Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute/Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities

2016 Partnership Development Seed Grants
Community-Academic Research Collaboration to Improve Health

Required Call with ARCC Director: No later than March 2, 2016
Application Deadline: March 18, 2016
Seed Grant Information Webinar: February 3, 2016- 10 am

The Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS)/Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) will fund Seed Grants that support the development of Chicagoland community-engaged research partnerships. Partnership development is an important phase of research that occurs before proposal development. Maximum grant amount: $10,000 each. Project length: 12-24 months. The goal of these awards are to increase the number of community-academic partnerships that are prepared to collaborate together to design and conduct research projects. These seed grants can lay the groundwork for drafting research proposals that require or encourage community/patient/stakeholder engagement to National Institutes of Health, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Centers for Disease Control and other federal and private foundation funders. Evidence shows that community involvement can increase the relevance and quality of health research, including in clinical studies.

Seed Grant Award Focus
These Partnership Development grants are intended to support newly developing partnerships in, for example, relationship building, exploration of shared areas of interest, creation of partnership structure, and identification of potential research collaborations. Partnerships may be forming to explore community-based participatory research (CBPR), patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR), or other engaged research collaborations.

Possible activities include
- facilitating formal and informal meetings for partners to learn more about each other;
- exploring and seeking involvement of other potential partners;
- identifying shared research interests and priorities;
- exploring and developing innovative mechanisms for engaging and building understanding/interest/participation of underrepresented communities in clinical research;
- building capacity for community partners for meaningful participation in project advisory committees or research team roles (e.g. training on research design/methods, ethics training, etc.);
- building capacity for academic partners (e.g. training on community context, community engagement mechanisms, etc.);
- developing partnership infrastructure mechanisms such as advisory committees, memorandum of understanding, and/or partnership roles/responsibilities and policies and procedures;
- identification and exploration of potential funding sources for research collaboration; and/or
- developing and implementing engaged processes of collaboratively designing steps in the research process (including recruitment & retention approaches, data collection/analysis instruments and protocols, interventions, dissemination and implementation plans) and preparing proposals for external research funding.

*Note: Many of the steps above are required activities or products in some funding proposals. E.g. PCOR funding requires strong evidence of a history of collaboration between the research teams and stakeholders including advisory committees, etc.*

Eligibility: Applications must be submitted jointly by a community-academic partnership (community or faith-based organization or public agency AND Northwestern faculty member). Applications involving partners not previously involved in engaged research are encouraged. If you do not have a current relationship with a Northwestern researcher or community partner, ARCC is happy to help broker connections. Contact us for assistance as soon as possible.
Application: Before submission, the applicant partnership is required to contact ARCC director, Jen Brown, to discuss the fit and feasibility of potential proposal ideas. This is mandatory and must be done no later than March 2. Jen Brown, phone 312-503-2942, jenbrown@northwestern.edu. The proposed aims and activities described in the application should reflect the Center for Community Health Principles of Engagement (Described here: http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/cch/docs/resource-library/CCH_CE_PrinciplesFinal.pdf). Applications will be submitted online through NUCATS’ online system. Instructions and the link will be posted shortly to ARCC website.

Applications should not exceed 7 pages, and should include the following components:

- Project title
- Contact information for submitting partners (name, phone, email, departmental/organizational affiliation).
- While there may be more than one collaborating community and/or academic partner, for the purposes of the application, contact information should be submitted for one community/faith/public partner designated as community Co-Principal Investigator and one Northwestern faculty member designated as academic Co-Principal Investigator.
- Aims your application is seeking to address (no more than one page)
- Brief description/evidence of partnership
- Succinct description of how the application will be used to achieve the goals described above. Include methods, timeline, appropriate milestones/outcomes, and potential hurdles or limitations and how they will be addressed
- Budget (must use budget form provided on ARCC website) and budget justification

Review: Applications will undergo peer review by both community and academic representatives with experience in and respect for community-academic collaboration and research. Review criteria include: quality and feasibility of community and academic partner engagement, quality and feasibility of proposed activities, potential for future research collaboration and funding, potential for positive community impact.

Grantee Requirements: One in-person meeting with other grant recipients. Submission of brief mid-project progress report and final report/budget report. Response to annual survey of seed grant outcomes.

Resources: Descriptions of past grantees and related items on ARCC website: www.ARCConline.net. Additional resources are on ARCC’s online resource directory: www.ARCCresources.net. Note: Applicants may want to consider other possible NUCATS fiscal resources: http://bit.ly/1vB31Hh

Questions: Jen Brown, ARCC Director, jenbrown@northwestern.edu, Phone: 312-503-2942.

Grant Information Webinar: February 3, 2016, 10 AM: This online session (teleconference & web component using Adobe Connect) will provide a brief overview of the seed grant program and answer questions about the focus areas, application process, and other resources. RSVP: ARCC@northwestern.edu

Timeline:

| If you need ARCC assistance in connecting with community or academic partner connections | Contact ARCC as soon as possible |
| Grant Information Webinar | February 3, 2016: 10 AM |
| Deadline for discussing idea w/ARCC Director | No later than March 2 |
| Application deadline | March 18 |
| Funding decisions communicated | April |
| Funds Released | June |

ARCC is a program of the Center for Community Health serving Northwestern’s Institute for Public Health and Medicine (IPHAM) and the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Science (NUCATS) Institute. http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/cch/