



Alliance for Research with Chicagoland Communities

Announcing ARCC 2026 Seed Grants

9 Grants to Support Community Research Capacity-Building & Collaboration to Improve Health Equity

The Alliance for Research with Chicagoland Communities ([ARCC](#)) announces the recipients of seed grants that support the development of community organizations and community-driven partnerships to improve health equity. ARCC believes that using the tools of science to achieve health equity can best be done when it honors & centers the leadership of communities as local, cultural, practice, lived experience experts. In ARCC's nineteenth round of seed grant funding, ARCC awarded 9 grants totalling \$55,000.

- **Four Community Research Capacity-Building Grants:** each \$2500 award supports a Chicagoland community organization for 6 months to build community research capacity. Activities may include assessment; training; and/or the development of research infrastructure, priorities, or future research collaborations.
- **Four Partnership Development Grants:** each \$5,000 award supports a partnership that includes a community lead from a Chicagoland community organization and an academic lead from Northwestern for a 12-month project. Grants support newly developing partnerships in relationship building, creation of partnership structure, exploration of shared areas of interest, and research capacity development.
- **One Research Pilot Grant:** This \$25,000 award supports a partnership that includes a community lead from a community organization and an academic lead from Northwestern for a 2-year project. Research Pilots advance the work of existing partnerships with prior collaborative experience to collect and analyze data and conduct other research activities together.

In addition to the funding, grantees also participate in the pilot of a Seed Grant Support Program. This Program aims to provide structured assistance and resources collectively and individually to this cohort of ARCC community research seed grantees. The program consists of a mix of required and optional in-person and virtual components including capacity-building and coaching sessions, support for connections across the cohort, and access to resources to support the grantees with their collaborative/community-driven approaches to designing, implementing, and sharing research that is impactful for addressing community priorities. This pilot will allow ARCC to organize and enhance existing grantee support, add new types of support, and then evaluate, implement, and share learnings about the effectiveness and impact of the program more broadly.

A list of each Seed Grantee funded in this cycle is included below. Over our full 19 years of seed grant funding, ARCC has distributed over \$2 million to almost 175 community organizations and community-academic partnerships. The funded partnerships have led to new health improvements and policy changes, increased community and academic capacity for partnership and research, almost \$45 million in subsequent grant funding, and more than 50 peer-reviewed publications.

Request for applications for 2027 ARCC Seed Grants will be released by early 2027. Details will be posted [here](#).

Community Research Capacity-Building Grantees

- [Devices 4 the Disabled](#) (Robbie O'Shea)
- [Dion's Chicago Dream](#) (Katie Cerda)

- [YoungeLab](#) (Jewel Younge)
- The Tism Suite (Lilia Shrayfer)

Partnership Development Grantees

- [Igniting Minds](#) (Latrice McArthur) and [Jenny Jia](#), General Internal Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine
- [BUILD, Inc.](#) (Malik James) and [Audrey Brewer](#), Pediatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine/Lurie Children's Hospital
- [NDoula Community Alliance Inc.](#) (Mai Heath) and [Nicole Fields](#), Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine
- [Midwest Human Rights Consortium](#) (Minal Giri) and [Ida Salusky](#), Medical Social Sciences, , Feinberg School of Medicine

Research Pilot Grantee

- [United African Organization](#) (Fasika Alem) and [Tiwa Ajibewa](#), Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

ARCC Background

Established in 2008, the Alliance for Research with Chicagoland Communities' (ARCC) mission is to catalyze and support research partnerships driven by and rooted in Chicagoland communities' unique assets and experiences to achieve health justice. We support authentic community-academic research partnerships between Chicagoland communities and Northwestern University by providing partnership facilitation, capacity-building resources and technical assistance, seed grants, and advocacy for supportive structural and institutional systems and policies in the research enterprise that center community leadership. ARCC is guided by our Community-Academic Steering Committee comprised of community-and faith-based organizations, public agencies, and Northwestern faculty and staff. ARCC is a program of Northwestern's [Center for Community Health](#).

For more information, www.ARCCOnline.net or ARCC@northwestern.edu