



## Alliance for Research with Chicagoland Communities 2026 Community Research Seed Grants



February 27, 2026 Information Session  
Access Recording [HERE](#)

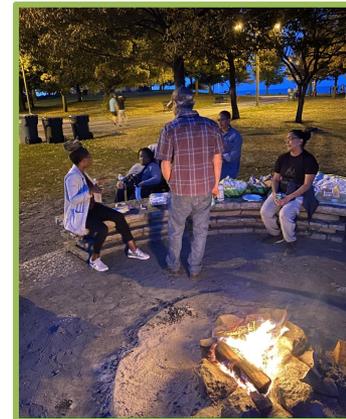
# Alliance for Research with Chicagoland Communities



**Celebrating 18 years of partnership and action!**

Catalyze & support research partnerships driven by & rooted in Chicagoland communities' unique assets & experiences to achieve health justice

[www.ARCOnline.net](http://www.ARCOnline.net)

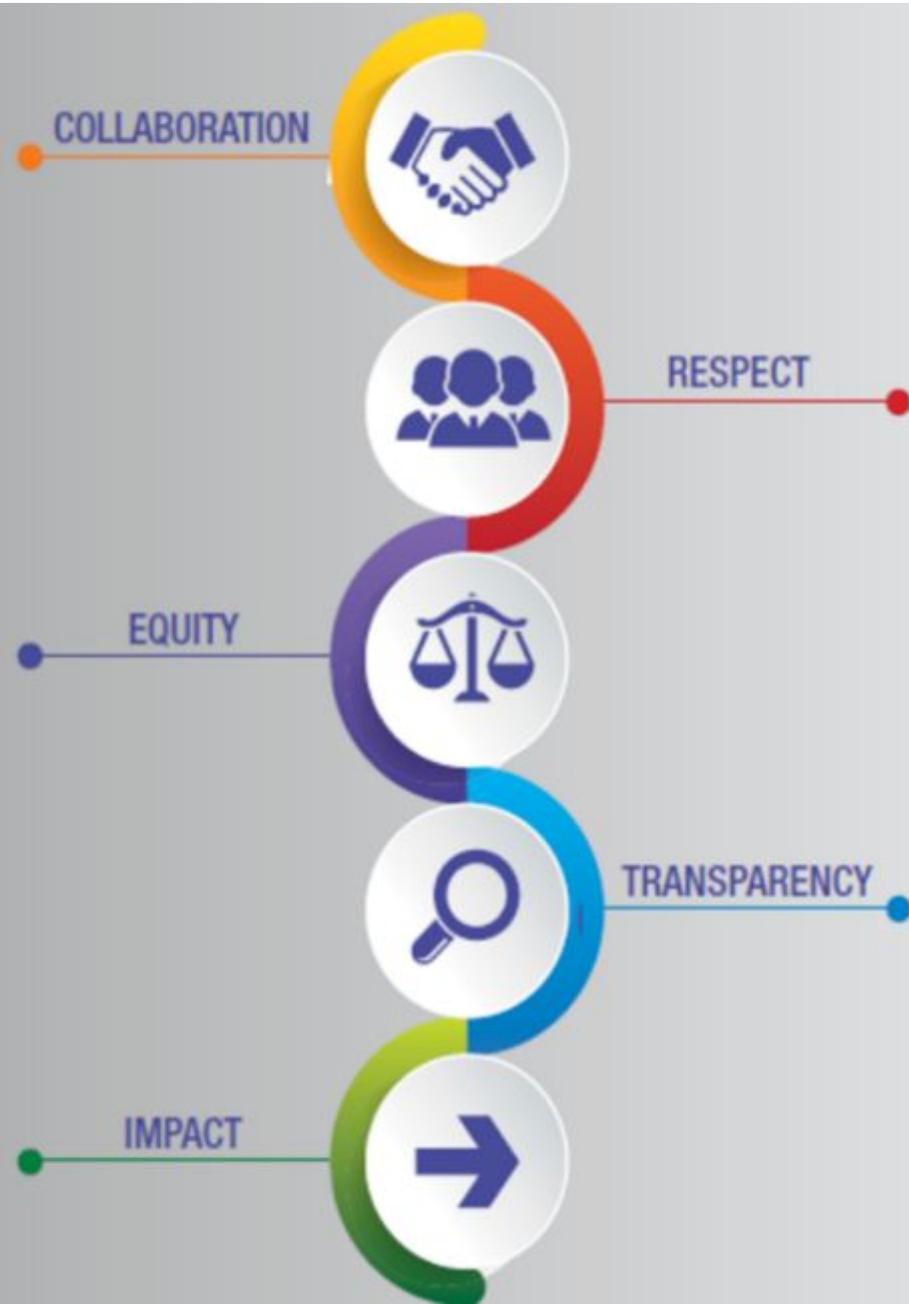


# Goals for the Session

- Seed Grant Program Purpose/Eligibility
- Application and Review Process
- Resources
- Q&A



# Principles of Partnership



# Community Research

- Honors and centers the knowledge of communities in their local, cultural, practice and lived experiences for improving health equity
- **Broad spectrum:** minimal to equal partnership in all aspects to community-led
- Community-driven vs community-engaged

# ARCC 2026 Seed Grant Goals



- Support development or strengthening of organizational or community-level research capacity
- Support community-driven research partnership and project development
- Support preliminary research activities, data collection/analysis, preparation for future research/funding



# 2026 Seed Grants- 3 types of awards



- Community Research Capacity-Building
  - \$2,500, 6 months
- Partnership Development
  - \$5,000, 12 months
- Research Pilot
  - \$25,000, 24 months



# Community Research Capacity-Building Grants

## Possible activities:

1. Understanding Community Assets/  
Needs and Readiness
2. Building Research Capacity of  
Community/CBO
3. Planning Future Research



# Eligibility

- Must be submitted by at least 1 community or faith-based org or public agency as community lead
- Community lead org must **NOT** have previously received ARCC Seed Grant funding.
  - Community Lead org/application must focus on impacting Chicagoland
  - May include additional community collaborators
  - No Northwestern/academic partner is necessary



# Priority

- Community lead organizations who serve/focus on Chicagoland communities most impacted by health inequities
- Organizations/applications that focus on health equity & addressing root causes of health inequities



# Application

- Info about organization/community focus
- Interest in developing/strengthening research capacity
- Description of goals & activities:
  - engagement of community members
- Alignment with priority
- Budget & budget justification
- Commitments



# Building Community Research



## Capacity Resources for community orgs

Assessing Capacity	Questions for researchers from communities
Developing Action Plan	Establishing research committee or advisory board
Considerations for engaging in research	Template MOUs
CBO Research Principles & Values	Community Org examples
Developing Research Purpose	Funding

# Partnership Development Grants arcc

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS FOR  
HEALTHY CHICAGOLAND COMMUNITIES

- Intended to support *newly developing partnerships*
- Possible activities:
  - Relationship building/developing trustworthiness
  - Exploring shared interests/community priorities
  - Learning from community, engaging addtl. partners
  - Defining roles/responsibilities of partners
  - Developing partnership infrastructure/processes
  - Building research/partnership capacity of community & academic partners
  - Planning future collaboration and proposals

# Eligibility

- Applications must be developed & submitted jointly by a community-academic partnership (community/faith/public org and Northwestern faculty member)
- Focus on impacting Chicago Metropolitan area

For assistance in connecting with possible partners, contact ARCC as soon as possible



# Priorities

- Include community partners who have previously received & completed ARCC Seed Grant, particularly Community Research Capacity-Building grants.
- Community lead organizations who serve/focus on Chicagoland communities most impacted by health inequities
- Partnerships that focus on health equity & addressing root causes of health inequities



# Application

- Significance of partnership focus
- Description of partnership (history/capacity/roles)
- Description of grant aims & activities:
  - how grant will lead to sustained partnership, future research collaboration & funding, community impact
- Alignment with priority(ies)
- Budget & budget justification
- Commitments



# Budget

- Must use ARCC budget form
- No required form for budget justification.
- Split budget (proportions determined by partnership):
  - \$ for academic partner/related expenses go to academic lead
  - \$ for community partner/related expenses go to community lead

## Possible expenses

- partnership meetings, training
- participation of community/academic partners and/or community residents/patients/stakeholders
- project staff on grant activities (manage meetings/logistics)

# Research Pilot Grants

- Intended to support *established partnerships*
- Required activities:
  - Must include some form of data collection or analysis
  - Should also include focus on partnership sustainability & capacity



# Research Pilot Grants

## Possible data collection/analysis activities:

- identifying, collecting, and/or analyzing *new* needs/assets assessment or pilot data
- reviewing and/or interpreting *existing* data
- developing/pilot testing new *interventions*



# Eligibility

- Applications must be developed & submitted jointly by an established community-academic partnership (community/faith/public organization and Northwestern faculty member)
  - If you don't already have a community or research partner, another grant type or cycle may be better fit
- Focus on impacting Chicagoland



# Priorities

- Partnerships/projects that have previously received & completed ARCC Seed Grant funding
- Community lead orgs who serve/focus on Chicagoland communities most impacted by health inequities
- Partnerships that focus on health equity & addressing root causes of health inequities



# Application

- Significance of partnership focus
- Description of partnership (history/capacity/roles)
- Description of grant aims & activities:
  - goals, pilot design/methods, how findings will be shared, next steps
- Alignment with priority(ies)
- Budget & budget justification
- Commitments



# Budget

- Must use budget form
- No required form for budget justification.
- Split budget (proportions determined by partnership):
  - \$ for academic partner/related expenses go to academic lead
  - \$ for community partner/related expenses go to community lead

## Possible expenses

- partnership meetings, training, supplies
- participation of community/academic partners and/or community residents/patients/collaborators
- project staff on grant activities (manage meetings/logistics)

# Health Equity Defined

Everyone has a fair & just opportunity to access what they need to thrive

- Requires removing obstacles
- Race/ethnicity/community no longer determines one's outcomes



# Addressing Root Causes

Community conditions can support – or create barriers to – good health.



Quality Schools, Access to Healthy Foods, Access to Healthcare, Access to Recreational Facilities, Clean Environment, Transportation Resources, Adequate Income, Health Insurance, Quality Housing, Jobs



Adverse Living Conditions, Food insecurity, No Recreational Spaces, Limited Access to Quality Care, Segregation, Poverty, Poor Quality Schools, Occupational Hazards, Environmental Toxins, Marketing for Tobacco and Alcohol, Unemployment

# Review

- Review by experienced community &/or academic partners
- Criteria, review rubric/form shared in RFAs
- Applicants will receive feedback on their applications



# Seed Grant Support Program



Pilot to provide more structured assistance/ resources collectively & individually to grantees

- in-person workshops (welcome, mid-grant, conclusion)
- tailored coaching sessions
- resources & referrals
- additional optional virtual & in-person gatherings

All grantees participate



# Intent to submit form

Two short questions:

- Plan to submit
- Which ARCC Seed Grant type

By April 1



# Timeline

ARCC Learning Exchange	March 18, 12-4 pm
Technical Assistance Office Hours	Mar 4, Mar 31, Apr 6, Apr 16
Intention to Submit deadline	April 1
Application deadline	April 23
Funding decisions	June
Funding Released	July



## Guidance from past grants



- Must have **research** focus- not conducting research but planning, preparing, seeking funding for research
- Clearly show community interest/involvement
- Focus on equity, community leadership
- Don't have overly ambitious expectations
- Build on other support, if you have it
- Connect to future research and opportunities
- Incorporate use of ARCC/CCH resources (training, materials, services, etc.)

# Grantee Experiences

Recording- approx minute 50 to 1 hr 10 minute

Recording- approx minute 41 to minute 57



# Resources

- Full list of grantees & sample proposals on website

[ARCC@northwestern.edu](mailto:ARCC@northwestern.edu) for...

- Applicant Office Hours- 20 minutes with ARCC staff
- Partner matching assistance (use doc in RFAs)
- Monthly Resources & Opportunities listing
- ARCC Resource Links





# Community Research LEARNING EXCHANGE

- Join the Alliance for Research with Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) for connection, learning, and dialogue!
- Connect with Chicagoland community & academic partners & discuss research as a tool for community & policy impact
- Learn from community & academic partners who have received ARCC Seed Grant funding



## March 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

12pm - 4pm

**18th Street Casa de Cultura**

2057 W 18th St.



RSVP Here



[arcc@northwestern.edu](mailto:arcc@northwestern.edu)



[www.ARCCOnline.net](http://www.ARCCOnline.net)



Alliance for Research with  
Chicagoland Communities

# HEALTH SCIENCE REPORTING FELLOWSHIP

The Health Science Reporting Fellowship for Journalists is co-led by Public Narrative & the Alliance for Research with Chicagoland Communities at Northwestern University



## What's the Purpose of the Fellowship?

The goal of the Fellowship is to support Chicagoland community media journalists in making health science, data, and issues accessible, understandable, and actionable for the benefit of the public's health.

## What Are the Details?

- 3-month fellowship
- Cohort of 4-5 fellows
- Up to \$4,000 reimbursement for meeting project milestones
- Access to workshops
- Fellows must complete one journalistic piece and participate in all workshops



## What's the Timeline?

- Info Sessions: Feb. 26 & Mar. 9
- Application Deadline: Mar. 16
- Applicants notified by Mar. 31
- Fellowship period: April-June 2026

## Who Should Apply?

Journalists who are interested in health science reporting; have the support of a community media organization; and are willing to commit to fellowship meetings



# Q&A





[ARCC@northwestern.edu](mailto:ARCC@northwestern.edu)

[www.ARCConline.net](http://www.ARCConline.net)

Jay Brown: [jaybrown@northwestern.edu](mailto:jaybrown@northwestern.edu)

