

Innovation Through Collaboration: Operational Solutions for Community-Engaged Research



Department of Family Medicine: Laura Cleghorn, Jessica Gaber, Melissa Pirrie
Financial Affairs: Christine Chartier
Office of Community Engagement: Shahad Al-Saqqar
Faculty of Health Sciences Faculty Affairs: Pam Elmhirst

Why This Matters

The inclusion of individuals with lived experience brings immense value to community-based research projects, but this engagement often does not fit within traditional operational processes. Collaborations across university departments enabled the co-design of ethical, practical solutions.

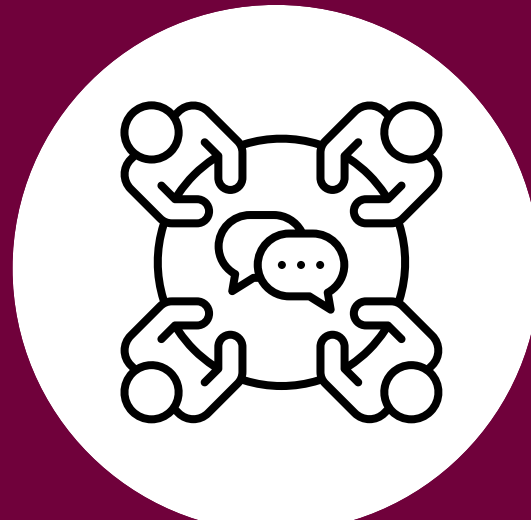
Operational Needs Identified

- 1** Compensation approaches for community participants and advisors
- 2** Simplified, accessible financial forms for participants
- 3** Job descriptions reflecting lived-experience expertise

How We Collaborated



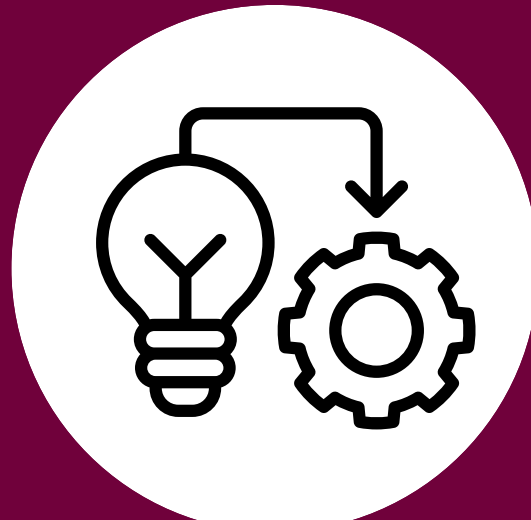
Opened two-way channels between research, finance, and human resources to address challenges in practice



Created shared space to value diverse expertise, co-create solutions and build relationships



Focused on practical, incremental change



Prioritized solutions that could be implemented and sustained

What We Delivered

Practical tools now in use

- 1** Improved Compensation Processes
- 2** Plain-Language Notice of Disclosure Form
- 3** Community-Based Research Job Descriptions



Key Takeaway

Collaboration across departments enables practical operational improvements and strengthened partnerships that support ethical, community-engaged research.