

Request for Proposals

Inspiring Change: Community-Engaged Research to Address Health Disparities in Marginalized Populations 2024

The Illinois Institute of Technology (Illinois Tech) has partnered with the Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM) to provide funding for community-based participatory research (**COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH**) projects that address health disparities. In Community-Engaged Research projects, researchers and community stakeholders work together to identify, investigate, and implement solutions for health problems. Community stakeholders encompass individuals who possess lived experience of a specific health condition. They also represent a diverse group (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, native language, etc.) from the community of interest.

Two types of grant proposals will be considered.

- New seed grant projects up to \$30,000 for one year leading to subsequent proposals to NIH, PCORI, or other funders.
- Administrative supplements to existing projects that promote COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH up to \$10,000.

Prospective applicants will have attended the Inspiring Change pre-training provided separately for community leaders and investigators as well as the Inspiring Change proposal development workshop (6 hours). Workshop attendees will begin the development of a research proposal using guidelines from the Inspiring Change manual. More specific information on proposal submission will be provided at the workshop. Funded projects will utilize the Inspiring Change community-engaged research model (<https://chicagohealthdisparities.org/>) to structure community engagement on the project. Three to five projects will be selected by a review committee.

Community-Engaged Research is meant to facilitate program change and patient-centered health solutions for marginalized communities in Chicago. For these Community-Engaged Research projects, a leadership team consisting of at least one person with lived experience, a researcher, and ideally a community health provider representative will convene to develop the research topic. Ideal candidates to lead projects will have demonstrated communication and leadership skills, alongside a genuine personal interest in conducting research focused on marginalized communities within Chicago.

It is highly recommended that project leaders attend the Community-Engaged Research workshop together. At the workshop, they will have the opportunity to develop their ideas and find other potential collaborators. The leadership of the funded Community-Engaged Research projects will then recruit 5 to 7 community members/patients from their agency and/or community to join the Community-Engaged Research team.

These are people with lived experience of the focal health concern and the diversity group. This team



will meet regularly to accomplish the goals of the specific proposal. Funded Community-Engaged Research projects will receive technical support from the Illinois Tech team and will submit periodic progress reports to Illinois Tech.

Selection Criteria for Funded Program

- Important health needs needed in a marginalized Chicago community.
- Community definition should be anchored in diversity (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation).
- Quality of plan for meaningfully involving patients/community members in the research process.
- Potential impact on neighborhood or city.
- Potential of the project to facilitate future research and funding opportunities for the team.
- Innovation of research idea.
- Strength of research methodology.
- Feasibility of timeline (plan for completion within a 9-month time frame).
- Realistic budget and evidence of strong financial management.
- Endorsement and support of partnering agency leadership.
- Research may be qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods.

Eligibility

- At least two members of the project leadership must have attended the Community-Engaged Research Workshop through the Illinois Institute of Technology.
- Partner agencies must be non-profit organizations in Chicago.

Application Process

- Academic researchers, people with lived experience of the focal health condition, and healthcare providers who are interested in taking a leadership role on a Community-Engaged Research project must register for the full-day Community-Engaged Research workshop. For 2024, the Inspiring Change Community-Engaged Research workshop will be held on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology (35th and State St) on **February 2, 2024**. The proposal process will be fully discussed at the workshop.
- Teams will partner with a non-profit community health provider to submit a research proposal.
- At the Community-Engaged Research workshop, attendees learn about the Community-Engaged Research process and how to develop proposals. Attendees have an opportunity to partner with researchers in attendance at the workshop.

Important Deadlines

Grant applications are due by **March 15, 2024**

Winners will be announced by **May 1, 2024**

Projects will begin **July 1, 2024**

Projects will be completed by **June 30, 2025**

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