



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

2025/Round 18 Community Research Seed Grants Partnership Development 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 and partnerships that engage Chicagoland communities and collaborators most impacted by health inequities in research collaboration with Northwestern research teams to improve health and equity. 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 the [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 Partnership Development grant has two funding cycles in 2025. Community Research Capacity-Building 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](#).

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[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

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

opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires the intentional focusing of resources and power 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.

Partnership Development Seed Grants are for newly developing partnerships between communities/patients and researchers 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 and/or listening sessions for partners to learn more about each other and develop trust/trustworthiness (e.g. this may include, individually and collaboratively, examining, reflecting, and taking steps to address issues of bias and racism in research and partnerships, examining historical contexts, organizational values, and systems to foster meaningful and ethical engagement);
- exploring and seeking involvement of other potential partners (including community members with lived experience relevant to the partnership's focus and other community and academic partners);
- hosting listening sessions with community organizations, residents, or patients to identify health inequities or assets that may be the focus of a research partnership;
- developing research partnership infrastructure (e.g. governance or advisory committee, memorandum of understanding, partnership roles/responsibilities, policies and procedures);
- identifying shared research interests and community-led priorities (e.g. this may include asset-based and solution-focused research questions to address root causes of health inequities);
- conducting design thinking sessions or human-centered design activities to gain a deeper understanding of the community and the benefits of a research partnership;
- exploring and developing innovative mechanisms for building clinical research trustworthiness and engaging historically excluded BIPOC and other marginalized communities in clinical research participation and leadership;
- building capacity for community partners for meaningful leadership and participation in research leadership, governance committees, or research team roles (e.g., training on research design/methods, ethics, anti-racism, etc.);
- identifying existing successful partnerships and participate in "shadowing" activities that help potential partners learn best practices and receive technical assistance;
- building capacity for academic partners to increase personal and institutional readiness to meaningfully share power with communities and patients (e.g., education/training on community history/context, community leadership mechanisms, anti-racism, etc.); and/or
- planning future research collaborations and proposal submissions (e.g., identifying potential funding opportunities).

Grant award: \$8,000

Project length: 12 months

Note: If you do not have a current relationship with a Northwestern researcher or community partner, ARCC may be able to broker connections. Request assistance as soon as possible.

Eligibility

Applications must be submitted jointly by a community-academic partnership (including at least one community or faith-based organization or public agency with an identified Community Lead as representative AND at least 1 Northwestern faculty member as academic lead). Additional community and academic collaborators may also be involved.

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

Priorities

- Community leads who are BIPOC or from other oppressed communities most impacted by health inequities;
- Partnerships that integrate anti-racist & anti-oppressive learnings and strategies into their partnership development approach;
- Community or academic lead(s) who haven't received an ARCC seed grant before and are new to community research partnerships.

Proposed aims and activities should reflect Center for Community Health [Principles of Engagement](#), and may draw from the following resources for understanding [equity](#), [root causes](#), and [racial equity in community research](#) including the [ARCC Anti-Racist Community-Academic Research Reflective Practice Tool](#). Applicants may also find it helpful to look at themes and guiding principles established through Chicago Department of Public Health's [Healthy Chicago](#) (*further information on research alignment*) and priorities identified by Northwestern Memorial Hospital's [2022 Community Health Needs Assessment](#).

Review: Applications will be peer reviewed by both community and academic representatives with experience in and respect for community-academic collaboration, lived experience expertise, health equity and research. Review criteria include: Quality/feasibility/potential of proposed engagement & 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 and/or Academic Lead applicant is **required** to participate in (or view recording) of one of the ARCC Seed Grant information sessions 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
 - Friday, February 28, 12:30-2:30 pm
 - Monday, March 10, 2-4 pm
 - Thursday, March 13, 11am-1 pm
 - Thursday, April 3, 11am-1 pm
 - Tuesday, April 8, 1-3 pm
 - Wednesday, April 9, 12-2 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 Nov 22 (by 11:59 pm) deadline. The application questions and requested information are provided [here](#).

PART A: Title & Contact Information

PART B: Partnership Focus

PART C: Partnership Development Description

PART D: Alignment with Priorities

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](#) *as soon as possible*

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. Visit [here](#) to reserve a time slot

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

March 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								
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Application deadline	April 22, 2025								
Funding decisions communicated	June 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