M | **MICHR** MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR
CLINICAL & HEALTH RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Funding Opportunity: Statewide Building Capacity for Research and Action Request for Proposals Fall – 2023

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OVERVIEW

The Community Engagement (CE) program within the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research at the University of Michigan provides funding to academic and community partners engaged in clinical and translational science (CTS). The goal of this focus is to overcome longstanding challenges through innovative solutions.

BACKGROUND

The CE Program is issuing an opportunity to fund community-engaged research partnerships and projects addressing community-identified health priorities using translational science principles (e.g. focus on unmet needs; generalizable solutions; bold and rigorous approaches; and boundary crossing partnerships) within the state of Michigan, the Statewide Building Capacity for Research and Action (SBCRA). Through this funding, we aim to enhance and build the capacity of community-academic teams to use the principles of community-engaged and community-based participatory research. We also aim to foster multi-disciplinary approaches involving diverse representation and collaboration.

Goal: SBCRA's goal is to strengthen the capacity of the community to engage in, and benefit from translational research. Expected outcomes include increased sustainable and equitable community-academic partnerships and addressing community-identified health priorities through collaborative research.

AWARD INFORMATION

Applicants may request 1) **up to $5,000** for activities to develop or sustain partnerships, 2) **up to $10,000** for pilot research projects with local impact, or 3) **up to $15,000** for pilot research projects addressing regional and/or statewide needs. Regional projects should impact two or more counties in Michigan, and statewide projects should impact two or more regions. Examples of activities that can be funded under SBRCA include, but are not limited to:

- Building relationships between partners (e.g., exploring the involvement of potential partners, determining how the partnership will adopt and use CEnR or CBPR principles)
- Developing a steering committee (e.g., defining roles and responsibilities, developing communication, and decision-making guidelines)
- Conducting assessment(s) to inform research plans (e.g., collecting data through focus groups or community meetings to inform the research question)
- Analyzing existing data to help inform future research (e.g., conducting collaborative analysis, review, interpreting previously collected data)

Applications must be submitted to Competition Space by **Friday, November 3, 2023, by 5:00 p.m.** Applicants will be notified of funding decisions mid-December 2023.

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

For questions about this funding opportunity, please contact Community Engagement at (MICHR-CommunityEngagement@umich.edu). The CE Program provides free consultation services to teams assessing partnership readiness, exploring community-engaged approaches, and developing grant applications. Applicants interested in receiving specific guidance with their applications are encouraged to request a consultation at (https://michr.umich.edu/rdc/2020/3/9/engaging-communities-consultation).

ELIGIBILITY

SBCRA

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Each application must have *at least two partners*: 1) an academic partner who is affiliated with a college, school, or university (not limited to the University of Michigan); and 2) a community partner who is affiliated with a community organization or group (e.g., non-profit organization, a neighborhood coalition, etc.) within Michigan. Applicants should propose a shared leadership model (co-leads). All applicants must have an active profile on M-REACH.org to be considered for funding.

Community partners without an organizational affiliation may serve as collaborators, consultants, mentors, advisors, and other roles in conducting the project, but may not serve as a project lead. Beyond project team members, partnerships should engage residents of study communities and/or regions and those with first-hand knowledge and experience that will be valuable to better understand the health issue or priority area.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
Each application must include the following components:
1. **An Active Profile in** M-REACH.ORG

2. **Face Page**: Include an abstract in the space provided and indicate the application type (partnership or pilot project).

3. **Partnership / Project Plan:** A maximum 5-page, single-spaced document (Times New Roman 11, minimum of inch margins) describing the partnership, or both the partnership and project concisely. Use the following overall format.
    a. Significance and Impact: Describe the specific priority area and health problem the partnership will address and its relevance to the communities and/or regions involved, or the state as a whole for statewide projects. Describe how activities will lead to sustained research collaborations and projects.
    b. Partners: Describe any previous experience partners have conducting community-engaged research, and the expertise partners will bring to the project and/or partnership.
    c. Approach: Describe the specific objectives of the project and/or partnership and the activities that partners will conduct to meet the desired outcomes. Include details about the community-engaged research framework and/or approach that partners will utilize along with a project timeline. Describe how diversity, equity, and inclusion will be incorporated into your partnership/research project.

4. **References:** Not included in the page limit.

5. **Regulatory Approval:** For partnerships requesting funding to conduct a research project with human subjects (and your application receives a fundable score), you will be required to provide additional human subjects documentation and Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, if applicable. Funds will not be released until IRB approval has been secured.

6. **Budget and Justification:** All budget items must be listed and justified. The following items are allowable expenses in the budget: personnel, supplies, travel, and hosting. This list may not be all-inclusive, and applicants are encouraged to discuss allowable expenses with CE staff if there are questions.

7. **Letters of Support:** *Optional*

~ Items 2-7 must be combined into one PDF ~

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Templates for the proposal's face page, checklist, project plan, and budget are available at MICHR and here on Competition Space (https://umms.infoready4.com/).

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of community and academic partners with extensive experience conducting community-engaged research. The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications:

- Significance: Does the project address a community-identified health need(s)? Is the project relevant and responsive to this need(s)?

- Partnership: Do the partners have complementary experience and expertise? Is there evidence that all partners will be equitably involved?

- Approach: Will principles of community-engaged research be used? Are the proposed activities feasible within the allotted timeframe? Are the overall strategies and activities appropriate to accomplish the objectives? Does the partnership/project effectively incorporate DEI?

- Budget: Is the budget realistic and appropriate considering the work proposed? Is the budget fairly distributed among partners?

- Community Benefit: Will the project/partnership provide direct benefits to the community involved?

- Sustainability: What is the likelihood the partnership will be sustained after the grant period concludes? How likely is it that the project will result in new grant applications or collaborative research efforts and relationships?

AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Each partnership funded will be required to use a partnership tool at the beginning and end of the project to measure concepts such as trust and group dynamics (i.e., Schultz, et al, 2003). Additionally, larger projects ($10,00 and $15,000) will be asked to develop or use a health outcome measure. A consultation with the MICHR evaluation specialist will be offered as part of the award. Awardees will be required to attend an orientation meeting to discuss funding expectations, project plans, and support services available to partners and teams.

All funds must be spent by the end of the one-year funding period, which will tentatively be January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Awardees are required to provide a six-month progress report, a final report upon the completion of the award period, present lessons learned in a grantee showcase, and maintain a M-REACH.ORG profile.

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ADDENDUM
Definitions of terms
Community-engaged research approaches are built on the premise that the health issues being studied are best understood by the community members living in the environments where the research is taking place and that communities should be directly involved in the decisions that will affect their lives. This process requires power-sharing, equity, and flexibility in conducting research in a manner that fits the priorities, needs, and capacities of the communities involved.

Community is defined broadly as a group of people connected by similar characteristics, such as identities (e.g., social/economic backgrounds), geographic location (e.g., city of Flint, county of Marquette), special interests (e.g. coalition to reduce childhood obesity), and/or situations that affect the well-being of that group.

Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is defined as an orientation to research that emphasizes "equitable" participation of partners for "combining knowledge and action for social change to improve community health and eliminate health disparities." CBPR involves authentic engagement of community members and stakeholders in all aspects of the research process, from problem definition through data collection, analysis, and dissemination and use of findings to affect program, practice, and policy changes. Specific CBPR principles for technology-focused projects can be found here.

Multi-disciplinary approaches are one of many forms of collaboration and community engagement. These approaches can include partnerships of academic collaborators focused on different disciplines in translational science, along with partners from other sectors and communities such as patients, their caregivers and families, nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, community-based clinicians, healthcare delivery systems, industry, and others.

Pilot Projects are studies that provide the foundation for future research. For example, pilot studies include (but are not limited to) assessing needs, designing interventions, testing measures and study procedures, assessing feasibility and acceptability, or testing interventions with a small group of participants.

Translational science is a field of investigation focused on understanding a scientific or operational principle that underlies a step of the translational process, with the goal of developing generalizable principles to accelerate translational research. Some efforts in this field may be akin to the science of translational science. A key tenet of translational science is to understand common causes of inefficiency and failure in translational research projects. Translational science principles include: focus on pursuing scientific goals that address unmet scientific, patient or population health needs; produce generalizable solutions for common and persistent challenges; emphasize creativity and innovation; utilize boundary-crossing partnerships; and enhance the efficiency and speed of translational research.

References
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry assessed at: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/communityengagement/index.html

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