Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC)
Community-Based Participatory Research Principles

*Adopted by ARCC Steering Committee, May 13 2009.*
*Revised and Approved February 8, 2012.*

ARCC recognizes that there is a broad spectrum of community engagement in research. Some studies incorporate a few elements of community engagement and minimal collaboration. Others involve community-based organizations and academics as equal partners in all aspects of research. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) embraces the greatest degree of relationship building, community partnership, and collaboration. ARCC promotes an approach to research that reflects the following principles of CBPR. This statement of principles is not formal policy but describes the values that studies and partnerships should strive to achieve.

1. Research partnerships are characterized by a commitment to building relationships based on mutual trust, respect, and shared decision-making in an equitable manner.

2. Partners communicate openly by being honest, developing a common language, and negotiating shared understanding of partner responsibilities and data ownership.

3. Research partnerships build upon strengths and assets to increase shared capacity.

4. Research projects employ cultural sensitivity and ethical protection of individuals and communities.

5. Partners are involved equitably in the stages of research including prioritizing common goals, question development, planning, collection, analysis, interpretation of data, and dissemination.

6. Projects and partners are equally committed to increasing knowledge and addressing community priorities.

7. Research findings are shared in ways that assure concrete action and change through education, advocacy, and improvements in community health.

8. Research partnerships are sustainable and ongoing—beyond a single project or study.