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

2020 Community-Engaged Research Pilot Seed Grants
Request for Applications
Community-Academic Research Collaboration to Improve Health Equity

Required Call with ARCC Director: No later than April 16, 2020
Application Deadline: April 30, 2020

The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC)/Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS), in partnership with Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH),* will fund Seed Grants that support the development of partnerships that engage communities and stakeholders in research collaboration with Northwestern research teams. Community engagement increases the relevance and quality of health research. 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 equity. These seed grants can lay the groundwork for drafting proposals for 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.

Research Pilot awards are up to $25,000 and up to 24 months. Priority will be given to applications that address priority health needs identified by the 2019 NMH community health needs assessment and focus on addressing health inequities in Chicagoland communities identified by Healthy Chicago 2.0/2025.

Note: ARCC also has an open Request for Applications supporting Partnership Development Seed Grants.

Seed Grant Award Focus
Community-engaged research is an approach to research that supports bidirectional exchange of expertise between academics (scientific experts) and communities/stakeholders (local, cultural, practice experts) that aims to increase the value of research to communities to improve health and health equity. Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires focusing on those most experiencing inequities and removing obstacles to health such as poverty and discrimination. Partnerships may use approaches including but not limited to 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 community and academic partners to conduct preliminary research for future collaborative grant applications, and continue to build and sustain trust and capacity.

Research Pilot awards are intended to advance the work of existing* community-academic 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

*Note: Funding from NMH is provided by the Bertha Helms Trust Foundation.
Possible collaborative activities include

- Identifying needs and/or assets and/or collecting pilot data;
- Reviewing and interpreting existing data to inform further study or demonstrate potential impact/capacity for application for future funding;
- Collaboratively developing/pilot testing 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
- Community-academic 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: If you do not have a current relationship with a Northwestern researcher or community partner, an ARCC Partnership Development Seed Grant may be a better fit.

Eligibility:

- Applications must be submitted jointly by a community-academic partnership (community or faith-based organization or public agency AND Northwestern faculty member).
- Proposed aims and activities should illustrate Center for Community Health Principles of Engagement.
- Before submission, the applicant community-academic partnership is required to contact ARCC director, Jen Brown, to discuss the fit and feasibility of potential proposal ideas. **This is mandatory and must be done no later than April 16, 2020.** Jen Brown: 312-503-2942, jenbrown@northwestern.edu

Priorities:

ARCC seeks to support community-academic partnerships that align with community-identified priorities including:

- priorities established through Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)’s Healthy Chicago 2.0/2025, the city’s public health system’s plan for health equity (**further information on alignment**); and
- priorities identified by Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s **2019 Community Health Needs Assessment**.

Priority will also be given to applications that are submitted by community-academic partnerships who 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 ARCC website in early Spring 2020. Components will include:**

- Significance of issue to be addressed by partnership
- Brief description of partnership (history/capacity/roles during grant)
• Brief description of grant aims and activities, including:
  o Methods (description of planned data collection/analysis and/or intervention
development/pilot testing and if relevant, plan for dissemination of project results)
  o How grant award will lead to:
    ▪ sustained partnership
    ▪ future research collaboration and funding
    ▪ positive community impact
  o Timeline and milestones
  o Potential hurdles and how they will be addressed
• Alignment with priority(ies) as defined above
• Budget and budget justification

Review: Applications will be peer reviewed 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.
• Additional resources on ARCC’s online resource directory: www.ARCCresources.net.
• Other possible NUCATS fiscal resources: https://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/funding/

Questions: Jen Brown, ARCC Director, jenbrown@northwestern.edu, Phone: 312-503-2942.

Grant Information Sessions: Webinar: February 6, 10 am. In-person session: January 15.
Additional sessions will be scheduled. RSVP for details: ARCC@northwestern.edu.

Timeline:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline for discussing idea w/ARCC Director</th>
<th>No later than April 16, 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>April 30, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding decisions communicated</td>
<td>Early July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Released</td>
<td>Early August</td>
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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.