

Applying the Principles in Programs and Partnerships

This document provides practical guidance for how ALIGN-T1D partners can integrate meaningful engagement into program design, partnerships, implementation, and learning.

These Principles draw on global guidance, including the World Health Organization's framework for meaningful engagement, and are informed by research and field experience demonstrating that sustainable health programs center the agency, knowledge, and leadership of local actors.

Within ALIGN-T1D, these Principles have been adapted for a multi-stakeholder partnership model involving governments, funders, implementers, and community actors. They are intended to support consistent, practical application across diverse roles and country contexts.

What This Means for Partners

Partners are expected to demonstrate how meaningful engagement is integrated into their work, including but not limited to:

- **Program design:** Engaging people with lived experience early in defining priorities, approaches, and implementation plans
- **Budgeting:** Allocating resources to support participation (e.g., stipends, travel, accessibility, coordination)
- **Implementation:** Creating structures for ongoing engagement, not one-time consultation
- **Monitoring and learning:** Including community perspectives in defining success, reviewing progress, and adapting programs
- **Governance and coordination:** Ensuring community voices are represented and able to influence decision-making processes

Common Barriers and How These Principles Respond

Experience across global health and community philanthropy highlights several common barriers to meaningful engagement:

- Financial and logistical constraints limit participation
- Power dynamics influence whose voices are heard
- Engagement is often one-time or consultative rather than ongoing
- Community input is not consistently reflected in decisions

The ALIGN-T1D Meaningful Engagement Principles aim to address these barriers by promoting:

- Resourced participation
- Structured and inclusive engagement processes
- Transparency and accountability in decision-making
- Continuous feedback and adaptation