Tips for Positive Community Engagement

Adapted from *The Blueprint for Safety Equity Assessment Toolkit*

(for more information, please email [blueprint@praxisinternational.org](file:///\\PraxDC1\Shared%20Data\Programs%20&%20Projects\5%20TTA\5%20Products\Logistics%20guide\2019%20revisions\Working%20folder%202019\Section%202\blueprint@praxisinternational.org))

Review the following tips to prepare for meeting with community-based organizations, experts, and leaders to invite their participation in the Audit. Be sure to learn as much about each organization and leader, as well as their relevant issues and challenges, before you start a conversation with them.

## Prior to engaging with community-based experts:

* Develop your understanding of each community expert’s work and/or organization. Learn about their:
* Mission
* Current projects and initiatives and if any intersect with the Audit
* Staffing structure and make-up
* Primary constituents

## Talking points for first meeting with potential partners:

* Further develop your understanding of the community expert’s work and/or organization. Ask about their:
* Experience working with other organizations, movements, or reform efforts
* Any positive or negative interactions that the community has had with the criminal legal system, government agencies, or academia doing research
* Current challenges and needs
* Describe the Audit:
  + Overview of the Audit and activities
  + Focus on the structure of work, not individual practitioners
  + Summarize motivation and timing for this project
  + Describe the specific inequities that the Audit hopes to address
  + Describe the focus and why this focus was selected
  + Commitment by agencies involved in Audit
  + Expected outcomes

* Invite participation in the Audit:
  + Describe the team and who will be on the team.
  + Describe the leadership role(s) reserved for community-based partners.
  + Describe the commitment you are asking for:
    - “Audit etiquette”
    - Time commitment
    - Engagement with system practitioners
    - Working agreements
    - Range of possible participation (interviewee, focus group coordinator/facilitator, advisor, Audit team member)