

Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities
Seed Grants:

Technical Assistance Workshop



October 22, 2009

**Community-Engaged Research Center
Northwestern University Clinical and Translational
Sciences Institute**

Agenda

- Introductions
- ARCC and CBPR Background
- Seed Grant Program Purpose/Eligibility
- Application Process
- Review Process
- Q&A
- Consultation and Networking

Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC)

Mission:

Growing equitable and collaborative partnerships between Chicago area Communities and Northwestern University for Research that leads to measurable improvements in community health.



Defining Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

“A collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community and has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change...”

~W K Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program

Why CBPR?

- Persistence of health disparities
- Limitations of current research approaches
- Growing appreciation of the value of partnerships by funders and academics
- Greater demand by communities for equity and research relevance

CBPR Key Principles

- Builds on strengths & resources within community
- Facilitates collaboration in all phases of research
- Integrates knowledge gathering & action for mutual benefit of all partners
- Scientists & community learn together –both are empowered
- Addresses health from positive & ecological perspectives
- Disseminates findings to all partners

Israel BA, EngE, Schulz AJ, and Parker EA eds.

(2005) *Methods in community-based participatory research for health*. Jossey-Bass: San Francisco, CA

What is the difference?

Traditional

- Academic generated/
initiated
- Research “on”
- Academic in complete
control
- Limited sharing of
resources
- Academic is only “expert”
- Project ends when data
are analyzed

CBPR

- Collaboratively
generated/designed
- Research “with”
- Shared governance/
ownership
- Shared resources/\$
- Honors community
knowledge
- Makes sure what is learned is
used

Benefits of CBPR Approach

For community: answers important questions, develops research/eval skills, provides data for advocacy change, new partners

For academic: enables ethical access to communities, uses community knowledge for more relevant research, new partners

For the research: better methodology, more accurate & meaningful analysis, results (data) more likely to be disseminated & used, recruitment & retention

Seed Grant Purpose & Scope

- Build stronger community-academic partnerships and improve community health (any area of health will be considered, focus on health disparities)
- Seed projects and partnerships that will build towards the development of further research proposals

Partnership Building Grants

Maximum of \$10,000, 12 months

- Relationship building, Exploring areas of shared interest/compatible skills
- Defining roles/responsibilities of partners
- Developing partnership infrastructure
- Planning future collaboration and proposals

CBPR Implementation Grants

Maximum: \$30,000, 12-18 months

- Community assessments or data collection
- Data analysis of existing data
- Building community capacity for research
- Translation of research findings
- Assessment of partnership process or addressing research challenges

Awards

- \$110,000 available
- Not a predetermined number of funded projects (based on submission quality)
- No matching required
- Additional resources for geospatial mapping

Eligibility

Partnership Team: Community Co-PI & Academic Co-PI

- Community: Must be from Chicagoland CBO
- Academic: NU Faculty, fellow, student

Multiple partners allowed- other CBOs, public agencies, faculty from other universities



Finding and Connecting to Partners

- Identifying partners
- “Interviewing” potential partners
- Considering your purpose together
- Building a healthy relationship
- Having clear communication and decision-making

Round 1 Example: Partnership-Building Immigrant & Refugee Senior Center

- Partners: ED of local CBO (Comm. co-PI) & Adjunct Prof at NU School of Med/local Senior org (Acad. co-PI). Others: NU Graduate Students
- Establish working partnership to guide planning & needs assessment of impact of Senior Center on self-efficacy/self-reported mental health status.
- Recruit addtn'l partners (senior comm. members, service providers, funders, businesses, CBOs).

Round 1 Example: Immigrant & Refugee Senior Center

- Define specific roles and responsibilities of partners, document in written document
- Hold planning meetings & form advisory board
- Allocate time to build trust w/new partners, funds to support involvement of new partners
- Build on other project funding
- Provide community partners training to prepare for proposal development/submission

Round 2 Example: Partnership-Building Physical Therapy

- Partners: Staff of local CBO (Comm. co-PI) & Prof at NU School of Med (Acad. co-PI). Others: another NU Prof & NU Graduate Students
- Expand new relationship w/physical therapy faculty and students to explore attitudes of older adults toward physical activity/exercise.

Round 2 Example: Physical Therapy

- All partners learning to inform future research collaboration: Community understanding of topic, academic understanding of community context of topic
- Build on existing community capacity (community health advocates)
- Move existing partnership on education to research, engage students. Time for partners to learn more about each other
- Community-identified issue
- Plan for structure to support future applications
- Evaluate partnership process
- Incorporate active participation in ARCC activities/training

Round 1 Example: CBPR Implementation Asthma Control in Chicago Neighborhood

- Partners: ED of local CBO (Comm. co-PI) & Prof at Children's Mem Hosp, NU School of Med (Acad. co-PI)
 - Others: Respiratory Health Assoc of Chicago and Prof at Rush Univ
- Community identified issue & desire to partner.
Unknown: True prevalence & severity and mediating community factors or availability of resources
- Aim: parent survey @ 3 schools: 1) determine prevalence & control; 2) understand community factors (safety, pollution, access to care); 3) assess parent trust in schools to manage asthma.

Round 1 Example:

Asthma Control in Chicago neighborhood

- Allow time for partnership development, document in written agreement
- Involve addtn'l. partners that bring relevant connections and skills
- Engage community throughout: Parent coords. implement survey in schools
- Discuss capacity building, learning among partners (specific resources & training)
- Discuss next steps (dissemination to comm & acad audiences and further research/funding)

Round 1 Example: CBPR Implementation

Preempt disease among Chicago Asian Communities

- Partners: ED of local CBO (Comm. co-PI) & Prof at NU School of Med (Acad. co-PI)
 - Others: Sinai Urban Health Institute & Prof at Rush Univ
- Build on existing partnership & culturally-based community health behavior needs assessment of local Asian communities
- Aims: 1) analysis & 2) dissemination of existing data; 3) community dialogue of effective interventions (policy and community based initiatives)

Round 1 Example: Preempt disease among Chicago Asian Communities

- Build on strong existing work (collaboration and research)
- Strong focus on how research data will be used by community
- Specific aim to seek further external funding
- Discuss reciprocity of learning exchange-academic gains too
- Discuss specific collaboration activities (plan for conflict resolution)

Round 2 Example: CBPR Implementation

Preparing to Conduct Outcomes Research

- Partners: Staff of local CBO (Comm. co-PI) & Prof at Children's/NU School of Med (Acad. co-PI)
- Develop and submit NIH research proposal to rigorously test outcomes of youth mentoring/tutoring program working in 3 underserved Chicago communities
- Aims: 1) inclusive research team/capacity & 2) recruitment of demonstration and control subjects; 3) create tracking database

Round 2 Example: Preparing to Conduct Outcomes Research

- Engage experienced CBPR partner as mentor
- Build very inclusive team (staff, program graduates, parents), organizational capacity (data management). Creative plans (website)
- Hire community members
- Identify specific grant opportunity to pursue
- Focus on strong research methods
- Disseminate preliminary findings back to community

Reviewer Feedback

- Partnership building grants with no clear plan for identifying future research ?s/grants
- No clear indication of community interest in proposed topic
- Ambitious timelines for proposed work
- Inadequate description of research methods, basis in literature
- No reasoning for using students vs. community members

Required Letter of Intent: Due Dec 04

- 2 pages or less
- Info for both co-PIs
- Brief descrip of project/partnership focus & plan, anticipated amount of request, expected timeline
- Indicate if Partnership building or Implementation & why using CBPR approach
- Brief descrip of prior experience or training
- How will grant lead to future research proposals

Budget

- Detailed budget not necessary for LOI
- Split budget:
 - \$ for academic partner/related expenses go to academic co-PI
 - All other funds go to community co-PI

Review Process for LOI

- Review by ARCC staff/faculty and partners
- Criteria: Strong science **and** strong collaboration
 - Feasibility (appropriate budget/timeline)
 - Quality of research methods/importance of question
 - Collaborative spirit or intent
 - Prior experience or training in CBPR
 - Likely to lead to further research/external funding
- Strong LOIs invited to submit full proposals

General Tips

- Must have research focus & plans for further research
- Be realistic (not overly ambitious) about scope of seed grant
- Ensure application development & project planning is collaborative- avoid thinking & writing in terms of “2 teams”
- Don’t assume reviewers are familiar with your team or project
- Read the RFP carefully- respond to the type of activities and principles laid out

Timeline

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| Letter of Intent Due | Dec 4 |
| Notify of Full Submission Invitation | Mid Dec |
| Teleconf for Invited Applicants | Jan 14 |
| Full RFP Submission Due | Feb 26 |

Thank you

- Resources Handouts
- Evaluation



Contact Information

Community Networkers

Josefina Serrato: josefina-serrato@northwestern.edu; 312-927-6037

Gina Curry: g-curry@northwestern.edu; 312-363-8050

Co-Directors

Jen Kauper-Brown: j-kauper-brown@northwestern.edu; 312-503-1942

Gini Bishop: vbishop@northwestern.edu; 312-503-2614

Website: www.nucats.northwestern.edu/centers/cerc/