HRP-338 | 3/29/2024

WORKSHEET: Indigenous Research

The purpose of this worksheet is to provide support for IRB members reviewing Indigenous research. The following provides key considerations to apply when reviewing proposed research with Tribal collaborators, Tribal communities, Tribal natural resources, and other Tribally-controlled or Tribal-serving institutions, Indigenous Peoples, places, and objects of cultural significance.

Researcher Education/Tribal Relationships

This section describes information that should be included in the protocol and/or IRB submission.

Does the researcher(s) have prior experience or training in using relevant research methods among AI/AN populations and sovereign Native nations?

Has the researcher provided documentation of completion of UMN specific training?

Does the researcher’s department have a Tribal liaison? If yes, has the liaison been engaged in the project?

How has the researcher(s) documented feedback obtained from AI/AN advisors or collaborators on the research topic, design, methods, and recruitment materials?

Compensation/Potential for Direct Benefit

This section describes information that should be included in the protocol and/or IRB submission.

Does this research hold out the prospect of direct benefit to the participants or potential benefits to the subject population, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, or Indigenous peoples generally?

Has the researcher considered if the research topic, methods, or results could have a potentially negative impact upon Tribal sovereignty?

Are there provisions for compensation for use of Tribal resources (use of space, time, expertise)? Note that this is not the same as compensation for research participation.

Will Tribal collaborators be listed as study team members and/or co-authors on publications?

Documentation of Approval/Memorandum of Understanding

This is section describes the documented approval(s) and agreement(s) that must be in place prior to submitting for IRB approval.

Has the researcher provided executed research agreements or memoranda of understanding outlining and formalizing the research aims and approach, role and expectations of the investigators/collaborators, and plans for securing financial support?

Does the application include Tribal IRB or equivalent approval through documentation (e.g. letter from Tribal Council, Tribal department, Tribal resolution, Indigenous organization leadership, etc.)?

NOTE: If a researcher does not receive a response supporting the research, the UMN IRB cannot approve the IRB application until documentation is obtained and submitted by the investigator.

Data Sovereignty/ Dissemination of Results

Indigenous Tribes have the right to collect, store, manage, apply and disseminate their own data which is derived from Tribes' inherent right to govern their peoples, lands, and resources. This section describes ownership of the data collected, agreements about its use and the role Tribes will have regarding how the results of research will be disseminated. For the purposes of this checklist, data is defined as any information that may be recorded, including digitally.

Are there adequate provisions to protect the confidentiality of the participant(s)’ data? In small populations, even basic demographic information can sometimes be used as identifiers.

Will the proposed research require data sharing as a contingency of funding or publication? If so, researcher must have express permission from tribal entity(ies) overseeing research, and this permission should be included in the documentation of approval.

If “yes” to above, does the documentation of tribal research approval include permission to share data?