

Request for Proposals: 2021 Practice-Based Research Seed Grant

Community-Academic Collaborations and Partnership Development to Advance Primary Care Practice-Based Research

BACKGROUND

The Northwestern Primary Care Practice-Based Research Program (NP3) will fund up to three Seed Grants that support research collaborations or partnership development between primary care practices/clinicians and Northwestern academic researchers. NP3 is a program of the Institute for Public Health and Medicine (IPHAM) and Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute's (NUCATS) Center for Community Health (CCH) and the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics (GIM). A major goal of NP3 is to encourage collaborations among Chicagoland primary care networks. NP3 is comprised of three Practice-Based Research Networks, serving 1) Federally Qualified Health Centers and Community Health Centers, 2) Northwestern Medicine Primary Care Practices, and 3) the Pediatric Practice Research Group (PPRG). Applicants may be from any community-based and/or academically affiliated Chicagoland primary care practice, network, or Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) or Northwestern researcher.

*****Interested applicants must contact NP3 leadership (see Application section on p. 2-3) by February 12, 2021 to be considered for this opportunity.*****

If you have an idea or area of interest and would like assistance finding a primary care or academic partner or designing your project, NP3 and Network leadership are available to assist you with finding a partner or developing your proposal.

2021 NP3 seed grants will be supported by GIM, CCH, and NUCATS.

SEED GRANT AWARD FOCUS

These awards aim to increase the number of community-based primary care-academic partnerships that are prepared to collaborate in the design and conduct of primary care research. These seed grants should lay the groundwork for external research funding to generate researchable questions or practice changes that can be implemented widely. Up to three awards will be funded.

Proposals must focus on one of the categories below:

- 1) Practice-Based Research Collaboration Award** – Intended to support development of new collaborative research projects and the transfer/spread of evidence-based findings or best practices to primary care practices. Possible activities may include: collecting information about existing practice context and infrastructure to develop or implement interventions; adapting and piloting an intervention in a practice setting; collaboratively analyzing, reviewing, and interpreting existing data; or developing/piloting dissemination products/activities (e.g. policy brief, workflows, or novel methods to communicate with busy clinicians) or implementation products (e.g. toolkits)/activities. Proposals may include some elements of the Partnership Development proposal areas described below, but should primarily focus on a specific research project.

(Up to \$25,000 per award, project length up to 12 months)

- 2) Practice-Based Research Partnership Development Award**– Intended to support development or expansion of partnerships between researchers and primary care clinicians working towards future research collaborations or exploring practice-based research strategies. Possible activities may include: capacity building for community partners to participate in practice-based research or advisory committees (e.g. training on research design/methods); capacity building for academic partners (e.g. training on community context, community engagement, or understanding practice characteristics that may affect potential study design); convening community and academic partners to discuss areas of interest for future collaboration; collaboratively designing research projects including research question and methodologies; pursuing additional community and academic partnerships; or planning future research collaborations and proposal submissions including identifying potential funding.
(Up to \$10,000 per award, project length up to 12 months)

Examples of previously funded projects can be found on the NP3 [website](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include the following community-based primary care clinicians/primary care practices and academic faculty:

- Federally Qualified Health Centers and Community Health Centers
- Northwestern Medicine Primary Care Practices
- Pediatric Practice Research Group (PPRG) practices
- Northwestern University Research Faculty (*Note: applications from academics must be submitted in partnership with one or more of the above types of primary care practices/clinicians.*)

Collaboration Award: Collaboration applicants must include a primary care clinician (to serve as the Primary Care PI) **as well as** a Northwestern University faculty researcher (to serve as the Academic PI).

Partnership Development Award: Partnership Development applicants must include a primary care clinician (to serve as the Primary Care PI) and are strongly encouraged, though not required, to include an Academic PI at the time of application. Partnership Development proposals that do not have an Academic PI **must** include in their proposal a plan for engaging Northwestern University faculty researchers as part of their project. Priority will be given to applications submitted jointly by Primary Care and Academic partners.

Proposals exploring health equity issues, crossing multiple research Networks, aligning with [CCH Principles of Engagement](#), or aligning with [Healthy Chicago 2.0](#) priority areas are encouraged.

TIMELINE

February 12, 2021	→	Deadline for discussion with NP3 (see Application section below)
March 17, 2021	→	Final application due
May 2021	→	Funding decisions communicated
June 2021	→	Funds released

Note: The application cover sheet requires institutional/organizational approval from all collaborating partners. Please allow adequate time to follow all institution/organizations’ procedures for administrative review.

APPLICATION

In order to be considered for seed grant funding, applicants must contact NP3 Senior Program Administrator Amanda Venables (amanda.venables@northwestern.edu) no later than February 12, 2021 to schedule a discussion with NP3 about the fit and feasibility of proposals or project ideas.

For PPRG/pediatric proposals, you must contact Adolfo Ariza (aariza@luriechildrens.org) no later than February 12, 2021 to discuss fit and feasibility of proposals or project ideas.

Complete application details will be provided upon discussion with NP3. Application components include:

Item	Description
A. COVER SHEET (TEMPLATE PROVIDED)	Proposal information including: title, type of proposal, project contacts, participating organizations, and organizational sign-off.
B. ABSTRACT	This should be able to stand alone and will be used in grant award announcements.
C. NARRATIVE	The narrative should include the following: a) Background and significance; b) Project aims and anticipated outcomes; c) Project activities; d) Brief description/evidence of current relationship of the applicants and how principles of engagement will be used; and e) Project timeline and milestones to achieve aims.
D. BUDGET (TEMPLATE PROVIDED)	Proposed project budget.
E. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION	Provide a rationale for proposed expenses.
F. LETTERS OF SUPPORT	Letters from community/primary care and academic partners involved in proposal.

The proposed aims and activities described in the application should reflect [the Center for Community Health Principles of Engagement](#) that outline key elements of the process for working collaboratively with stakeholders.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by both community clinicians and academic representatives with experience in primary care practice-based research. Selection criteria include:

- Quality and feasibility of proposed activities
- Fostering primary care-academic partnerships
- Fostering collaboration among primary care networks
- Potential for future research collaboration and funding
- Potential for improving health or health care
- Focus that can generate interest in community primary care clinicians.

NP3 LEADERSHIP

Primary Contact:

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