

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

### **2019 Community Engagement in Research Seed Grants Community-Academic Research Collaboration to Improve Health Equity**

**Required Call with ARCC Director: *No later than March 27, 2019***

**Application Deadline: April 11, 2019**

The Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS)/ Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC), in partnership with Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NHM)\*, will fund Seed Grants that support the development of partnerships that engage communities and stakeholders in research collaboration with Northwestern research teams. The goal of these awards is to increase the number of community-academic partnerships that are prepared to collaborate together to design and conduct research projects to improve health and health equity. These seed grants can lay the groundwork for drafting proposals and conducting research that requires or encourages 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 engagement can increase the relevance and quality of health research, including in clinical studies. Two types of grant awards: Partnership Development awards (up to \$5,000, up to 12 months) and Research Pilot awards (up to \$25,000, up to 24 months). Priority will be given to applications that address priority health needs identified by the most recent [NMH community health needs assessment](#) and focus on addressing health inequities in Chicagoland communities identified by [Healthy Chicago 2.0](#).

#### **Seed Grant Award Focus**

*Community-engaged research* facilitates a bidirectional exchange of expertise between academics (scientific experts) and communities/stakeholders (local, cultural, practice experts) that leads to informed decision-making about research design, conduct, and dissemination and implementation of knowledge gained to improve health. Partnerships may use approaches along the full continuum of engagement, including community-based participatory research (CBPR), patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR), and/or other engaged research collaborations. These grants are intended to support engaged research collaborations that enable partners to develop and sustain trust and capacity and to conduct preliminary research for future collaborative grant applications.

#### **Grant Award Types**

Partnership Development awards are intended to support newly developing partnerships between researchers and communities/stakeholders in, for example, relationship building, creation of partnership structure, exploration of shared areas of interest, and/or research capacity development.

Possible activities include:

- facilitating formal and informal meetings for partners to learn more about each other;
- exploring and seeking involvement of other potential partners;
- developing research partnership infrastructure mechanisms (e.g. advisory committee, memorandum of understanding, partnership roles/responsibilities, policies and procedures);

\*Note: Funding from NMH is provided by the Bertha Helms Trust Foundation.

- identifying shared goals in order to work together more effectively and maximize partnership impact;
- facilitating open dialogue around strengths, challenges, and opportunities to address community health needs;
- 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 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.); and/or
- planning future research collaborations and proposal submissions (e.g., identifying potential funding opportunities).

Maximum grant request: \$5,000

Project length: Up to 12 months

*\*Note: Applicant partnerships may be already established, or if you do not have a current relationship with a Northwestern researcher or community partner, ARCC may be able to help broker connections. Contact us for assistance as soon as possible.*

*\*Note: 2019 Partnership Development awarded grantees will be invited to submit applications for 2020 Research Pilot Awards with a shortened application. Subsequent support is not guaranteed but will be prioritized based on strong performance during the partnership grant.*

Research Pilot awards are intended to advance the work of existing partnerships that have prior collaborative experience. Activities for these awards may include conducting preliminary research activities and developing and preparing engaged research proposals for external research funding. *Research Pilot applications must include some form of data collection or analysis (examples below). In addition, these applications should also include a focus on strengthening and extending partnership sustainability and capacity for research.*

Possible collaborative activities include:

- identifying, collecting, and/or analyzing new needs/assets assessment/pilot data or reviewing and interpreting existing data to inform further study or demonstrate potential impact/capacity for application for external funding;
- collaboratively developing/pilot testing new interventions to inform further study or application for external funding;
- collaboratively designing components of an engaged research project (e.g., research questions, methodologies, recruitment & retention approaches, data collection/analysis instruments and protocols, interventions, dissemination and implementation plans) and preparing proposals for external research funding; and/or
- partnership building activities focused on deepening relationships for longer-term research collaboration and capacity development related to future collaborative research activities.

Maximum grant request: \$25,000

Project length: Up to 24 months

*\*Note: Many suggested activities for both award types are required activities or products to prepare for some funding proposals (e.g., PCORI funding requires strong evidence of 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). *If you do not have a current relationship with a Northwestern researcher or community partner, ARCC may be able to help broker connections. Contact us for assistance as soon as possible.*
  - Proposed aims and activities should reflect Center for Community Health Principles of Engagement (<https://bit.ly/1Kud22W>).

Before submission, the applicant partnership is **required** to contact ARCC director, Jen Brown, to discuss the fit and feasibility of potential proposal ideas and which award type is appropriate. ***This is mandatory and must be done no later than March 27, 2019.*** Jen Brown, phone 312-503-2942, [jenbrown@northwestern.edu](mailto:jenbrown@northwestern.edu).

### Priorities:

ARCC seeks to support partnerships and research that align with community-identified priorities. These include:

- priorities established through the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)'s [Healthy Chicago 2.0](#), the public health system's plan for health equity ([further information on application alignment with plan on ARCC website](#)); and
- priorities identified by the Northwestern Memorial Hospital's 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment (<https://bit.ly/2A5qDg9>).

Priority will also be given to applications that:

- *For Partnership Development award:* are submitted by academic or community Co-Principal Investigators who haven't received an ARCC seed grant before and/or are new to engaged research partnerships;
- *For Research Pilot award:* are submitted by community-academic partnerships that have previously received and completed an ARCC Partnership Development award.

**Application:** Applications will be submitted online through NUCATS' online system. *Complete instructions will be posted to the ARCC website in early 2019. **The application must include the following components:***

- Project title and contact information for submitting partners
- Aims application is seeking to address (priority health need or research area, how grant improves ability of partners to engage in research)
- Significance of the issue to be addressed by the partnership
- Brief description of partnership (evidence of collaboration/capacity or plans to develop this, roles during project). *Research Pilot applications should also provide more detail about prior activities of the existing partnership.*
- Succinct description of how grant award will be used to achieve aims. Include:
  - methods (*Research Pilot applications should also include description of planned data collection/analysis and/or intervention development/pilot testing and if relevant, plan for dissemination of project results.*)
  - timeline and appropriate milestones/measures of success
  - potential hurdles or limitations and how they will be addressed
  - how grant award will lead to these outcomes
    - sustained research partnership/future research collaboration
    - future research funding

- positive community impact
- *Research Pilot applications must clearly describe how proposed work will directly contribute to partnership's future research collaboration and funding.*
- Description of how application meets priority(ies) as defined above
- Budget and budget justification

**Review:** Applications will undergo peer review by both community and academic representatives with experience in and respect for community-academic collaboration, health, 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, and alignment with application priorities.

**Grantee Requirements:** In-person mid-project meeting with other grant recipients. Final report/budget report. Annual tracking survey of seed grant outcomes.

**Resources:**

- Descriptions of past grantees and related items on ARCC website: [www.ARCCOnline.net](http://www.ARCCOnline.net).
- Additional resources are on ARCC's online resource directory: [www.ARCCresources.net](http://www.ARCCresources.net).
- *Other possible NUCATS fiscal resources:* <https://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/funding/>
- *Evaluation capacity resources may be available for community grantees through the [Lurie Children's Hospital Evaluation Core](#).*

**Questions:** Jen Brown, ARCC Director, [jenbrown@northwestern.edu](mailto:jenbrown@northwestern.edu), Phone: 312-503-2942.

**Grant Information Sessions:** In-person: October 30, 2018. Webinar: February 7, 2019. Sessions will provide brief overview of seed grant program (focus areas, application process, and other resources). RSVP for details: [ARCC@northwestern.edu](mailto:ARCC@northwestern.edu).

**Timeline:**

If you need ARCC assistance in connecting with community or academic partner connections	Contact ARCC <u>as soon as possible</u>
Deadline for discussing idea w/ARCC Director	No later than March 27, 2019
<b>Application deadline</b>	<b>April 11, 2019</b>
Funding decisions communicated	May-June
Funds Released	June-July

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/>