

# Office of Community Engagement: Community Guide



**BRIGHTER WORLD**

## PATHS TO COLLABORATION: A COMMUNITY GUIDE TO WORKING WITH MCMASTER'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This guide has been created to provide clarity on the role that McMaster's Office of Community Engagement plays to connect the McMaster and Hamilton community as we learn how to work together to contribute to the public good.

This guide is for you if you are a **Hamilton-based community group or a non-profit organization** looking for assistance from McMaster, or if you have been approached by McMaster representatives interested in partnering with you.



## WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

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Community engagement at McMaster University values the expert knowledge and passion that members of the community (from local to global) have about their communities and issues affecting them; it fosters ongoing collaboration between University and community partners on how to better understand and consider the issues identified as priorities by local and global communities. Community engagement at McMaster involves performing research, teaching, and service for or with community members and partners for the public good.



## WHAT DOES THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DO?

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With a wide range of expertise, our staff are a resource for the development of community-campus partnerships in Hamilton.

We can help you move your ideas into action by creating opportunities to build relationships, share knowledge, and to ultimately make a difference through your work. We work to develop and support multi-stakeholder collaboration because a variety of perspectives, skills, and approaches are required to address the complex challenges facing our communities.

**Here are examples of how we develop partnerships:**

### LIAISING

- Through the McMaster Community Poverty Initiative, we connected the Good Shepherd and faculty in Social Sciences at McMaster and advised to host a film night about homelessness that would reach a new audience among students.

### ADVISING

- We met with staff at the City of Hamilton who are leading the City's community engagement strategy to advise on how public engagement is being embedded into City activities and projects.

### SPONSORING

- We provide Community-Campus Catalyst Grants in amounts of up to \$1000 to support new or developing partnerships involving McMaster faculty, staff, or students and a community partner.

### FACILITATING

- Through the Research Shop, McMaster students collaborated with the Gibson-Landsdale neighbourhood to compile an oral history of community neighbourhood organization leading to the development of a manual for a steering committee and volunteers.

## WHY SHOULD I CONNECT WITH THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

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Whether through a research project, Community Engagement workshop, new partnership, or otherwise, there are many ways that community members can collaborate with faculty, staff, and students at McMaster to work for mutual benefit.

### PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Action-oriented principles of community engagement were co-developed between community and campus partners and include: Relationships, Reciprocity, Equity, Continuity, Openness to Learning, & Commitment to Act. The primary goal of McMaster's community engagement strategy is to establish these principles as the foundation of community-campus partnerships.

### IS A PARTNERSHIP OR COLLABORATION RIGHT FOR YOU?

Before you start down the road to collaboration, you might consider these questions:

YES	NO	MAYBE	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is this research project in line with the mission and vision of your organization?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have a question or puzzle you want research to help you answer?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If you've already spoken to a university researcher, is there a sense of shared vision or mutual benefit concerning the project?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will your organization or community have the time and resources to put into a research project?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a champion in your organization or community willing to lead your group's involvement?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will the community members or organization staff be involved in making decisions about the research and/or in conducting the research?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your community or organization feel generally positive about being part of a research project (or a specific, identified project)?

If you've answered "no" or "maybe" to any of the above questions, use them to begin conversations with members of your community and the McMaster partner that you have been connected with. If you are still unsure, you can connect with the Office of Community Engagement for a consultation to receive advice or additional connections.

### HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Below are some of the most common paths of a community-campus partnership or collaboration.  
If you're not sure which path to choose, contact us at [community@mcmaster.ca](mailto:community@mcmaster.ca). We can help you figure it out.

What are you looking for?	Timeline	Description	Path
Advice	1 month	The Office of Community Engagement (OCE) can meet with you to help you develop relationships, project or research ideas, and strategies towards new or developing community-campus partnerships.	Consultation with OCE
Best Evidence	4 months	Student projects completed through the Research Shop or other McMaster courses can provide you with information that can help you and your organization make better decisions, improve your programming, and gather information that could help you to apply for funding, support advocacy, and raise awareness.	Research Shop Student Projects
Tools & Resources	3 months to 1 year +	The OCE offers a variety of resources that can support your community-campus partnership or project. Partnerships can access tools online to build your knowledge, invite our office to do a workshop, or apply for a Catalyst grant.	Catalyst Grants Community Engagement Workshop
Support in Building a Community-Campus Partnership	4 months to 2+ years	Based on alignment with our office's mandate, we can help build capacity for programs or organizations by partnering and playing a small or large role in developing your project or initiative.	Partnership Link to OCE program (MCPI, CityLAB)



## HOW CAN I CONNECT?

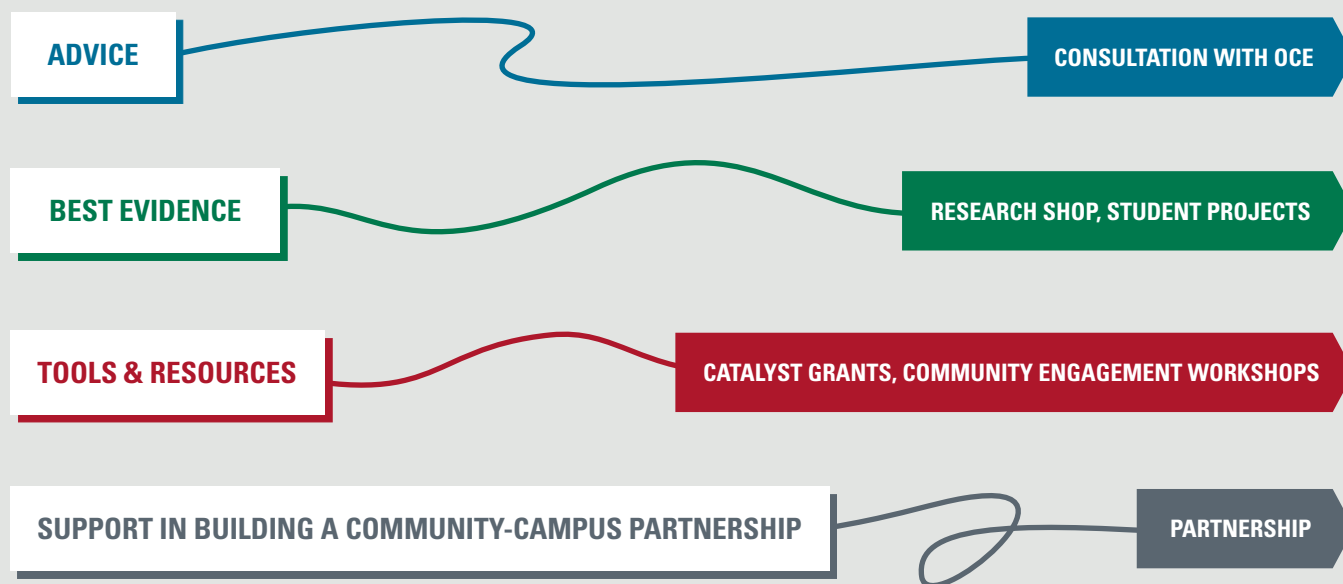
The Office of Community Engagement is here to help you as you develop relationships, ideas, and strategies towards new or developing community-campus partnerships. **If you would like to connect with someone from our team, this is the process to expect:**

- **Contact us with your request:** In order for us to understand who best to connect you with, please reach out with your request and as much detail as you can provide through one of the following routes:
  - a. Email - [community@mcmaster.ca](mailto:community@mcmaster.ca)
  - b. Phone - 905 525 9140 ext. 26279
  - c. Website - Submit a request via the contact form on our website.

- **Assessment:** After you contact us, our staff team will assess your request and determine who best to connect with you based on the path that you have chosen.
- **Initial consultation:** Based on our assessment, we will follow up with you (and any partners or colleagues if requested) to arrange an initial consultation.

As a result of the initial consultation, the staff member who met with you will follow up to reaffirm recommendations noted during the meeting, as well as any next steps that were discussed. Through the process outlined above, we will collectively gain clarity on what our office can do to support the development of your community-campus partnership going forward.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED? HERE'S A PATH TO GET YOU THERE:



## CONNECT WITH THE OFFICE

### SOCIAL MEDIA & NEWSLETTER

We share updates about what's going on at McMaster and in the Hamilton community! To stay in the loop, follow us on social media (@McMasterCE) or visit our website ([www.community.mcmaster.ca](http://www.community.mcmaster.ca)) to subscribe to our newsletter.



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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

