

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

Announcing ARCC 2023 Seed Grants- Cycle 2 Community Research Collaboration to Improve Health Equity

The Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities ([ARCC](#))/Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute ([NUCATS](#)), in partnership with Northwestern Memorial Hospital ([NMH](#)) announces the recipients of seed grants that support the development and capacity of community-driven partnerships to improve health equity. ARCC believes that using the tools of science to achieve health equity can best be done when research honors & centers the expertise of communities as local, cultural, practice, lived experience experts in collaboration with academic scientific expertise. This is ARCC's sixteenth round of seed grant funding and includes Community Research Capacity-Building Grants, Partnership Development Grants, and Research Pilot Grants.

- For **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.
- For **Partnership Development grants**, each grant (up to \$7,500) supports a partnership that includes a community lead from a community organization and an academic lead from Northwestern for a 1-year project. Partnership Development grants support newly developing partnerships in relationship building, creation of partnership structure, exploration of shared areas of interest, and research capacity development.
- For **Research Pilot Grants**, each grant (up to \$27,500) 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. Priority was given to applications that focus on racial equity and addressing root causes of inequities.

For all three award types, priority was given to applications with community leads who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color or other marginalized communities most impacted by health inequities. All Partnership Development and Research Pilot grantees chose to access the anti-racism in research supplement funding to integrate anti-racist learnings and strategies into their approach, including use of the [ARCC Anti-Racist Research Reflective Practice Tool](#). Learn more [here](#) about the awarded Community-Research Capacity-Building and Partnership Development grants in Cycle 1 funding earlier this year.

In Round 16, ARCC awarded \$139,000 for 15 seed grants. Over our full 16 years of seed grant funding, ARCC has distributed almost \$1.5 million to over 100 community-academic partnerships. The funded partnerships have led to increased community and academic capacity for engagement and research, new health improvements and policy changes, over \$36 million in subsequent grant funding, and 46 peer-reviewed publications. Grants are supported by funds from the Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences ([NUCATS](#)) Institute and Northwestern Memorial Hospital ([NMH](#)).

Request for applications for 2024 ARCC Seed Grants will be released in Fall 2023.

ARCC 2023-Cycle 2 Community Research Capacity-Building Seed Grant Summaries

Development of Community Advisory Board in Chicago's South Side Maternal Health Desert

Star August Ali, [Holistic Birth Collective](#)

The South Side of Chicago is classified as a 'maternal health desert' due to lack of obstetrical services. Black birthing people on the South Side have the highest Maternal Mortality Rate in Illinois (3x that of white women in Illinois). Holistic Birth Collective's (HBC) Co-founder, Star August, is the only Black Certified Professional Midwife permitted to provide out-of-hospital midwifery care to Illinois families. Her work with South Side families and the work of HBC's other co-founder, a data activist on the South Side, led to a Community Birth Study in two South Side Hospital Regions. Additionally, HBC purchased a state-wide secondary data set of all perinatal discharge data for 2018-2021 to understand service utilization in relation to perinatal outcomes in Illinois. ARCC seed funds will support establishing a Community Advisory Group to ensure our proposed research aims, methodologies, approaches, and dissemination strategy align with communities that we center.

Impact of Megafestivals on Pilsen

Claudia Galeno-Sanchez, Women for Green Spaces ([Working Family Solidarity](#))

Women for Green spaces would like to understand how Megafestivals affect our surrounding neighborhood in Pilsen. We have a general understanding but we would like to know more and have more input from the community. We would like to develop a way to assess the impact of these megafestivals. We want to explore how the planning, festival days, and afterwards affects the health of our community. We will work with researchers from Northwestern University and the Field Museum of Natural History to learn how to gather this information. Our focus is on the use of Harrison Park in the Pilsen neighborhood for two large private festivals that occur in late June and early August, Miche Fest and My House. The community near the park is majority Mexican and working class or low-income. The festivals close more than half of the two-block park for days at a time.

TACTS Accessing Complementary/Integrative Alternatives Medicines Among Black Chicagoans

Sista Yaa Simpson, [TACTS \(The Association of Clinical Trials Services\)](#)

TACTS main aim is to work towards developing infrastructure and partnerships needed to cultivate a team of committed people focused on how Black Chicagoans may use complementary/integrative alternatives medicines (CIAM) for improving their health and wellbeing. According to the 2021 Data Brief 'State of Health for Black in Chicago', the overarching problem for Black Chicagoans, is their life expectancies are lower (69 years old) compared to the average for Chicago (71 years old). Also, it relays how the quality of life coupled with social determinants of health has driven down Black Chicagoans health and wellbeing. So how does engaging Black Chicagoans, Providers and Partners in the uses of CIAM practices provide better options for yielding longer life expectancies? This question is

important because given the current state of the national healthcare system other measures must be explored in order to increase better quality of life in spite of social drivers.

ARCC 2023 Partnership Development Seed Grant Project Summaries

A Partnership to Improve LGBTQ+ Affirming Care for Spanish-speaking Communities.

Oscal Ivan Zambrano, [Medical Organization for Latino Advancement \(MOLA\)](#), and [Gregory Phillips II](#), Medical Social Sciences & Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

Latina/x/o LGBTQ+ communities in Chicago experience disparities in chronic and infectious diseases, such as diabetes, obesity, and HIV, and these disparities are exacerbated by disparate access to quality LGBTQ+ affirming care provided in Spanish. Health systems that provide care to Latina/x/o LGBTQ+ communities are currently seeking staff training that is culturally affirming and linguistically concordant for monolingual Spanish speaking LGBTQ+ individuals in Chicago. Culturally and linguistically concordant care can lead to better access, accurate diagnosis, adherence to care and treatment outcomes. The Medical Organization for Latino Advancement (MOLA), together with the Association for Latinos/as/xs Motivating Action (ALMA), seeks to establish a collaborative partnership with faculty in the Feinberg School of Medicine to plan and develop a health education curriculum on Latina/x/o LGBTQ+ health and provision of care to Spanish-speaking LGBTQ+ communities.

Data Activism for Birth Justice on Chicago's South Side

Callan Jaress, [Holistic Birth Collective](#), and [Kiarri Kershaw](#), Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

The proposed partnership is between Holistic Birth Collective (HBC), a reproductive justice organization advocating for patient-led health services research, and Dr. Kiarri Kershaw, a social epidemiologist whose research focuses on understanding structural and social drivers of health and health inequities. Our shared goal is to conduct research that will guide the development of systemic interventions to improve the perinatal health care system serving the South Side of Chicago, where HBC's work is based. We will use this Seed Grant to hold in person meetings to 1) develop a framework to guide this community-driven research partnership; 2) build capacity for HBC's leadership and participation in research team roles; 3) identify solution-focused research questions to address root causes of maternal health inequities; and 4) prepare a funding proposal for identified research questions.

Developing Partnerships Toward Community-Based, Culturally Responsive Mental Health Promotion among Chicago Latinxs

Esther Sciammarella, [Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition](#), and Mark Driscoll, The Family Institute and Psychology, Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences

Our partnership development award will support community-based participatory research (CBPR) toward our shared long-term goals to implement high impact, community-based, culturally responsive programs within the Chicago Latinx community that expands the capacity for community-based organizations (CBOs) to address mental health and address systemic barriers that contribute to mental health disparities in the Chicago Latinx community. The Seed Grant for this community-academic partnership will be used (1) to establish collaborative, equitable community-academic partnerships among key community stakeholders and academic researchers as a coalition that will ameliorate mental disparities and systemic barriers to mental health among Chicago Latinxs; (2) to conduct a preliminary assessment of mental health training, awareness, and service access and use among promotoras who work with Latinx adults in the Chicago area; and (3) to identify systemic barriers to culturally responsive mental health service use and delivery as defined by lived experiences of promotoras and Chicago Latinx community members.

ARCC 2023 Research Pilot Seed Grant Project Summaries

The Taskforce-EDIT Partnership Study

Christopher Balthazar, [Taskforce Prevention and Community Services](#), and [Gregory Phillips II](#), Medical Social Sciences & Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

The ARCC Research Pilot Seed Grant will enable TaskForce Prevention & Community Services (TaskForce) and the Evaluation, Data Integration, and Technical Assistance (EDIT) Program at the Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine to conduct a research pilot study of HIV-related social determinants of health (SDoH) among HIV-impacted and vulnerable populations in Chicagoland, with a particular focus on racial and ethnic minority (REM) and sexual and gender minority (SGM) communities. This study aims to define the prevalence of HIV-related SDoH risk and preventive factors among 250 REM and SGM youth and adults to inform the development and implementation of tailored and culturally responsive structural interventions consistent with the broader GTZ-IL framework. As key planning partners in the development of Getting to Zero, Illinois's statewide HIV elimination plan (GTZ-IL), this community-academic partnership prioritizes study questions that leverage the lived- and professional-expertise of REM and SGM impacted by HIV to identify the most promising intervention opportunities related to SDOH.

Co-Development of a Community-Based Program for Black Caregivers of Loved Ones with Dementia in Far South Chicago

Tonya Roberson, Helping Communities Help Themselves and [Rachel O'Connor](#), General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine

Stark racial disparities exist in dementia diagnosis, co-morbid health conditions, and socioeconomic characteristics between older Black and White adults, compounding caregiving responsibilities for Black families; yet few dementia caregiving programs offer

culturally competent programs for Black individuals. In response, individuals from Helping Communities Help Themselves, the Far South Chicago Coalition, and Northwestern University formalized a partnership; a community-based, family-centered, culturally tailored dementia caregiving program for Black individuals on Chicago's Far South Side was proposed. Through conversations with our community advisory board and key stakeholder interviews, we obtained preliminary themes for our caregiving program, and identified gender differences in caregiving experiences. The objective of this research pilot is to build upon our existing work and co-develop a family-centered dementia caregiving program for Black residents of far south Chicago. Dr. Tonya Roberson (Executive Director, Helping Communities Help Themselves) and Dr. Rachel O'Connor (Assistant Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine) will continue to partner with a team of stakeholders; through a series of meetings and targeted stakeholder interviews, we will co-develop a family-centered dementia caregiving program for Black caregivers.

A Collaborative Planning Framework for the Implementation of Family-Focused SBIRT within School-Based Health Centers for Students with Chronic Illness

Kenneth Papineau, [Chicago Public Schools](#), and [Faith Summersett Williams](#), Pediatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine/Lurie Children's Hospital

Adolescents with chronic medical conditions (CMC), estimated to be 1 in 4 adolescents in the US, are more likely to engage in alcohol and substance use compared to adolescents without CMC. Adolescents with CMC typically access behavioral and medical health services in [School-Based Health Centers \(SBHCs\)](#), which are health clinics embedded in elementary, middle, and high schools. SBHCs offer a range of primary, preventative, and acute medical and behavioral health services. Thus, SBHCs provide an opportunity for SBHC providers to universally screen, briefly intervene, and refer adolescents with CMC for ASU treatment. [Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment \(SBIRT\)](#) is an evidence-based practice to prevent and reduce alcohol and substance use. The standard SBIRT approach implemented in SBHCs has (1) focused almost exclusively on the general adolescent population and not specifically on youth with CMC and (2) has typically targeted youth only, without caregiver involvement, in screening and intervention procedures. While best practices for integration of SBIRT in SBHCs are emerging, implementation remains low. Research is needed to understand how best practice implementation strategies in SBHCs impact outcomes for students with CMC. This project will use a community-based participatory research approach to engage students with CMC, caregivers, and SBHC staff to identify SBIRT model adaptations for SBHC clinic integration. Based on identified community needs, the community and academic leads' primary goal in this pilot study is the identification of key contextual determinants (e.g., barriers and facilitators) impacting delivery of SBIRT for students with CMC receiving care in SBHCs.

ARCC Background

Established in 2008, the [Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities](#) supports authentic community-academic research partnerships between Chicagoland communities and Northwestern University that benefit the people being researched and improve health and equity. ARCC supports a collaborative approach to research that honors, is driven by, and shares power with communities, as local, cultural, and lived experience experts. ARCC is guided by our [Community-Academic Steering Committee](#) of community and faith organizations, public agencies, and Northwestern faculty and staff. ARCC is a program of the [Center for Community Health](#), Northwestern's [Institute for Public Health & Medicine](#) and the [Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Science Institute](#).



For more info: www.ARCCOnline.net or ARCC@northwestern.edu