

Academic Partnership Guidelines for The Coalition for Environment, Equity and Resilience (CEER)

CEER recognizes the importance of university-based research projects to grassroots community organizing. When aligned with community leadership and rooted in the [Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing](#), academic partnerships can significantly advance the achievement of environmental justice. CEER also recognizes that research projects at times are not planned, funded nor conducted without community guidance and without a commitment to environmental justice principles. CEER acknowledges that absent the community control of research initiatives, the production of knowledge could be harmful to communities with which CEER is working and CEER. It also replicates the cultures of colonial mentality, exploitation, and extraction that the organization fully resists. CEER also supports the eleven principles of community-based participatory research and projects that make use of that methodology.

To ensure that academic researchers who would like to partner with CEER on community-based research projects are accountable to environmental justice leadership and principles, our organization has instituted the following policy guidelines. CEER requests that researchers who are interested in partnering with CEER consult these guidelines and reflect upon their training to conduct de-colonial research projects to form transformative research partnerships.

CEER Academic Partnership SIX GUIDELINES:

1. **Research Design:** CEER supports community-based research projects that are initiated through a collaborative process. Research questions, methods of data collection, and in some cases research writing, should be developed collaboratively with CEER and agreed upon. CEER will not participate in projects where the research is designed prior to consulting CEER.
2. **Staff Capacity and Compensation:** Researchers must account for the fact that environmental justice organizations such as CEER and its member organizations are severely under-resourced and prioritize community organizing. CEER supports community-based research projects that adequately compensates staff and directors for their time, knowledge, and contributions to the successful completion of a research project. University researchers must be prepared to explain how their project will provide resources and plenty of time to coordinate with CEER staff and directors in order to not strain CEER's staff capacity and commitments to organizing.
3. **Fundraising:** CEER supports community-based research projects that incorporate collaborative grant proposal strategies and practices. University researchers should be fully transparent about fundraising for research, and in some cases be willing to be a secondary partner on a research proposal. Researchers should also be open to introducing CEER to foundations and other funding partners.

4. **Intellectual Property:** CEER supports community-based research projects that explicitly recognize that knowledge produced through a collaborative process belongs to CEER. In academic publications and public disseminations of research, CEER must also be given full credit as a research partner.
5. **Student Intern Management:** CEER supports the participation of university students, particularly students of color, in community-based research projects. In the cases where student interns will be utilized for conducting research, university researchers should be prepared to discuss how student interns will be compensated and managed throughout the research process.

Memorandum of Agreement: To ensure the integrity of a research project CEER supports the use of MOA's with researchers and university colleges to set partnership ground rules, alignment principles, accountability mechanisms, and compensation rates. CEER will not participate in research projects where researchers are unwilling to enter into a MOA process with CEER and compensate the organization for time committed to MOA development.