As a result of multiple stakeholder group meetings within the AIR-P, the ICR has identified the following priorities for study review standards. The spirit of the ICR is to foster collaboration between researchers and encourage research that benefits the health and wellbeing of autistic individuals. In that spirit, these guidelines are intended to be inclusive of a wide range of study designs, methodologies, and aims with the intent of promoting opportunities to identify novel findings and broaden the depth of knowledge in this field. We couple a training component, prior to participation, with a review process which provides feedback that enhances study design and implementation. Consistent with our commitment to the principles of the Autism CARES Act and our funding support from HRSA, our primary goal is to develop an infrastructure that can include and support a diverse research community.

**Project outlines must, AT MINIMUM, meet the following requirements:**

Scope of work
✔ Focuses on a topic relevant to the physical health of autistic individuals.
✔ Research project clearly outlines how it will contribute to improving the health and well-being of autistic people as defined by the Autism [CARES Act](https://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs-impact/autism)
✔ Reasonable justification that the project aligns with AIR-P’s [guiding principles](https://airpnetwork.ucla.edu/about)

Approach
✔ Study design and methods are appropriate to the goals of the project
✔ Any potential harm to autistic participants is clearly outweighed by the benefits of the study
✔ Study should seek to incorporate as diverse a sample of autistic participants as possible given the research question

Accessibility
✔ When appropriate, significant efforts are made to ensure research study is accessible to autistic participants with varying cognitive/language abilities (i.e. no blanket ID exclusions without strong justification)
✔ Considers the variations of terminology used to describe neurodiverse populations and other communities or identity groups, and uses respectful language
✔ When relevant, specific effort made to ensure accessibility of study materials to non-academic community partners (e.g. plain language, preferred communication modalities)

**In addition, we RECOMMEND that projects attempt to implement the following values.**

Community collaborators
✔ At least one autistic individual involved at the “consultation” level or higher (can be PI, research staff, academic collaborator, or “non-academic” partner with significant involvement)
✔ When appropriate, includes non-autistic stakeholder input from other relevant groups (e.g., caregivers, individuals with specific medical conditions)
✔ Research model (CBPR, PCOR, Consultation, etc; see details [here](https://aaspire.org/inclusion-toolkit/participatory-research/)) is outlined.

✔ All non-academic collaborators and consultants are compensated fairly (equivalent to neurotypical peers)

**The ICR team will direct investigators to resources that will assist in involving autistic perspectives in their research.**

**Reviewers may opt to provide feedback that improves submitted projects, specifically in terms of the extent of community involvement. and justification in instances where it may not be feasible for the study design. Feedback will be relayed to applicants along with an opportunity to re-submit projects with proposed modifications.**

If there are excess proposals that meet the minimum and recommended criteria, the database committee will come to a consensus decision on what applications to include. If a consensus cannot be reached, a simple majority vote will determine the final decision.