Toolkit for Research Impact

Research Impact Plan Template

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Aim for about three sentences. Make sure to link your project's goals with specific societal or community-based goals. Try to briefly answer each of these questions in your statement:

- What is **the problem(s)** you want to help solve or the **goal(s)** you want to help reach?

- **Who** is impacted by the problem or will benefit most directly from the solution?

- How does your **research** address the societal goal(s)?

ENGAGEMENT

Who will you engage with during this project? How do you plan to work together? In what ways will your partner(s) be active in the project?

Who are the people, communities, or organizations (your societal partners) who will be most impacted by your research?	
Do you already have a connection to the societal partners you hope to work with? If not, how will you establish a connection with them?	
Which impact pathway(s) is the best fit for meeting your societal partners' needs and building on your strengths and skills?	
At which points in the research or project will your societal partners be actively engaged?	
How will you budget for each engagement activity?	
What research review processes are required for this project?	
How will you allocate time in your project to complete all required reviews prior to starting partner engagement activities?	

For each potential **point of engagement**, what kinds of activities will your project include?

Pre-proposal meetings and discussions; Defining the purpose of the research	
Proposal writing; Developing the research question(s)	
Developing research methods	
Data collection	
Data analysis	
Data interpretation and review of findings	
Co-authoring papers, reports, or products	
Sharing the findings and/or final products	
Other contributions and activities	

DESCRIBING IMPACTS

Identify which impact descriptors are the best fit for your project goals and how you will link your project to the categories.

We anticipate that this research will contribute to the following changes in knowledge, awareness, and understanding.	
We anticipate that this research will contribute to the following changes in capacity and skills.	
We anticipate that this research will contribute to strengthening or creating partnerships and trust between and among the following groups.	
We anticipate that this research will be used to inform plans, practices, and/or policies in the following ways.	
We anticipate that this research will contribute to the following changes in social and/or ecological systems.	

EVIDENCE OF IMPACT. How will you know that your project has contributed to beneficial changes for your partners or others?

We will collect evidence of changes in knowledge, awareness and understanding by . . .	
We will collect evidence of changes in capacity and/or skill by . . .	
We will collect evidence of changes in connections and partnerships by . . .	
We will collect evidence of the use of this research in plans, practices, and/or policies by . . .	
Our plan for monitoring long-term impacts associated with this research is . . .	