**Clinical and Translational Science Institute**

**Community & Stakeholder Research Engagement Program**

**Community Partnered Research Award**

**Request for Applications**

**Statement of Purpose**

The goal of the Community Partnered Research Awardis to nurture an existing community-engaged research partnership, and/or facilitate the establishment of a new partnership through trust building, skills development, partnership, and co-learning. The community research partner may learn about research design, proposal development, and/or skills that might enhance operations and build organizational capacity (e.g., program development and evaluation) to engage in action-oriented, community-engaged research. The academic faculty researcher partner may learn more about community health-related needs and priorities and the lived experiences of community members; how community organizations prioritize, function, and/or overcome obstacles; and how community-engaged research is implemented through partnership and in community settings. To facilitate collaboration and support the partnership, both the community partner and the academic faculty researcher partner will have access to the CTSI Community Engagement Team resources and expertise.

**Focus Area**

The Community and Stakeholder Research Engagement Program is committed to supporting research that addresses longstanding challenges that expand poor health outcomes in clinical and translational science. We aim to fund research that improves health outcomes across a broad range of populations. Community partnered research projects that demonstrate a clear potential to reduce gaps in health outcomes will be considered highly responsive to this solicitation, provided all other criteria are met. While projects are not required to focus on these issues, applicants are encouraged to describe how their work may contribute to improving community access, outcomes, or participation in research.

**Eligibility**

**Community Partnered Researcher**: Must work for a non-profit community organization or local government agency that serves the community within the Southeast Region of Advocate Health

**Academic Faculty Researcher:** Must hold faculty rank across the Southeast region of Advocate Health. This

includes Atrium Health, Atrium Health Navicent, and Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, including Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Wake Forest University (Reynolda Campus) faculty and all CTSI affiliated

institutions with Wake Forest co-investigator are also invited to apply.

**Additional Information:**

• Projects previously submitted as CTSI or other intramural Pilot Proposals are eligible for resubmission but must incorporate reviewer feedback.

• Only one proposal may be submitted per faculty member serving as PI or co-PI.

• CTSI KL2/K12 scholars whose funding is active during the pilot project period are not eligible to apply.

• Projects that have been previously funded (or projects with very similar ideas) will not be considered.

• Investigators are limited to two funded Community Partnered Research Awards unless special permission is granted in advance of the application submission deadline. Please email Keena Moore at [keena.moore@advocatehealth.org](mailto:keena.moore@advocatehealth.org) to request permission.

• Investigators with active Ignition Funds remain eligible.

**The Following Components are Required for a Successful Application**

1. The community research partner and academic faculty researcher partner will collaborate to complete and submit the Community Partnered Research Award Application.
2. Only projects that demonstrate scientific rigor and the use of best practices will be considered for funding
3. Explanation of how community-engaged research (CEnR), community-based participatory research (CBPR), and/or citizen science best practices will be applied.
4. Describe how the community research partner will inform and guide the study across the research process from idea generation, study design and methods, recruitment and retention, data collection, interpretation, and dissemination of results.
5. **Community Partner Researcher**
   * Agree to co-lead, serving as a researcher/ co-principal investigator (Co-PI) with an academic faculty researcher
   * Represent an organization within the Forsyth County and surrounding area” and Mecklenburg County and surrounding area”. Examples of eligible community organizations include nonprofits, community practice/clinic, state/local health department, schools, institutions of higher education
   * Provide Tax-ID or TIN for their organization

* + Provide a letter of support from supervisor or Board of Directors (if applicant is the Executive Director of the community organization) affirming that 10% of their time will be made available to participate in the Community Partnered Research Awardfor the 12-month period

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1. **Academic Faculty Researcher**

* Agree to co-lead, serving as a researcher/co-principal investigator (Co-PI) with a community organization partner
  + - * Faculty, with a rank of instructor of higher, in an institution within the Atrium Health Enterprise, including Atrium Health, Wake Forest Baptist Health, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and Wake Forest University
* Provide a letter of support from Department Chair affirming that 10% of their time will be made available to participate in the Community Partnered Research Awardfor the 12-month period

**Award Amount**

* Compensation to the academic faculty researcher is an award of 10% effort.
* Compensation to the community partner researcher is $10,000. This award amount was established to facilitate greater equity with the compensation granted to faculty. The total reflects 10% of an estimated salary of $100,000 per year.
* All funds are to be spent within a one-year project period; due to the restrictions on CTSA funding, no-cost extensions cannot be approved. Funds for these projects are provided by NCATS.

**Key Dates**

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| **Date** | **Detail** |
| 11/14/25, 11:59 PM | Full Application Deadline |
| 12/12/25 | Notification Deadline |
| 1/1/26 | Project Start Date |
| 12/31/26 | Project End Date |

**Review Criteria and Process for Full Proposals:**

1. An Administrative Review will be completed to verify all required components were submitted and formatting guidelines followed. Applications that do not comply with guidelines will be automatically disqualified and will not be considered for review.

2. Proposals that pass the Administrative Review are reviewed by the C&SE and Community Research Advisory Council utilizing NIH review criteria and scoring.

3. Final award approval will be at the recommendation of C&SE Leadership.

Reviewers will score applications from 1 to 9 based on: 1. Significance of the problem to be addressed 2. Innovation of the proposed solutions 3. Strength and breadth (interdisciplinary nature) of the investigative team 4. Methodological rigor, feasibility, and generalizability 5. Clear project milestones and reporting plan 6. Potential of scalability and potential to affect quality and efficiency of care 7. Inclusivity of the study team participants 8. Impact of the work on health equity 9. The likelihood that the investment will lead to external funding, publication, or a licensable innovation; early-career faculty involvement, race/gender inclusiveness of the research team; and inclusion of women, minorities, older adults, and children as potential study participants.

**CTSI Resources Available to Support Investigators**

Several resources are available in the CTSI to help submit a strong application; while they are not required as part of the submission, investigators are highly encouraged to seek out additional assistance. All services can be requested through the [CTSI Service Request form](https://redcap.wakehealth.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=HN37MPMNJ8EYLH3W).

• **Grant Proposal Editing:** have an expert medical editor review your proposal prior to submission. They will offer suggestions on how to refine your writing and thinking. Your proposal will be edited in “track changes” so that you can easily accept or reject edits (free to everyone).

**• Biostatistical Support:** meet with a statistician to develop your study design, measurement, and statistical analysis plans prior to submission (free to everyone).

• **Research Studio:** meet with a multi-disciplinary panel of experts to work through specific aims, hypotheses, or ways to address the generalizable requirement (free to everyone)

**• CTSI Faculty Consultation:** meet with a CTSI faculty member (clinician, basic scientist, or behavioral scientist) to talk through project ideas or to find research/clinical partners (free to everyone).

• **Informatics:** optimization of the EMR to extract data for research purposes (free or fee-for-service, depending on need).

**Program Expectations**

**Specific Deliverables**

1. Attend study initiation meeting
2. Attend monthly check-in meetings
3. Attend C&SE Community Research Engagement Collaborative monthly meetings
4. Upon completion of the project:
   1. Close-out report, with plans for implementing and disseminating innovations
5. Presentation of findings at requested events (i.e. CTSI Seminar Series, Service Line Meeting, CTSI’s

annual External Advisory Committee meeting)

1. Manuscript submitted within one year of the end of the pilot award
2. Disclosure of 1) how results will be implemented and/or disseminated; 2) applications for extramural

funding beyond the pilot grant; 3) what subsequent notification of funds occurred; and 4) related

publications or significant collaborations resulted from the project, for a minimum of 4 years after

completion of the award.

**Public Presentation Guidance:**

The academic faculty researcher and community partner researcher will create and co-facilitate a presentation to internal and external audiences. The purpose of this presentation is to reflect on the Community Partnered Research Award experience; synthesize successes, challenges, and recommendations; and share next steps. The presentation must highlight significant discoveries, lessons learned, and community impact. Additionally, presentations should outline process, outcomes, and next steps by including the following four sections:

Section 1: Objectives

Reflect on the objectives you set out to accomplish with your collaboration. In hindsight, do you think these were meaningful objectives? Why or why not? How well did you achieve these objectives? How do you know? How did your objectives change during the Community Partnered Research Award? Please elaborate, outlining why and how they changed and illustrating how you met new goals. What do you think were your main accomplishments during the Community Partnered Research Award? How can you utilize any of the accomplishments to address a current health problem in the community?

Section 2: Self-reflection

Each partner will provide insights into the impact of the Community Partnered Research Award. Reflect on what you have learned about research and the community. What significant discoveries have you made about your technical, research, and professional skills, your interpersonal skills, your values, and your interests? What are your strengths and weaknesses and how might you strengthen these areas to address the learning objectives you identified?

Section 3: Community Partnered Research AwardProcess

Provide general comments about both the process and content of the experience. Were there experiences that generated unanticipated learning? If so, please describe what they were, and how this will affect how you can promote your work and organization. Were there significant problems or obstacles to the successful completion of your Community Partnered Research Award? Please describe the problem and analyze the source or cause. What solution (s) did you attempt, and with what success?

Section 4: Dissemination

Discuss future opportunities for publications, poster presentations, and other forms of dissemination.

**For questions, please contact:**  
**Keena Moore, MA, CHES**  
Clinical and Translational Science Institute  
Community & Stakeholder Research Engagement Program  
📧 [Keena.Moore@advocatehealth.org](mailto:Keena.Moore@advocatehealth.org)

Definitions and related references are below:

**Community Engagement**

According to the CDC, community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with groups of people who are affiliated by geographic proximity, special interests, or similar situations with respect to issues affecting their well-being. In practice, community engagement is a blend of science and art. For further detail, see:<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/communityengagement/>

**Community-Engaged Research (CEnR)**

Community-engaged research includes local people in the research process, especially people who could benefit from or are affected by the research. Community representatives bring their lived experiences, insights, and strengths to these studies to:

* Craft research questions and inform study details
* Collect research data using community-informed strategies to connect with participants and get meaningful data
* Advise on policies and decisions related to safe and effective research conduct
* Co-create interventions or programs that fit well within the community
* Co-design appropriate materials and messages tailored for specific cultures and languages
* Analyze and report data in a way that is relevant and meaningful to the community while acknowledging strengths and opportunities

For further detail, see: <https://nihceal.org/about-community-engaged-research-and-ceal#:~:text=Community%2Dengaged%20approaches%20effectively%20address,improves%20the%20health%20of%20communities>.

**Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)**

Community-based participatory research is: An applied collaborative approach that enables community residents to more actively participate in the full spectrum of research (from conception – design – conduct – analysis – interpretation – conclusions – communication of results) with a goal of influencing change in community health, systems, programs, or policies. Community members and researchers partner to combine knowledge and action for social change to improve community health and often reduce health disparities. Academic/research and community partners join to develop models and approaches to building communication, trust, and capacity, with the final goal of increasing community participation in the research process. It is an orientation to research, which equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings*.*

For further detail, see: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/communityengagement/pdf/PCE\_Report\_508\_FINAL.pdf

**Citizen Science**

Citizen science is scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions. Citizen science efforts are driven by community concerns. Citizen scientists, in the modern sense, are defined as a scientist whose work is characterized by a sense of responsibility to serve the best interests of the wider community. For further detail, see: <https://scistarter.org/citizen-science> and [https://www.citizenscience.gov/#](https://www.citizenscience.gov/)

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