PFCCpartners READINESS TOOL

What *resources* and *commitments* are needed to successfully launch a patient/family partnership program?

This tool is designed for health care teams and organizations to become ready to engage with their community members with confidence. Inclusive engagement of diverse patients and family caregiver voices is essential for addressing the health challenges of today. Impactful partnerships are happening each day across our health system – you don't need a big budget, just big hearts.

Who should use this Readiness Tool?



Health Systems and Hospitals

Teams Working to Reduce Disparities

Health Equity Programs

Improvement Programs

Quality/Safety Improvement Teams

Research/Measurement Projects
Federal Government Agencies

State and Local Governments

Patient/Family Advocacy Organizations

Primary Care Providers and Groups

Why a Patient/Family Partnership (PFP) Program?

Intentional infrastructure integrated into your organization (or team) contributes to sustainable, impactful engagement that brings critical insights to community and team members. Infrastructure sets the stage for inclusion of diverse perspectives and constructive collaboration. Patient/Family Partnership Programs provide critical insights about health and health care from your community.

What is a PFP Program?

It's a pathway for collaboration with your community members. A PFP Program can look like the common Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC), which includes shared decision-making roles. However, a PFP Program extends beyond the traditional PFAC. Organizations and teams may engage partners directly into operational units or existing improvement efforts. This particular approach is effective for small teams, critical access hospitals, or research projects.

Some Patient Family Partners (PFPs, also referred to as Advisors or PFAs) may prefer to engage with specific project teams and committees. Others may desire to work through surveys, listening sessions, or focus groups when they have the time and can be flexible to the needs of your organization. Sometimes the best partnerships are formed around coffee or tea. An inclusive PFP Program provides multiple pathways for patients and family caregivers to inform health system programs, policy, procedures, design, and improvements

This is not new work, it's a new way to do the same work.



How to get started: Define your SCOPE	
Defining the scope for patient family engagement efforts is the everything down the line - from charters and orientations to er efforts dictate the most suitable structures for collaboration. It agree on the scope for your efforts.	ngagement activities. The scope of your engagement
agree on the scope for your entorts.	Some examples are: the entire hospital, a primary care practice, quality improvement departments, patient experience teams, readmissions improvement programs, steering committees, and patient safety committees.
Strategic Goals of the Organization**	
Identify the top 3-5 goals or priorities for the organization or te	What would leaders say are the priorities if you stop them in the hall? What goals have been set for your team?



COMPONENT	REQUIREMENTS	INDICATORS OF READINESS	READY?
Program Objectives	Develop a sustainable PFP Program	The organization has a goal to advance health equity in the community they serve	
		Staff express interest in engaging community partners in organizational design and improvement	
		Clinical staff acknowledge patients and family caregivers as partners in their care and demonstrate cultural humility	
CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index		Team members have a working understanding of the diverse demographics of the population they serve	
		Team members also understand the unique social needs, challenges, and assets in the community	
		Staff in the organization understand the value of patient/family engagement	
		Identified scope (who will be served by this PFAC/structure – department, task, geographic region)*	
		Identified goals from the organizations strategic plan to anchor PFP program**	
Leadership	Commitment to	Verbal support of Patient Family Engagement	
Engagement Name:	developing and sustaining a PFP Program	Written support of Patient Family Engagement in policy, program descriptions, etc	
	Articulated plan for PFP Program or other engagement effort, such as PFAC		
Title:		Approved resources, such as staff time, financial, space, supports, etc	
Think inclusively, beyon Consider engaging indiv LGBTQIA+ population, 6		Committed to engaging the diverse perspective of the population served	
		Leadership has given team directive for launching a PFP Program	
		Recognition that community engagement is a critical strategy for achieving health equity.	
		Willingness to change policy and practice within the organization/team.	



COMPONENT	REQUIREMENTS	INDICATORS OF READINESS	READY?
Facilitator Name: Title:	Point person and facilitator for the PFP Program.	Time allocation (2-10 hours per week) Enthusiastic Organizational credibility Change-making authority Direct communication pathway with leadership	
Team Name and Area: Name and Area: Name and Area:	A team of a minimum of three representing different areas of the organization. Clinical, administrative, communications, program specialists, etc. Project Implicit Implicit Bias Test	Inclusion through representation - promote or identify staff who bring strengths in connecting with those communities you seek to engage Weekly meetings scheduled Commit to the process of developing a PFP Program Team members have examined their implicit bias Team members ready to put in the time and effort to establish partnerships Established connection to existing efforts for addressing health disparities and inequities.	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Internal Scan of Support Systems and People Include: Communications teams, ervices, IT departments, tc.	Prepare a standard request process for engagement – for those staff seeking collaboration Develop a list of support resources and people who might support your efforts.	

