

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

### Announcing ARCC 2022 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 fifteenth round of seed grant funding and includes Community Research Capacity-Building Grants and Research Pilot Grants.

- For **Community Research Capacity-Building Grants**, a new type of ARCC grant this year, 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 **Research Pilot Grants**, each \$27,500 award 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. All 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](#).

For both 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. Learn more [here](#) about the awarded Partnership Development seed grants in Cycle 1 funding earlier this year.

In Round 15, ARCC awarded \$136,500 for 9 seed grants. Over our full 15 years of seed grant funding, ARCC has distributed almost \$1.4 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, almost \$24 million in subsequent grant funding, and 42 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 2023 ARCC Seed Grants will be released in Fall 2022.

## **ARCC 2022 Community Research Capacity-Building Seed Grant Summaries**

### *'Your Opinion Matters'*

Phyllis Rodgers, [Peer Plus Education and Training Advocates](#)

While there are huge funding institutes, universities, as well as medical agencies, working in under resourced areas, many of those same organizations and agencies often do not have the capacity or structure to oversee, monitor, or fund and evaluate projects within their own communities. Peer Plus Education & Trained Advocates identifies underserved populations in the Midwest area and provides culturally sensitive programs that address the multifaceted issues of people in need of essential health, educational, and psychosocial services with an extensive network of health centers, free clinics, local hospitals and social service agencies. Peer Plus is uniquely placed to go into communities and ask for their input and feedback on what are the pressing issues for them. Thus, one of our aims is for populations to be involved, from the inception, coming together, defining, and determining for themselves what are the priority issues. People who come together and formulate what those issues are affecting their communities will have a vested interest as active stakeholders in the short and long-term effects of a study/research not only as participants, but as drivers and active collaborators in that research. Peer Plus aims to educate “gatekeepers” (faith members, older people, and the larger community, etc.) on why their active input and recommendations are necessary and required to ensure outcomes that benefit them and other populations confronting similar challenges.

### *Community Workshop Intensive - Post Support*

Glenance Green, [Black Researchers Collective](#)

The mission of the Black Researchers Collective is to train and equip communities with research tools to be more civically engaged and policy-informed. The overall goal of our work is to contribute to and support the building and strengthening of self-sustaining, thriving Black communities. The Black Researchers Collective will use this funding to provide grant support to a number of community projects (8-12) developed in our 12-hour research-based Community Workshop Intensive. This grant support would service as an incentive to continue activating grassroots projects and supporting community organizers independent of a community-based organization, primarily across Bronzeville, South Shore, and Woodlawn, as they leverage research tools gained in the workshops.

## **ARCC 2022 Research Pilot Seed Grant Project Summaries**

### *Evaluating the Health Impacts of a Home Repair Program for Older Adults*

Gail Schechter, [H.O.M.E.](#) – Housing Opportunities & Maintenance for the Elderly, and [Rachel O'Connor](#), General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine

Housing is one of the most important social determinants of health, yet there is a lack of research evaluating the effect of housing support services on the health of older adults.

H.O.M.E., a nonprofit that provides housing support services to low-income older adults in Chicago, and researchers at Northwestern University formalized a research partnership over the past three years through an ARCC Partnership Development grant. Through conversations with experts in aging and housing, and older adults with lived experience, our team identified a need to evaluate home repairs and their impact on 1) health outcomes, and 2) preserved homeownership and independent living for older adults. In response, our pilot will evaluate the impact of a home repair program on health outcomes and homeownership among low-income older adults in Chicago. Gail Schechter (Executive Director, H.O.M.E.) and Rachel O'Connor (Assistant Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine) will continue to partner with a team of stakeholders; through a series of meetings and in-depth conversations we will refine our research evaluation, implement our pilot research study, and disseminate our findings.

*Adapting a psychological intervention for implementation through a faith-based community-academic partnership*

Diana Ingram, [Pastors 4 PCOR](#) and [Allison Carroll](#), Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences & Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

Depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions are prevalent but often undertreated among adults from minority populations. This project builds on the base work completed by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) focused on promoting emotional balance among African American residents of the South Side of Chicago established by our community-academic partnership between Total Resource Pastors4PCOR (P4P) and Northwestern University. The purpose of this project is to build on the work of the CAB to select and adapt an evidence-based psychological intervention for implementation among African American adults with comorbid depression and hypertension on the South Side of Chicago. Specifically, we aim to 1) expand the role of the CAB to engage CAB members and their specific expertise, 2) select the intervention to be implemented, including identifying specific components of the intervention, and 3) adapt the intervention for implementation in the community. The long-term, overarching goals of this work are to develop, implement, and sustain community-informed resources and services to promote emotional balance for residents living in Chicago's southside community.

*Assessing cultural appropriateness in food pantries of Cook County*

Taryn McCook, [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#), and [Jenny Jia](#), Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

This pilot project aims to assess the cultural appropriateness of food pantry services experienced by pantry clients in Cook County. This project will further develop the community-academic partnership between the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD), the regional food bank for Cook County; GCFD-partnered food pantries, which are community-based sites that provide free groceries to Chicago residents; and the Division of General Internal Medicine at Northwestern University. Families who use food pantries have

significant representation from minorities, immigrants, and those with limited English proficiency. The cultural challenges experienced by clients at food pantries are poorly identified. Using qualitative data generated by our community-academic partnership, we seek to develop a survey tool to assess the cultural appropriateness of food pantry services and to use that survey tool to identify gaps in culturally appropriate services in Cook County food pantries. Through collaborating with food pantry sites to conduct this proposed study, our intention is also to help participating food pantries build capacity towards developing client feedback processes that allows improvements in food pantries to be client-driven.

### *Frame Running for fitness in young people with mobility challenges using an afterschool sport-based youth development model*

Rebecca Hanks, [Chicago Run](#), and [Theresa Sukal-Moulton](#), Physical Therapy & Human Movement Sciences & Pediatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine

Chicago Run has implemented sport-based youth development programs with a focus on equitable access to physical activity for more than a decade. Through movement, their programming supports young people both during and out of school in building resilience to stress and trauma and developing social and emotional skills. Children who have a physical disability would benefit greatly from increased physical activity and social participation through these programs, but barriers to access are great for them. Physical therapists bring a perspective of how to adapt an environment and provide supports to enhance movement opportunities for those with movement challenges. Together, Chicago Run, Northwestern, and Chicago Public Schools can provide positive programming along with environmental modifications for students in historically disinvested schools and communities. We have successfully implemented this program at Christopher Elementary School in Gage Park with a team that all use running frames to support their movement. The focus of this grant is to maintain and scale our partnership to reach other schools where cross-functional teams can support students with and without running frames.

### **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](http://www.ARCCOnline.net) or [ARCC@northwestern.edu](mailto:ARCC@northwestern.edu)

