2020 Community-Engaged Research Seed Grants
Community-Academic Research Collaboration to Improve Health Equity
Partnership Development Seed Grants- Cycle 2

Required Call with ARCC Director: No later than May 14, 2020
Application Deadline: May 28, 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. 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 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. Community engagement increases the relevance and quality of health research. This cycle focuses on Partnership Development awards: up to $5,000, up to 12 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.

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 for improving 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 along the full continuum of engagement, including community-based participatory research (CBPR), patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR), and/or other engaged research collaborations. Seed grants support partnerships that enable partners to develop and sustain trust and capacity for future collaborative research and grant applications.

Partnership Development awards are for 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);
• identifying shared goals in order to work together more effectively and maximize partnership impact;

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

Eligibility: Applications must be submitted jointly by a community-academic partnership (community or faith-based organization or public agency AND Northwestern faculty member).

Before submission, the applicant 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 May 14, 2020. Jen Brown: 312-503-2942, jenbrown@northwestern.edu

Priorities:
ARCC seeks to support partnerships that align with community-identified priorities including:
• priorities established through Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)’s Healthy Chicago 2.0/2025, the 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 academic or community lead applicant who haven’t received an ARCC seed grant before and/or are new to engaged research partnerships;

Application: Complete instructions will be posted to ARCC website by April 2020. 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 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](http://www.ARCConline.net).
- Additional resources on ARCC’s online resource directory: [www.ARCCresources.net](http://www.ARCCresources.net).
- Other possible NUCATS fiscal resources: [https://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/funding/](https://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/funding/).
- Evaluation capacity resources: 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:** Slides & recording of info webinar. In person sessions are listed [online](http://www).  

**Timeline:**
- If you want ARCC assistance in connecting with community or academic partner connections: Contact ARCC as soon as possible.
- Deadline for discussing idea w/ARCC Director: No later than May 14, 2020.
- Funding decisions communicated: Late June.
- Funds Released: Early July.

ARCC also funds Research Pilot seed grants (up to $25,000, up to 24 months) to support preliminary research activities for established partnership. Access the RFA [here](http://www).

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.