





Quick Tips for Equitable Research Payments & Incentives


General Information

- There are 3 types of research payments
 1. **Compensation** for time, effort, and burden
 2. **Incentives** to encourage participation or promote certain behaviors 
 3. **Reimbursement** for expenses
- Payment is a powerful tool to help lower SES individuals **overcome barriers** to participating in research
- Using **incentives** to improve decision-making is a legitimate research practice 
- It is ethical to target underrepresented groups who **benefit** from the research
- If possible, use **input from the community and potential participants** to: 
 - Determine standard payment amounts for similar effort
 - Identify preferred payment forms for use across projects

Quick Tips for Equitable Research Payments & Incentives

Planning & Administration

- Pay a **fair amount** to cover time & effort (e.g., \$50/hour) 
- Offer as **many payment options** as possible, including cash if you're able
- Consider what you can do to **reduce costs to participation** (e.g., at-home or local study visit location options)
- **Pay equally** across studies regardless of an individual's SES or income

- Allow payments to be declined, repurposed, or substituted to **protect** a participant's **sense of altruism**
- Communicate your **rationale and justification** for specific amounts to the IRB, and identify the following:
 - Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses 
 - Compensation for time and burdens
 - Recruitment or other incentives



Quick Tips for Equitable Research Payments & Incentives

Do this...

- Use **decision aids** when consenting
- Explain to participant all **payment details**:
 - Timing and amount
 - Format (e.g., ClinCard, Paypal, cash, gift card; note any fees if applicable)
 - Conditions to receive payment
- Review with participant associated matters:
 - **Opportunity costs**
 - **Limitations** of reimbursement
 - Impacts on entitlement programs
 - **Tax implications**



Don't do this...

- Link clinical care access to research participation 
- Make payments disproportionately large
- Tie payment to potential risk or health benefits: 
 - Payment should not be used to offset high risk
 - Research with direct health benefits should compensate on par with those that have no direct health benefits