

NC TraCS Research Ready Stakeholder Program Overview

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Overview

The [North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute \(NC TraCS\)](#) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill invites agencies, organizations, and individuals to join our growing network of *Research Ready Stakeholders* who are interested in supporting research efforts that advance the health of North Carolinians.

Through this application and selection process, organizational and individual stakeholders who are interested in and qualified to collaborate on health research can receive a variety of benefits from NC TraCS.

Benefits of becoming a *Research Ready Stakeholder* include:

- Organizational *Research Ready Stakeholders* who anticipate repeated interactions with researchers at the University may be granted the status of “approved vendor” from the University. The “approved vendor” status for organizations with a federal tax ID number facilitates the compensation process by allowing organizations to invoice researchers directly for their services, which can decrease the time it takes to receive payments.
- Individual *Research Ready Stakeholders* may apply for an Independent Contractor status for NC TraCS when there is a project interested in compensating them for their consultative services.
- All *Research Ready Stakeholders* will be invited to have a brief overview of their interests and expertise made publically available on the NC TraCS website.

What is the role of a Research Ready Stakeholder?

Applicants selected to serve as NC TraCS *Research Ready Stakeholders* may collaborate with NC TraCS and others at the University to support research efforts that advance the health of North Carolinians. Potential roles of *Research Ready Stakeholders* include, but are not limited to:

- Contributing to the design, implementation, dissemination, and evaluation of research protocols and materials
- Co-developing and delivering training workshops for researchers and stakeholders
- Reviewing research resources for dissemination outside of university settings
- Informing NC TraCS of community resources for distribution
- Participating in and assisting in the formation of stakeholder groups
- Identifying and recruiting other stakeholders to participate in the activities listed above

Who should apply?

Any health research stakeholder is invited to apply to the *Research Ready Stakeholder Program*. A health research stakeholder is someone who understands the importance of health research and wants to have a say in how this research is designed, conducted, and shared. Organizational stakeholders often are those serving North Carolinians with population specific interests and expertise in health research. (Health research stakeholders can collaborate on research *without* become a *Research Ready Stakeholder*.)

NC TraCS seeks *Research Ready Stakeholders* with a variety of health research experiences, interests, expertise, primary languages and geographic areas of residence. Direct experience with health research is not required, but is preferred.

We especially encourage stakeholders with the following experience/expertise to apply:

- Stakeholders who have experience with and/or expertise working with North Carolina populations who are underrepresented in health research, such as:
 - Populations of low-income status
 - Racial or ethnic minorities
 - Speakers of primary languages other than English
 - LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) populations
 - Older adults and caregivers
 - Children and caregivers
- Individuals/Organizations that serve patient populations with rare, chronic, or infectious diseases
- Patients with rare, chronic, and infectious diseases and their family members
- Individuals/organizations who serve as advocates in their communities
- Individuals/organizations with expertise in community engaged research
- Faith-based organizations and members of faith-based communities
- Professional associations
- Academic programs and institutions
- Individuals/organizations who have experience addressing the state's top [10 health priorities](#), including obesity, substance abuse, healthcare access, mental health, chronic disease management, physical activity, nutrition, cardiovascular disease/hypertension, diabetes, and cancer.

How much are stakeholders paid?

Compensation rates depend on the research study and the type of work. Researchers and stakeholders will agree on rates for completion of specific research-related activities.

What is the deadline for application?

NC TraCS staff will review applications from stakeholders on a monthly basis. Responses received by the **5th of each month** will receive a response by the end of that month.

How are applications reviewed?

The NC TraCS staff will consider the following factors when reviewing *Research Ready Stakeholder* applicants:

- Completeness of application
- Overall experience and qualifications of the applicant for serving in the health research roles they propose
- The relevance of the applicant's health research interest, experience, and proposed roles to current NC TraCS programmatic/research needs and to the [NC Health Priorities](#)
- The applicant's relationships, or ability to build relationships, with relevant constituent communities
- Feedback from references the applicant provides

Please note:

- This is a Request for Information, not a request to contract, and the University reserves the unqualified right to reject offers for any reason when such rejection is deemed to be in the best interest of the University. We do not guarantee all favorable applications will be approved. We reserve the right to decline an application that does not align with the skill sets or expertise currently sought by NC TraCS.
- All work in this Request for Information is specific to NC TraCS, while supporting a variety of schools, institutes, and departments at UNC-CH, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T), North Carolina State University (NCSU), and the Research Triangle Institute International (RTI).

How do I apply?

Anyone interested in applying should [request a consultation](#) with the NC TraCS Community Engagement program. During this brief consultation, our staff can help guide you through the application and answer any questions you might have.

You may submit your answers via our online application here: <http://go.unc.edu/rrsapp>. Alternatively, you can download our paper application (one for individuals at <http://go.unc.edu/rrs-ind> or one for organizations at <http://go.unc.edu/rrs-org>), which you may complete and submit via email to the NC TraCS Community and Stakeholder Engagement Program at engagement.nctracs@unc.edu, or via postal mail at:

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Program: *Research Ready Stakeholder* Program
The North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Brinkhous-Bullitt Building, 2nd Floor CB 7064
160 N. Medical Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7064

How can I ask questions?

Questions about the *Research Ready Stakeholder* Program can be sent via email to the NC TraCS Community and Stakeholder Engagement Program at: engagement.nctracs@unc.edu. Please include the phrase "*Research Ready Stakeholder* Program" in your email. We look forward to hearing from you!