural competency skills including unconscious bias, recognizing and addressing cultural and language barriers, and the importance of communication that is understandable and relevant to individuals from culturally diverse communities.
6. Using a skills checklist, rate the performance of research assistants who are being trained, through simulations or mock encounters, in culturally appropriate informed consent.
7. Provide feedback to research assistants about their skills in culturally appropriate informed consent.
8. Role play potential research participants from the community in simulations or mock encounters with research assistants.
9. Participate in dissemination efforts such as academic publications and presentations.

Time commitment

Community Investigators will work approximately ___ hours over ___ years.

Compensation

Community Investigators will be compensated at the rate of \$___ per ___. Arrangements may be made for payment as consultant by the hour or day or as a part time employee.

The STRIDE program will cover the costs for travel to UMass Medical School in Worcester, MA as well as all the necessary training materials and coaching.

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Qualifications and skills

Candidates must have firsthand knowledge of the African American or Latino community as well as established connections with community-based organizations and formal and informal community leaders. The ideal candidate values connecting individuals and the community with resources.

Minimum/Basic

- Demonstrated experience as community advocate
- Experience with community outreach and connecting community to resources
- Ability to connect with others and draw out their personal stories
- Flexibility to meet with project team
- Availability for travel to Massachusetts for training (receive training as well as train research assistants)
- Excellent communication skills
- Access to Internet including email
- High school diploma

Desirable/Plus

- Involvement in or connection to established academic-community partnership
- Experience with:
 - Training individuals through Standardized Patient or other simulation or role-playing experience
 - Rating, assessment or evaluation of others' performance using a checklist
 - Clinical research activities such as developing or implementing protocols
 - Telephone recruitment or interviewing
 - Acting as liaison between research team and community
 - Recruitment of participants for research study
 - Facilitation of discussion group or focus group
 - Community Health Worker certification/experience