



# Community Impact Challenge

## 2022-2023

### Appendix A: Best Practices for Responsible Community Engagement

#### 1. Embrace an Asset-based Perspective

- Recognize the wealth of resources, wisdom, and resilience that exists within communities.
- Focus on enhancing opportunities and resources in partnership with community members and organizations, rather than on "fixing" perceived issues or problems within communities.

#### 2. Foster Reciprocal Partnerships

- Foster mutually beneficial partnerships that genuinely support the work of community partners and the development of students.
- Collaborate with community partners to develop, evaluate, and revise programs to ensure that programs are beneficial to their work and to the community.
- Recognize the value of sustained community involvement in promoting understanding, fostering mutually beneficial relationships, and creating lasting impact.

#### 3. Value Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Explore your own identities and how they shape your experience in the community. Seek to continuously identify and challenge assumptions, biases, judgments, and stereotypes about individuals and communities.
- Value and respect people of diverse identities and backgrounds, and work to create inclusive environments.
- Recognize and identify ways to address root causes of inequities through a variety of forms of engagement.

#### 4. Practice Humility

- Approach community engagement activities with an open mind and a listening and learning attitude.
- Critically examine how issues of power and privilege impact attitudes towards community and community engagement activities.

#### 5. Engage in Education and Reflection

- Provide intentional opportunities for learning about partner organizations, community issues, and context before, during, and after community engagement activities.
- Process community engagement experiences through dialogue to deepen self-awareness and understanding of community and to inform future actions.

Modified from: <https://case.edu/studentlife/civicengagement/resources/best-practices>