

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Project STEER (Stakeholders Engaging for Early Intervention Research)**

### **Do I need to live close to Ohio State University to participate?**

Not necessarily, although you do need to be willing/able to attend meetings at a location in Columbus. In-person meetings will be held about once every other month at a location convenient for the group members, which will likely be located near Ohio State. Anyone who is willing to travel to this location every other month is welcome to participate. We will provide reimbursement for travel, including mileage/gas and parking reimbursement.

### **When will the meetings be held?**

We will work with our stakeholder teams to identify the most convenient times for meetings. We expect most meetings to happen on weekday afternoons/evenings, although some may be held on weekends. In the application, we will ask you to provide some information about your availability at different times in order to help with scheduling. Once we have selected our stakeholder teams, meeting times will be set well in advance to assist team members with making plans to attend.

### **Will everyone who applies be selected for a stakeholder team?**

No. We expect to have many applicants for this project, and we are able to select only five stakeholders from each group. Therefore, many applicants may not be selected. In making selections, we will consider several things, including (1) the information you provided on your application, (2) recruiting a range of participants with diverse backgrounds and experiences, and (3) logistical issues such as scheduling. After our initial screening of applications, we will invite some applicants for a phone or video interview, and then will make final selections based on this interview and application process.

### **If I am not selected, can I still be involved in this project in some way?**

If you are not selected but are still interested in being involved, let us know—there will be a question on the application about this! At different points in the project, we may be looking for additional feedback and may reach out to you for your feedback on the materials our team is developing. We will also send you the finalized versions of materials that come out of this project.

### **What happens if I miss a meeting?**

We hope that all of our participants are able to attend the in-person meetings. However, we understand that conflicts (expected and unexpected) do arise. We will make every effort to schedule meeting times that accommodate group members' known conflicts (e.g., vacations, work travel, etc.). If you do have to miss a meeting at the last minute, we ask that you let us know as soon as possible and we may ask you to provide input in another way after the meeting occurs.

### **Do I have to provide documentation of my (or my child's) autism diagnosis in order to participate?**

No. For our groups of autistic adults, we simply ask that you self-identify as autistic/having autism. For parents, we will ask for your verbal confirmation that your child has received a medical or educational diagnosis on the autism spectrum.

**How will I get paid for my participation in this project?**

Stakeholders who are selected to participate will be asked to sign a contract as a consultant to the Ohio State University, and we will submit for payment of hours worked and travel reimbursement on a monthly basis. If you or a family member is or has been employed by Ohio State University or the State of Ohio, you may be asked to submit additional documentation about these roles to ensure that we avoid or manage any conflict of interest regarding your different roles. Our project staff and Human Resources consultants will work with you regarding your specific situation should any challenges arise. If you are a current employee of Ohio State University, we unfortunately are not allowed to pay you as a project consultant. However, you would still be able to get any travel reimbursed in you were interested in participating without being paid.