



*Research Ethics for All:  
Accessible Research Ethics Education for Community  
Research Partners*

Topic 3.2: Finding research participants through other people

Let's talk more about how to find research participants for your study. There's a lot to recruiting people!



Sometimes researchers can only recruit people with disabilities through someone else, like a service provider or family member. These people may decide if researchers can contact people with disabilities to do research. Sometimes these people are very supportive and help people with disabilities be in research. Also, these people can help people with disabilities feel comfortable, and understand information about a study.

Sometimes other people might try to keep people with disabilities from being in research. They might do this because they think people don't want to or can't be in research. They might think this because they don't understand the good things that can come from being in research, might be worried the person will be hurt, or about the rules at their organization, or feel it would take too much time or work.

Other people and researchers can also work well together to help people with disabilities be in research. Sometimes they are really excited about the research. For example, they can get excited about the research if you help them learn more about it.

If people have concerns about people with disabilities being in research, learning about their concerns is a good place to start. You can help them feel more comfortable about the research project by teaching them about all the ways researchers take care of people in research.

You can talk to them about the good things that come from research, the rights that people with disabilities have to be in research and by building trust, and making it as easy as possible for people to be in the research study.

Sometimes just a project leader works with these people. Sometimes other people on the team work with these people as well.

Your project leader will talk to you about your role and you can share your ideas on how to work with family members and disability service providers.



## Mental Health for All Team Talks About Recruitment



**Micah:** We have more stories about finding people to be in our research study!



**Brendan:** We knew there was a large group home provider in our area. We decided to reach out to them to ask if we could share information about our study with the people in their homes. They were really interested in helping us because they were interested in what we would learn and how it might help them better connect people to mental health services. We were able to meet with people in most of their group homes.

**Micah:** But we had a really different experience with another group home service manager. He seemed

worried that what we wanted to learn about might make them look bad and that he didn't have the time to help people be in our study.

**Brendan:** The group home manager only let us talk to people who he thought would share positive experiences. That was frustrating! We aren't doing our research study to make them look bad, we are doing it to help all people with disabilities living in group homes have better mental health.