

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

Announcing ARCC 2023 Seed Grants- Cycle 1 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) announce the recipients of seed grants that support the development 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 the 1st cycle of Seed Grants in ARCC's sixteenth round of seed grant funding.

- **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.
- **Partnership Development Grants:** each \$7,5000 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. Priority was given to applications that focus on racial equity and addressing root causes of inequities and in this cycle all grantees chose to access anti-racism in research supplement funding to integrate anti-racist learnings and strategies into their approach, including use of the [ARCC Anti-Racist Community-Academic Research Reflective Practice Tool](#).

Over 15 years of seed grant funding, ARCC has distributed \$1.4 million to over 100 community-academic partnerships. These partnerships have led to increased community and academic capacity for engagement and research, new health improvements and policy changes, more than \$31 million in subsequent grant funding, and 45 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 a second cycle of 2023 ARCC Seed Grants to support Research Pilot Grants, as well as additional Community Research Capacity-Building grants and Partnership Development grants are open. Applications for this cycle are due in Spring 2022.

Community Research Capacity-Building Grant Summaries

Increasing the capacity of Community Health Workers to become leaders in community-engaged research through development of orientation and training modules

Kim Downing and Kandis Draw, [The HAP Foundation](#), in collaboration with Sista Yaa Simpson, The Association of Clinical Trials Services (TACTS)

The HAP (Hospice and Palliative) Foundation seeks to increase the community-engaged research capacity of its Community Health Worker (CHW) team through development of culturally informed, discipline-specific orientation modules that focus on the core principles of this research modality. A CHW is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of the community; this relationship enables the CHW to be a liaison between community members and health/social services, thereby improving the quality and cultural competence of health service delivery. The HAP CHW team seeks to empower communities through education, relationship building and connectivity but also by facilitating community-led research that will drive solutions to community challenges. Through CHW training, the HAP Foundation will increase organizational capacity to conduct community-enhancing research in the space of serious illness and grief, ultimately seeking to build community trust in the research paradigm and increase community involvement in development, implementation and dissemination of critical community-driven research. The modules will be developed in partnership with Sista Yaa Simpson, a Community Epidemiologist and the founder of TACTS (The Association of Clinical Trials Services).

Building Capacity for the Healthy Southwest Coalition for Food Security (HSCFS)

Priyanka Reddy, Southwest Organizing Project ([SWOP](#))

The Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) is a broad-based organization committed to collective action for the common good. The aim is to build an evidence-based actionable food security campaign based on both quantitative and qualitative community research. Southwest Chicago communities have 60.55 ±0.86% of residents (2016-2020) that are Hispanic/Latino. As we build the capacity to serve this community, our health equity team, Healthy Southwest, has identified food insecurity as one the primary key social determinants of health that impacts the wellness of these communities. Hispanic and Latino community members of Southwest Chicago have been historically marginalized, and by prioritizing a deeper understanding of the root causes of the food insecurity is paramount. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) will allow for a unique approach to organizing Southwest Chicago's thirteen neighborhoods, and creating seats at the table for community-driven solutions to reduce the disparities leading to high levels of food insecurity.

Barbershop Based Health Equity with The Shop Docs

Bobby Price, [Principle Barbers](#) and Annette Grotheer, [The Shop Docs](#)

Minorities in Chicago have routinely been subject to barriers in access to healthcare resulting in massive health disparities. To address this, The Shop Docs will partner with local barbershops to educate, screen, and connect minorities with equitable healthcare. Partnering with barbers, the most trusted members of the minority community will bring together researchers, health providers, community members, and community leaders to ultimately engage in open research to target the root causes of barriers to healthcare access. This community-directed research will also help to develop a targeted educational curriculum that will serve as a resource for minority communities and develop training messaging for volunteers and researchers alike. Finally, and

most importantly, our partnerships will aim to establish community trust in healthcare providers and researchers through the close guidance and expertise of local barbers who have their hand on the pulse of their communities and their community's needs.

Partnership Development Grant Summaries

TaskForce 4 Evaluation, Data Integration and Technical Assistance

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

The Seed Grant will support the development and strengthening of the capacity of TaskForce Prevention & Community Services (TaskForce) to conduct community-engaged research in partnership with Northwestern University (NU). TaskForce has been a leader in advocacy for Black & African American sexual and gender minority (SGM) communities in Chicagoland for 32 years, and with the hiring of a new Executive Director (Dr. Balthazar), is ready to advance a new research agenda. Dr. Phillips at NU is a leader in community-led approaches to capacity building, development, and evaluation focused on SGM health disparities. Together, Drs. Balthazar and Phillips will work to implement a systems-informed empowerment evaluation (SIEE) model within TaskForce to build capacity for future research activities.

Partnership Development to Increase HPV Vaccination Knowledge, Acceptance, and Uptake among Asian American Parents and Youths

Emma MacDonald, [Chinese Mutual Aid Association](#) and [Ha Ngan \(Milkie\) Vu](#), Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

The proposed community-academic collaboration is a partnership between the Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA), with its 40 years of experience serving Chicagoland Asian American and immigrant communities, and Dr. Vu at Northwestern University, who has a decade of experience in community-engaged research to promote health equity. Our shared goal is to understand barriers and explore strategies to disseminate evidence-based information about HPV vaccination to increase HPV vaccine uptake in the community. Building on CMAA's robust youth programming (150+ youths served annually), our activities include 1) engagement with Asian parents and youths to understand multifaceted barriers to HPV vaccination, including the impact of structural racism on healthcare access; 2) identifying possible strategies for outreach and dissemination of evidence-based information about HPV vaccination to parents and youth; 3) activating parent and youth champions of HPV vaccination and identify approaches to build community capacity for research and peer education around HPV vaccination.

Partnership to Enhance Minority Participation in Clinical Trials (EMPACT Chicago)

Kimberly Richardson, [Black Cancer Collaborative](#), and [Dario Roque](#), Obstetrics & Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine

Black and Latina women with gynecologic cancers are underrepresented in clinical trials. Barriers to minority enrollment onto trials include not being offered trial participation, and lack of referral procedures. EMPACT Chicago is a clinical trial-matching and patient navigation program aiming to help Black and Latina women with gynecologic malignancies access, and enroll in clinical trials. The Black Cancer Collaborative (BCC) focuses on capacity building and self-advocacy of Black cancer patients regarding diagnosis, and treatment culminating in engagement with medical and scientific communities in the advancement of cancer care and research. This partnership aims to enhance the advocacy promoted by BCC by helping minority women understand the intricacies of clinical trial searching and matching through the EMPACT tool. In turn, these women will be better able to advocate for, and assist women with gynecologic cancers identify appropriate trials to which they may qualify, thus promoting awareness and utilization of the EMPACT tool.

ARCC Background

Established in 2008, the [Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities](#) (ARCC) supports authentic community-academic research partnerships between Chicagoland communities and Northwestern University that benefit the people being researched and improve health and equity. ARCC advocates for 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](#) comprised of thirteen community- and faith-based organizations, two public agencies, and eleven Northwestern faculty and staff. 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.



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