



Research Standards

Standard 1: Design

Research design is highly robust and appropriate to answer effectiveness, operational and/or cost research questions, is stakeholder-informed, feasible, and contextually appropriate.

Standard 2: Resources

Research activities and staffing are adequately resourced. There is sufficient time in the workplan to develop and implement the research activities at high quality.

Standard 3: Management

Clear roles and responsibilities are assigned, and a communications and decision-making protocol is developed and implemented.

Standard 4: Ethics

All research & innovation projects receive either 1) IRB approval at the IRC or another approved IRB, for human subjects research; or 2) innovation ethics review, for non-human subjects research projects. Ethical procedures consider sensitivity to context, diversity, safety, confidentiality and dignity of clients. Beneficiaries are consulted on risks & mitigation strategies wherever appropriate. Research data with personally identifiable information (PII) are adequately protected.

Standard 5: Data Collection & Protection

Data collection is conducted using best practices. Data collection, cleaning and protection/security protocols are developed, implemented, and updated as required.

Standard 6: Cost Effectiveness

All impact evaluations collect data on cost of implementing program activities, including necessary time & effort tracking, on a quarterly basis to ensure feasibility of cost effective analysis.

Standard 7: Transparency

The IRC commits to transparency in research. Regardless of whether results are positive, negative, or null, the IRC disseminates research, evaluation, and costing analysis results to key stakeholders, including research participants. All methods and findings should be transparent and understandable in communication products that are accessible to participants and partners. De-identified data are shared where appropriate and as defined by open data policies.

Standard 8: Use of Findings

An uptake and dissemination plan is developed, resourced, and implemented. Research results are actionable and accessible to a practitioner audience. If recommendations are made as part of the

research report, IRC writes a management response detailing whether and how recommendations will be actioned.

Standard 9: Learn

Research implementation successes, challenges and lessons learned are captured and used to improve future research projects.

Standard 10: Equity

We acknowledge there are power differentials when conducting research that can be affected by and exacerbated by the research process. These differentials can arise through interlinking systems of oppression such as sexism, racism, xenophobia, heteronormativity, ageism, ableism, historical and neo-colonization, etc. We aim to conduct ethical research in the following ways to promote equity and reduce power imbalances throughout the process.

