

# CIRTIfication: Human Research Protections Education for Community Partners



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## What is CIRTIfication?

An online human research protections education program tailored to the unique roles of community research partners, especially those with limited previous research experience. It is:

- Free for anyone
- Interactive & multi-media
- Available in English, Spanish, & Haitian Creole

*Helps HRPPs address AAHRP standard I-1/I.1.E*

## Key Features

- **User-Friendly:** Presents key research ethics concepts in plain language
- **Multi-media:** Includes audio, video, & text
- **Interactive:** Provides opportunities to apply knowledge to real-life scenarios & get feedback
- **Trackable:** Includes a quiz & date-stamped certificate of completion

## Educational Content

- Research terminology, people and their roles, and research procedures
- Protecting the rights and safety of research participants
- History of research abuses, ethical principles, and current regulations
- Standards and best practices for
  - Recruitment and informed consent
  - Collecting and protecting data
  - Participant interactions
- The Institutional Review Board and the review process

## Who is using CIRTIfication?

Since launching early 2020, **over 3000 users** have created training accounts.

“...We were looking for a program in Spanish. ...Without these materials we could not have trained our community recruiters.”

- Jasmine Santoyo-Olsson |  
University of California San Francisco

“Participants noted that they really enjoyed the training, it was easy to follow along, and very enlightening.”

-Melissa Martin |  
UIC School of Public Health

“I found it to be very user friendly and translatable for people who are not engaged in research on a regular basis.”

-Christina Rush |  
University of Colorado Denver



## Institutional HRPP Partnerships

**39 institutions have formally adopted CIRTIfication** as accepted human research protections training for community research partners, including 25 institutions funded by the National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Awards program.

HRPPs can set up institutional accounts, allowing learners to affiliate with the institution and HRPP administrators to access records for affiliated learners.

Partner institutions use a variety of different models to disseminate and implement CIRTIfication in their own research communities, often partnering with central community engagement offices.

## Acknowledgements

CIRTIfication is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health, through grant UL1TR002003. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of NIH.

## Created with Stakeholder Input

- 2011: Focus groups with community research partners & community-engaged research faculty informed development of in-person training materials (facilitator manual, participant workbook, PPT presentations, & activities)
- 2019: Early drafts of online program reviewed by HRPP administrators, experienced & new community research partners, research ethics education experts, & community-engaged researchers

## Future Directions

- Refresher version for returning learners
- Tools to facilitate team-based discussion and integration with protocol specific training
- Evaluation of impact on community partner knowledge and satisfaction
- Additional languages

## Take a Tour of CIRTIfication



<https://ccts.uic.edu/tools/cirtification/>  
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