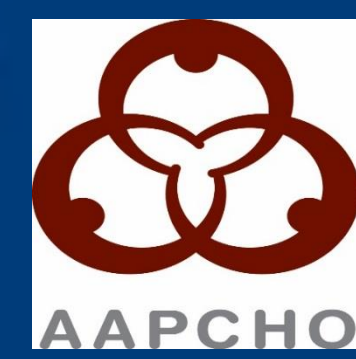# Enhancing Community Health Center Patient-Centered Research Engagement (EnCoRE)
www.CDNetwork.org/encore

Jonathan N. Tobin[1], Michelle Proser[2], Michelle Jester[2], Rosy Chang Weir[3], Danielle Lazar[4], Shalini Tendulkar[5], Vicki Young[6], Leah Zallman[5], and Mickey Eder[7]

[1] Clinical Directors Network, [2] The National Association of Community Health Centers, [3] Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, [4] Access Community Health Network, [5] Institute for Community Health, [6] South Carolina Primary Health Care Association, [7] University of Minnesota.
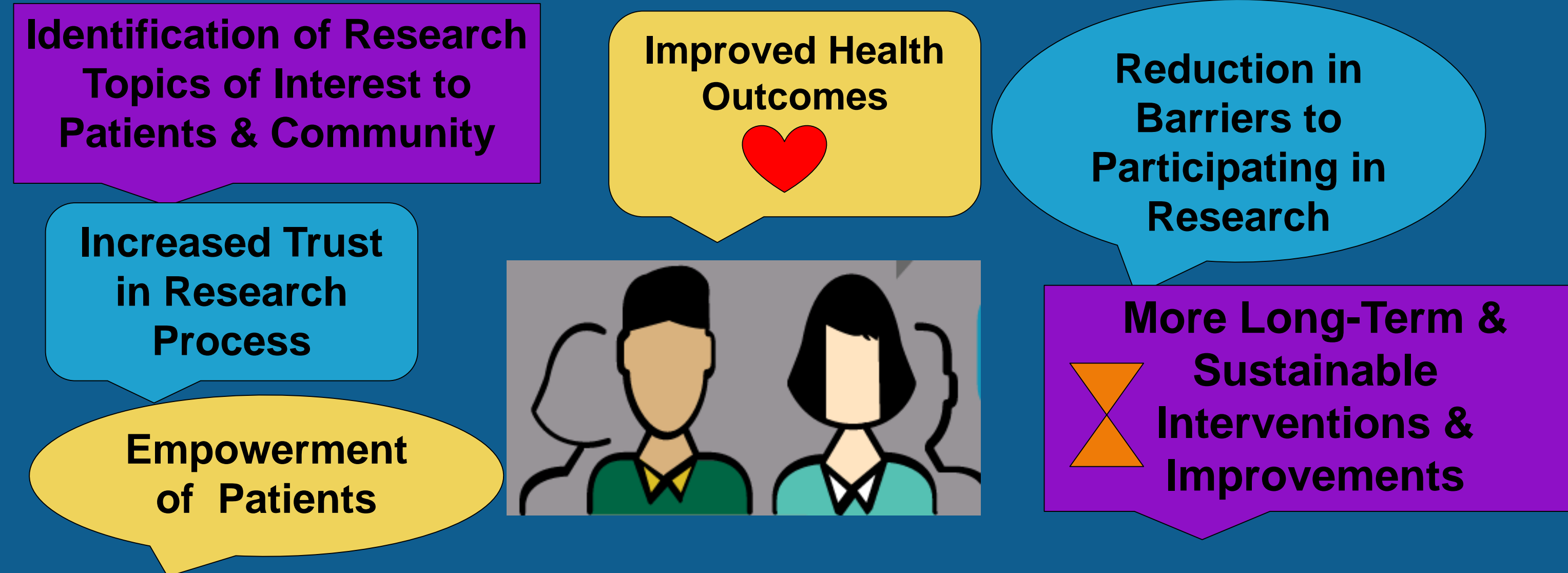
Benefits of Patient-Centered Research

Patient-centered research is the meaningful involvement of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders throughout the research process, from topic selection through design and conduct of research to dissemination.

There are many benefits to patient-centered research, including:

- Identification of Research Topics of Interest to Patients & Community
- Improved Health Outcomes
- Reduction in Barriers to Participating in Research
- Increased Trust in Research Process
- Empowerment of Patients
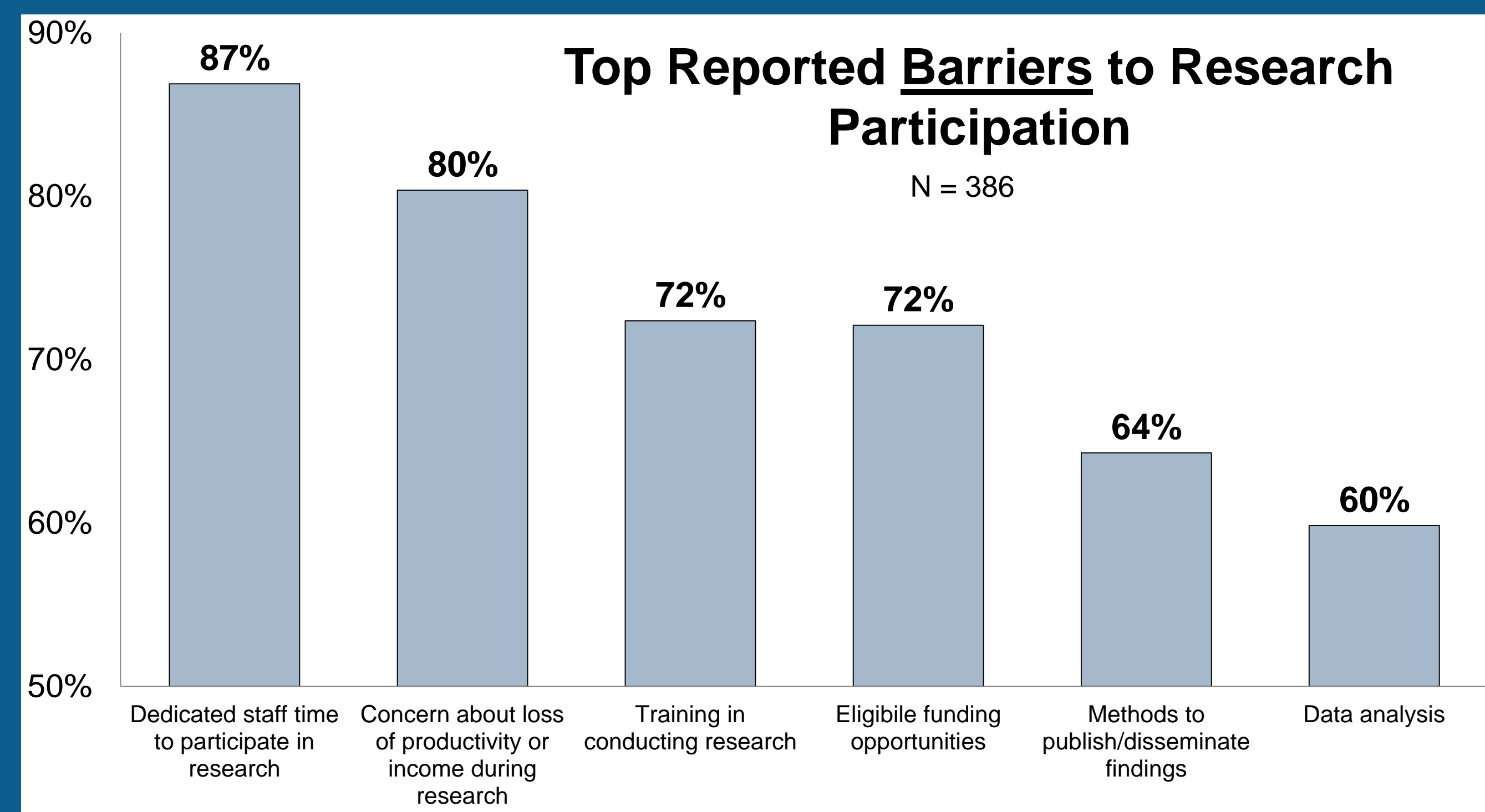- More Long-Term & Sustainable Interventions & Improvements

Health centers are ideal settings for engaging patients, family members, and staff in research given their:
- Unique care model
- Large, diverse, and growing patient population
- Knowledge and trust of the community

Health Center Need

Even though health centers are ideal settings for patient-centered research, they experience barriers to research participation.

Top Reported Barriers to Research Participation
N = 386

Barrier	Percentage
Dedicated staff time to participate in research	87%
Concern about loss of productivity or income during research	80%
Training in conducting research	72%
Eligible funding opportunities	72%
Methods to publish/disseminate findings	64%
Data analysis	60%

Jester M, Proser M, Shin P, Weir RC, Young V, Payne P, et al. National survey of health centers' research participation: activities and needs. CES4Health.

Resource to Build Patient-Centered Capacity

To increase health centers' capacity to participate in patient-centered research, the Clinical Directors Network, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, the Institute for Community Health, Access Community Health Network, and the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association came together to create EnCoRE: Enhancing Community Health Center Patient-Centered Research Engagement.

EnCoRE is an interactive Learning Community consisting of health center staff and patients centered around a webinar curriculum that walks through the steps needed to develop a patient-centered research proposal.
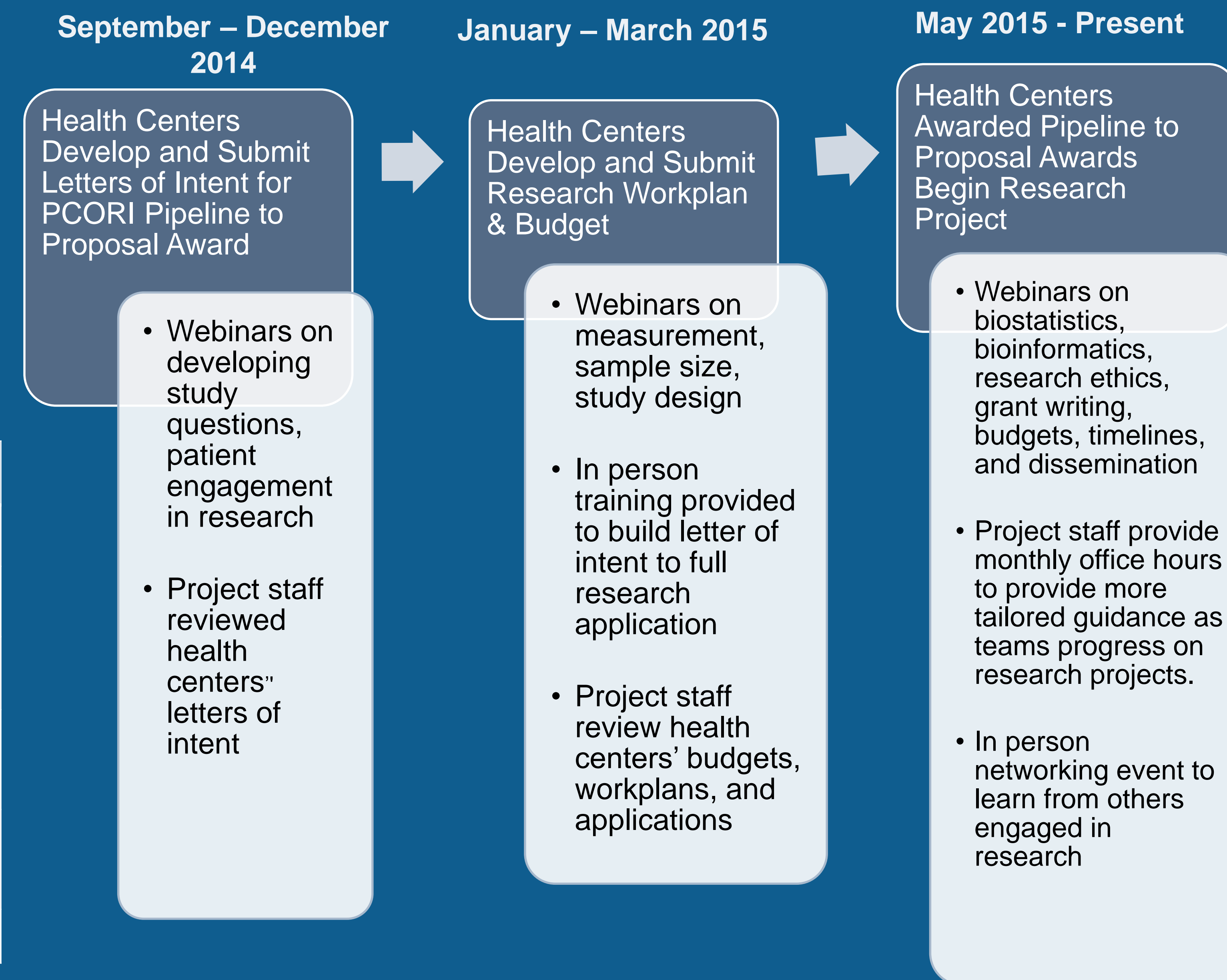
EnCoRE Training Topics

Developing Study Questions	Biostatistics
Patient Engagement in Research	Bioinformatics
Community Engagement in Research	Research Ethics, IRB
Measurement and Measurement Analysis	Grant Writing, Project Planning, & Fundraising
Sample Size, Sampling Methods	Preparing Budgets, Work Plans, & Timelines
Study Design	Dissemination & Presentation

EnCoRE provides didactic content in an interactive format, relating research concepts to everyday, on-the-ground situations. It is free to use in modules or as a whole and is available for Continuing Education (CE) credit. It can be viewed by topic or as a whole curriculum at www.CDNetwork.org/encore.

Mapping EnCoRE Training Model to PCORI Pipeline to Proposal Award

September – December 2014

Health Centers Develop and Submit Letters of Intent for PCORI Pipeline to Proposal Award
- Webinars on developing study questions, patient engagement in research
- Project staff reviewed health centers" letters of intent

January – March 2015

Health Centers Develop and Submit Research Workplan & Budget
- Webinars on measurement, sample size, study design
- In person training provided to build letter of intent to full research application
- Project staff review health centers' budgets, workplans, and applications

May 2015 - Present

Health Centers Awarded Pipeline to Proposal Awards Begin Research Project
- Webinars on biostatistics, bioinformatics, research ethics, grant writing, budgets, timelines, and dissemination
- Project staff provide monthly office hours to provide more tailored guidance as teams progress on research projects.
- In person networking event to learn from others engaged in research

Achievements to Date

- 100% of Teams Who Submitted Pipeline to Proposal Applications Were Accepted for Tier 1 Awards
- Established a Pathway to Actualize Vision of Patient-Engaged Research
- Built Confidence and Capacity for Health Center Patients and Staff to Present and Discuss Research Ideas and Methods
- Positive Feedback from Participants
- Disseminated at National Conferences