



# Participating in Research: A Guide for Newcomers

## About this guide

This guide will give you information about common practices and your rights if you decide to participate in research. When research is done well, it can lead to policy changes and new programs or services. It can also lead to other opportunities to improve our communities.

The best research is meaningful and inclusive.

**Meaningful research** focuses on what's important to the community. The goal is for the research to have a positive impact.

**Inclusive research** is when all members of the target population are given a chance to participate. Researchers put supports in place to make sure this happens.

## Who should use this guide?

- a) Newcomers
- b) Immigrants
- c) Refugees

## Your rights as a research participant

Your experiences and ideas are very important to research. But, it's always your choice to be involved. You are **never required** to participate.

If you choose to participate, you have the right to

- learn more about the research before agreeing to participate
- know the risks and benefits of participating in the study
- have information kept private (confidential or anonymous)
- ask questions and voice concerns
- stop participating at any time without any consequences
- receive some form of meaningful compensation for your time, such as money, a gift card, or a certificate of participation
- be informed of research findings and recommendations

## As a research participant, you have the right to get the answers to these questions from researchers.

- a) What is the purpose of your research?
- b) Who is the target group for your research?
- c) Are there any language or eligibility requirements?
- d) What are the steps involved in your study?
- e) What are the timelines of your activities? (Activities could be things like interviews, focus groups or surveys.)
- f) Can I stop at any time?
- g) How will this information be used? Will it be published? Will it inform policy?
- h) How will the information be kept private?
- i) How long will the information be stored?
- j) Is there compensation or payment for participating?
- k) How will the results be shared?


## You may also ask researchers if they will

- provide interpretation support if needed
- translate any forms that need to be signed, including the informed consent form
- be flexible for time, location and format of the interview or focus group
- provide information about services you may need at the end of the interview or focus group

“If you try to think about what’s needed without talking to the [newcomer] community, you will lose your way.” - research participant

This guide was created from local research. It included researchers, service provider organization staff and immigrants. The full version, *A Guide to Inclusive and Meaningful Research with Newcomers in Hamilton*, can be found on the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) website <https://hamiltonimmigration.ca/hipc-reports>

This guide was developed by the HIPC. HIPC is a community table that brings together leaders from various sectors to help with newcomer settlement and integration. Our goal is to create a welcoming community for Hamilton’s newcomer population.

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