



Prevention Research Center  
at Case Western Reserve University

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## Partners in Education, Evaluation, and Research (PEER)



at  
Case Western  
Reserve University

The Partners in Education, Evaluation, and Research (PEER) Program is a 14-month, mentored program designed to increase research capacity in community organizations and facilitate academic/community research partnerships. PEER Fellows are:

- Recruited from community-based organizations
- Matched with a mentor from their organization and a CWRU faculty mentor/advisor
- Positioned to increase research capacity within their organization

The program was developed at the request of community organizations and consists of didactic research training coupled with partnership development with university faculty through applied and experiential learning. The program culminates in a jointly developed community/academic research project.

### PEER Increases Research Capacity

The program's main goal is dissemination of research principles as applied to organizational work. All fellows are required to submit a dissemination plan in which they communicate what they learn in PEER back to their organization and boards of directors.



Through this effort and through evaluation feedback, we know that PEER is affecting organizations positively in terms of increasing organizational research capacity. Past Fellow/Faculty Partner relationships have resulted in grant funding to continue the work begun in PEER as well as continuing relationships between faculty and community organizations. Pre- and post-test data on Fellows and Faculty Partners show increased learning and confidence about research and collaborative work.

### PEER Leads to Grants and Programs

PEER Fellows have leveraged their PEER experience into expanded programs and additional grant funding.

- A fellow from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH), whose teen pregnancy prevention program was defunded during PEER, leveraged the expertise of her faculty partner to obtain a grant in excess of \$4,000,000 to continue and expand the program in Cuyahoga County.
- A second fellow from CCBH created a PEER project about infant mortality rates near food deserts in urban areas, sparking the idea for a "Produce Prescription" program for expectant mothers in Cuyahoga County.
- A PEER faculty partner and fellow from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure NE Ohio branch obtained a \$10,000 grant to continue research into existing data on breast cancer.



### Model Training Program

In 2016, the PEER Program was published as a model training program in the Johns Hopkins University journal, *Progress in Community Health Partnerships*. The PEER Toolkit is published on the [prchn.org](http://prchn.org) website.



This document was made possible by the Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative of Cleveland, 4UL1TR000439 from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) component of the National Institutes of Health and NIH roadmap for Medical Research. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.