



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

2025/Round 18 Community Research Seed Grants Community Research Capacity-Building Grant Request for Applications

Cycle 1 Application Deadline: November 22, 2024

Cycle 2 Application Deadline: April 22, 2025

The Alliance for Research with 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 community research capacity for Chicagoland communities most impacted by health inequities. Community-driven research partnerships increase the trustworthiness, relevance, quality, and impact of health research. These seed grants can lay the groundwork for research collaboration that requires or encourages community and patient leadership from [National Institutes of Health](#), [Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute](#), [Centers for Disease Control](#), and other federal and private foundation funders.

The [Seed Grant program](#) has a strong focus on supporting communities and partnerships to address racism and other types of oppression in their partnerships and research practices. The Community Research Capacity-Building grant has two funding cycles in 2025. Partnership Development grants also have two cycles and the Request for Applications is available [here](#). Research Pilot grants have one cycle and the Request for Applications is available [here](#).

Quick Links

- [Community Research Focus](#)
- [Community Research Capacity-Building Grants](#)
- [Required Info Session & Resources](#)
- [Timeline](#)
- [Application Instructions](#)
- [ARCC Background](#)

[Community Research Focus](#)

Community research is an approach to research that honors and centers the knowledge of communities in their local, cultural, practice and lived experiences for improving health equity. While applications may focus along the full continuum of community research partnership and engagement, including community-engaged research (CEnR), community-based participatory research (CBPR), patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR), and/or other research collaborations, ARCC encourages *community-led and community-driven research* that moves beyond more transactional community engagement in academic-led research. We encourage collaborations that consider power structures and foster community leadership and prioritization and embrace a more transformational approach to the processes and practices that govern research. See [ARCC intro video \(20 minutes\) to community-engaged research for more context](#). *Health equity* means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires the intentional focusing of resources and power

*[Note](#): Funding from NMH is provided by the Bertha Helms Trust Foundation.

to Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), and other marginalized communities most impacted by structural oppression and racism and the root causes of health inequities. This funding opportunity prioritizes community-academic partnerships and research aimed at addressing root causes of health inequities that inhibit the ability of communities to thrive.

Community Research Capacity-Building Seed Grants will support the development or strengthening of organizational and/or community-level research capacity.

Possible activities include:

- assessing current community/organizational environment, capacity, and readiness to lead and/or collaborate on research (e.g. understanding community perceptions/attitudes re: research, potential opportunities and challenges, etc.);
- conducting community listening sessions or data/neighborhood walks to gain a deeper understanding of the health needs, assets and priorities of the community(ies);
- building capacity of community organizations (staff, leadership) and/or community members (residents, patients, caregivers with lived experience relevant to potential research interests) in community-led or engaged research collaboration (e.g., training(s) on community-driven research approaches, design/methods, ethics, etc.);
- developing community research infrastructure (e.g. organizational research purpose, principles or values; defining staff position research responsibilities; policies/process for assessing/approving/tracking researcher inquiries & collaboration; research committee formation; template memorandum of understanding; fiscal capacity for federal research grants, etc.);
- developing community-led or driven research interests and priorities (e.g. development of community research agenda, may include asset-based and solution-focused research questions to address root causes of health inequities);
- exploring and developing innovative strategies for building research trustworthiness and engaging historically excluded BIPOC and other oppressed communities in research participation and leadership;
- planning future academic research collaborations (e.g., identifying, preparing for discussions with, and/or engaging with potential academic researchers with shared interests).

Grant award: \$3,000

Project length: 6 months

Applicants may find it helpful to look at or incorporate into their proposed work these [materials](#) from the ARCC online resource directory (www.ARCCresources.net).

Eligibility

Applications must be submitted by at least **one** community or faith-based organization or public agency with an identified Community Lead as representative (additional community collaborators may also be involved). No academic partner is necessary for this grant type.

Before submission, the Community Lead applicant is **required** to participate in (or view recording of) one of the ARCC Seed Grant information sessions. Dates listed [here](#).

Priority: Community leads who are BIPOC or from other oppressed communities most impacted by health inequities.

Review: Applications will be peer reviewed by community representatives with experience in and respect for community and lived experience, health equity, and research. Review criteria include: Quality/feasibility/potential of proposed capacity-building activities and alignment with priorities. The review form and scoring rubric is available [here](#).

Grantee Requirements: Welcome/Orientation & mid-project meetings with other grant recipients. Final report. Annual tracking survey of seed grant outcomes.

[Required Info Session & Resources](#)

Required Info Session

Before submission, the Community Lead applicant is **required** to participate in (or view recording) of one of the ARCC Seed Grant information sessions listed below. These will provide general information about the seed grants and have time for full group question and answer session. They may also include panels or breakouts with previous grantees.

- Virtual ARCC Grant Information Sessions:
 - o October 14 [Recording](#) and October 29 [Recording](#)
 - o The first part of both sessions describing the grant types, focus, eligibility, etc. is the same. But each session has different ARCC partners sharing their grantee & grant reviewer experiences. It may be helpful to watch both of these. In Oct 14 [recording](#)- approx minute 50 to 1 hr 10 minute and in Oct 29 [recording](#) (approx minute 41 to minute 57).
- In-Person **ARCC Community Research Learning Exchange: March 20**, 2025 (12-4 pm, McKinley Park Community). Details & registration: <https://bit.ly/Mar20arcc>

Resources

- **ARCC Seed Grant Technical Assistance Office Hours:** ARCC is offering short 20-minute zoom sessions with ARCC Staff for applicants to ask questions or get input as they prepare their applications for submission. **Reserve a slot [here](#)** for in one of the sessions below:

Tuesday, February 18, 1-3 pm	Thursday, April 3, 11am-1 pm
Friday, February 28, 12:30-2:30 pm	Tuesday, April 8, 1-3 pm
Monday, March 10, 2-4 pm	Wednesday, April 9, 12-2 pm
Thursday, March 13, 11am-1 pm	Tuesday, April 15, 2-5 pm
- Descriptions of past grantees and related items on ARCC website: www.ARCCOnline.net including [examples of successful past seed grant applications](#).
- Additional resources on ARCC's online resource directory: www.ARCCresources.net.

Questions: ARCC@northwestern.edu.

[Application Instructions](#)

Applicants download and complete this [Application Form](#) and this Part E [Budget Excel form](#). Applicants can also include PART G: Graphic/Table/Additional Info (*Optional*). All of these should be **combined into a single PDF file** and emailed to ARCC@northwestern.edu by the Apr 22 (by 11:59 pm) deadline. For your reference, the questions and requested information are provided here.

The application is comprised of **seven** parts.

PART A: Title & Contact Information

- PART B:** Organization or Community Focus
- PART C:** Community Research Capacity-Building Description
- PART D:** Alignment with Priority
- PART E:** Budget & Budget Justification
- PART F:** Applicants & ARCC Commitments
- PART G:** Graphic/Table/Additional Info (*Optional*)

Timeline

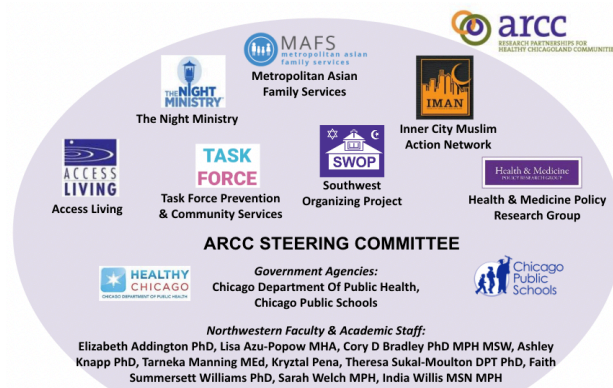
If you want ARCC assistance in connecting with possible community or academic partners	Contact ARCC <i>as soon as possible</i>
Cycle 1	
Virtual Grant Info Sessions	Oct 14 Recording & Oct 29 Recording
In-Person Grant Info Session & ARCC Learning Exchange	Nov 8 (12-3 pm), North Lawndale
Technical Assistance Office Hours: 15-minute zoom sessions to address applicant questions. Reserve a time slot here	November 12, Noon-3 pm November 18, 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Application deadline	November 22, 2024
Funding decisions communicated	January 2025
Funding Released	Mar 2025
Cycle 2	
In-Person Grant Info Session & ARCC Learning Exchange	March 20, 2025 12-4 pm, McKinley Park Community). Registration: https://bit.ly/Mar20arcc
Technical Assistance Office Hours: 20 minute zoom sessions to address applicant questions. <i>Reserve a slot here for in one of the sessions</i>	Feb 18 Apr 3 Feb 28 Apr 8 Mar 10 Apr 9 Mar 13 Apr 15
Application deadline	April 22, 2025
Funding decisions communicated	June 2025
Funds Released	July 2025

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](#) of community-and faith-based organizations, public agencies, and 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.

Over our full 17 years of seed grant funding, ARCC has distributed almost \$2 million to almost 150 community organizations and community-academic partnerships. The funded partnerships have led to increased community and academic capacity for collaboration and research, new health improvements and policy changes, over \$42 million in subsequent grant funding, and 47 peer-reviewed publications.



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

PrEP4Teens as the ARCC 2025 11th Annual Dr. Virginia Bishop Community-Academic Research Partnership Award Winner!