CITRA’s Research-Practice Consensus Workshop Model
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the research-practice consensus workshop model?

The research-practice consensus workshop model was created by the Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging (CITRA) to bring researchers and practitioners together in a forum to create joint recommendations to guide future research in the field. This model is different from traditional consensus workshops because it relies heavily on the expertise of practitioners in addition to researchers.

2. What is the goal of a research-practice consensus workshop model?

The goal of a research-practice consensus workshop model is to review the current research on the topic, identify gaps in the research based on real-world applications, and prioritize recommendations for future research. By bringing practitioners into the agenda-setting process, the model aims to move the field forward with a research agenda that is more relevant to practice communities.

3. What are the criteria for topic selection?

An advisory group of representative service providers and advocates selects the topic using specific criteria. There must be sufficient research available on the topic and the topic must be practice relevant (and preferably also policy relevant). Also, the topic must be compatible with any needs assessments conducted by members of the advisory group. Finally, it must not duplicate any recent similar efforts.

4. Who is invited to attend?

The research-practice consensus workshop and follow-up roundtable are by invitation only. The advisory group invites a group of researchers, practitioners, and advocates in the field with special expertise or interest in the area (up to 50 participants). The advisory group also invites several research and practice experts to present at the consensus workshop (four to six total).

5. What are participants expected to do?

Participants are expected to attend the research-practice consensus workshop (three hours) and the follow-up roundtable (two hours). Participants are also expected to read the research review prior to the consensus workshop to help identify gaps in the existing scientific literature. Finally, participants are expected to provide feedback on revised
drafts of the research review and help disseminate the final consensus document with recommendations for future research.

6. What are the basic steps in the process?

(1) Select a topic; (2) Produce an up-to-date, non-technical translation of the research literature; (3) Select a small panel of expert researchers and expert practitioners; (4) Convene a larger group of selected researchers and practitioners for discussion; (5) Create an initial consensus statement of top priorities for future research; and (6) Convene a follow-up roundtable to finalize the consensus document of recommendations and discuss a dissemination plan.

7. How to get more information?

For more information about the research-practice consensus workshop model, contact the Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging (CITRA) by email at citrainfo@cornell.edu. You can also find more information and training materials online at http://citra-rpcw.human.cornell.edu.