

Plan Stage Reflection Questions

Reflecting on the **plan** stage through the lens of the 5Rs—Representation, Relationships, Reflexivity, Responsibility, and Resources—ensures that the research design aligns with community priorities. These reflections help create a research approach that is responsive to community needs and values. Use the following questions to guide your thinking and refine your research plan.

Representation

- How does the community's historical relationship with research influence the planning process?
- What steps have been taken to align the research design with community priorities?
- Are there structures in place to ensure community priorities are actively solicited and incorporated?

Relationships

- Do all partners understand their roles and responsibilities in the research design and data collection process?
- What communication channels are in place to ensure transparency in decision-making?
- How will disagreements about research design be addressed?

Reflexivity

- How have you examined your own biases in selecting research methods or tools?
- Are the chosen methods practical, relevant, and aligned with community context and priorities?
- Are data collection processes ethically sound and respectful of participants' rights and autonomy?

Responsibility

- Have you secured the necessary permissions and approvals from both the IRB and community leadership?
- How will you maintain accountability and responsiveness throughout the study?
- How will you ensure that community priorities remain central to changing circumstances?
- Are decision-making processes clearly defined?

Resources

- How will you adjust if additional time, staff support, or community input is needed to refine the research methods?
- Are there sufficient resources, such as funding, staff time, and training, to implement the research effectively and ethically?
- Are there enough resources to ensure data collection tools are clear, appropriate, and accessible to participants?