

Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core (CERC) COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH GRANT Guidelines Fall 2021

The **CERC Mini-Grant Program** provides support for the development of mutually beneficial research partnerships between community organizations and academic researchers at Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, or Vanderbilt University. The long-term goals of the Mini-Grant Program are to foster sustainable research partnerships that will improve community health outcomes, decrease health disparities, increase access to health and health related services, enhance the quality and effectiveness of health interventions, and inform more equitable health policy.

Two types of mini-grants are available: **Partnership Development Grants of up to \$2,500 support the development or strengthening of partnerships between community-based organizations and academic researchers, and Community Engaged Research Grants of up to \$10,000 enable the partnerships to undertake pilot research activities.** Both grants require the active participation of each partner in the development of the proposal and that the projects will result in benefits to each partner involved. **These guidelines describe the Community-Engaged Research Grant.** For more information about the opportunity, please contact lexie.lipham@vumc.org.

Community-Engaged Research Grants are intended to engage academic and community partners in pilot research projects that foster sustainable, long-term collaborations in order to address community health issues. Priority will be given to partnerships with a well-defined research question that can produce preliminary data for a larger grant application, be tested through a small-scale intervention intended to be scaled up and expanded upon in the future, or leads to continuing research. Examples include:

- Introducing an evidence-based health services innovation in a new practice setting and comparing patient clinical outcomes.
- Gathering qualitative data from focus groups to identify themes for further study.
- Conducting a targeted survey to collect pilot data for a larger grant submission.
- Assessing how new health insurance coverage options impact health-seeking behaviors.

Funding of up to \$10,000 is available to support research activities, including data collection and analysis, recruitment and compensation of study participants, and dissemination of study results. Training and consultative research support services may be included. Funding will go directly to the community partner. It may **not** be used for operating support of existing programs nor salaries for existing duties and operations of staff. Funds can only be used for salaries if it is beyond the staff person's normal responsibilities and for grant purposes only. Funded projects should be completed within **18 months** of award.

Review criteria will include responsiveness to the application criteria, equal and mutually beneficial involvement of each partner in the proposal development, potential for sustaining the research partnership, alignment of research question with health needs in community, soundness of research design, clarity of each partner's role, capacity of partners to fulfill roles, and potential impact on relevant health concerns. Award decisions are made by a review committee consisting of four community representatives and four community health researchers from Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University. Announcements should be made by mid-**December**.

Who may apply?

Community organizations with non-profit status (501(c)(3)) are eligible to apply as the community partner. This includes community service organizations, advocacy groups, neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, or coalitions. Public agencies and private organizations without 501(c)(3) status may also be collaborators, but the lead community partner must have 501(c)(3) status.

Faculty members from either Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University, or Vanderbilt University Medical Center are eligible to apply as the project's academic partner. They must demonstrate a commitment to developing expertise in ongoing, community-engaged health-related research. Additional partners and multidisciplinary teams with faculty and researchers from other academic institutions **are encouraged**; however, the lead academic partner must be faculty from Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University, or Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Graduate students may participate as part of the research team as well.

Additional information for applicants:

- Partners should watch informational webinar video prior to submission of a proposal, found here: <https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=JNRCPRDHED>. Contact lexie.lipham@vumc.org if you are having trouble accessing the recording.
- A brief email of intent with the names of the community and academic partners, the topic of your study, and a statement that you are applying for a Community Engaged Research Grant must be sent in an email to lexie.lipham@vumc.org by **Friday, October 22, 2021**.
- Deadline for on-line submission of the application (see below) is midnight, **Friday, October 29, 2021**.

How does one apply?

Application Format: Your application **must include** the following sections, plus two required appendices described below. The application (not including appendices) should **NOT EXCEED 6 PAGES** in 12 point type. Additional appendices of up to 4 pages may be added as explained below.

1. Title of Research Project

2. Brief Statement of Purpose and Intended Impact | Why are you undertaking this research? What is the community health concern you ultimately hope to address through this partnership? How will the findings of this research project contribute to improving the health concern you are addressing?

3. Research Design

a. Research question.

b. Description of research methods (quantitative/qualitative/mixed; observational/formative/experimental/evaluative).

c. Data you plan to collect, how it will be collected (e.g., record review from existing sources, personal interviews, focus groups, on-line or in-person surveys) **and from whom it will be collected.**

i. If using an existing data source, please indicate the source and document source willingness to share the data through a letter of support or data use agreement that describes protections for personal health information, consenting concerns, etc.

ii. If obtaining data from human subjects provide inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study group(s) (and comparison group if used), recruitment plan, consenting plan, compensation plan.

iii. Describe plans for/status of IRB submission. (The academic partner is responsible for meeting all IRB requirements. Please factor IRB review time into your timeline.).

d. Methodologies that will be used to analyze and interpret data. If biostatistical or methodological consultations have taken place or are needed please indicate that here.

e. Measures you will use to determine whether this project was successful in accomplishing its research goals.

4. Academic and Community Partner Roles | *List all collaborating organizations and/or key individuals, and describe how each partner has been involved in the development of this project, what their roles will be during implementation, and what in-kind resources they will contribute.*

5. Benefits to Partners and Partnership | *How will each academic and community partner benefit from this project? How will this project contribute to sustaining your community-academic research partnership? How will benefits to partners be measured? Please provide this information in the form of a GIVE/GET GRID* as shown here:*

GIVE-GET GRID

Expected Contributions	Expected Benefits
What <u>community partner</u> plans to “give” to partnership	What <u>community partner</u> hopes to “get” from partnership
What <u>academic partner</u> plans to “give” to partnership	What <u>academic partner</u> hopes to “get” from partnership

- **Using the give-get grid to understand potential expectations of engagement in a community-academic partnership. Southerland J, Behringer B, Slawson DL. Health Promot Pract 2013 November 14(6): 909-917.*

6. Outcomes/Products | *Briefly describe the anticipated **outcomes/products** (aka “deliverables”) of the proposed activity, **plan for disseminating results of the project to stakeholders**, and **next steps** your partnership will take to move forward on your long-term research goals.*

If a tangible product is proposed—such as a manuscript, presentation abstract, or white paper—a copy of each product should accompany your final report or be submitted when published/presented if this is at a later date.

NOTE: *All publications and posters need to state, “This _____ was supported by the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core. Its contents are solely the responsibilities of the authors and do not necessarily represent official views of Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, or Meharry Medical College.”*

7. Timeline | *Indicate the sequence of steps in implementing your project over the project period. Please be sure to plan time for IRB approval if needed and for disseminating your work to stakeholders. For your planning purposes, please note that it may take up to 3-4 months for contracting and funding to be completed after the mini-grant award is announced. This time may be used to complete the IRB process. The official start of the grant period will begin on the date the funds are received.*

8. Budget and Justification | *Indicate how the funds will be used and provide reasoning for each expense. Note that funding may not be used to support **existing** program operations or activities unrelated to the development of research partnerships or the research being proposed. Funding may be used for community partner salary support, only if it is outside of their day-to-day activities and designated only for their role on the project. If participants are being asked to contribute time for interviews, surveys, or focus groups, budget adequate compensation for their time. Please reference in-kind donations from the participating partners (such as staff time, use of facilities). Funding will be awarded to the **community partner**, who will be responsible for sound accounting of the funds and may be subject to random audit by the funding institution.*

9. Two Appendices are Required

- **Appendix A | Community Partners.** Provide a 1-2 page description of applicant organization's mission, history and current work in the subject area of this proposal. If there are other collaborating agencies, include letters of support from each that acknowledge their role in the partnership.
- **Appendix B | Academic Partners.** Include a 1-2 page biosketch from each academic partner.
- **Additional Appendices |** Up to 4 pages of additional material may be included as appendices if the material helps further explain elements of the proposal or has been referenced in the text of the proposal (e.g., outline of questions that will be used in interview or survey).

Application Requirements and Process:

- **The application must be submitted on-line.** More detailed information will be provided below.
- **Your application and appendices must be combined as a single PDF document.**
- **Completed applications must be submitted electronically by midnight October 29, 2021.**

To submit on-line go to <https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=DJPATHFJKK>. You will be asked to enter contact information about the lead community and academic partner and to upload your application. If you have any questions about submitting this way or if electronic submission is not possible, please email lexie.lipham@vumc.org or call her at 615-936-2565.

When will awards be announced?

Awards will be announced by mid-December.

What type of grant reporting is expected?

CERC staff will maintain contact with you during the implementation of your project, and we ask that you inform us of any problems that surface during the implementation of the project. Upon completion of the project, **include a copy of each tangible product with your final report** (e.g., an abstract for submission to a conference or a manuscript submission to a peer-reviewed journal or an article for a newsletter). The final report will be brief and focus on whether you were able to accomplish the goals of your research and how you plan to strengthen your research partnership. It will also include completion of a **Gave-Got Grid** that will help us understand **how each partner actually contributed and what each partner learned from the experience**. See example of a completed **Gave-Got Grid** on next page.

What if we have additional questions?

If questions arise during preparation of your proposal that have not been answered by these Guidelines or by the webinar, please feel free to email Lexie Lipham at lexie.lipham@vumc.org or call 615-936-2565.

Where can we find more information?

The CERC Mini-Grant Guidelines, link to submission site, webinar video, and the submission deadline will be available on the CERC website (<https://victor.vumc.org/community-engaged-research-grants/>).

Gave – Got Grid for Final Report

Actual Contributions (Gave)	Actual Benefits (Got)
What <u>community partner</u> actually “gave” to partnership	What <u>community partner</u> felt was “gained” from partnership
What <u>academic partner</u> actually “gave” to partnership	What <u>academic partner</u> felt was “gained” from partnership

For more information on the Give/Get Grid please see *Using the give-get grid to understand potential expectations of engagement in a community-academic partnership. Southerland J, Behringer B, Slawson DL. Health Promot Pract 2013 November 14(6): 909-917.*

NOTE | Any publications resulting from a Mini-Grant Award must include the following funding acknowledgement:
“This _____ was supported by the Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core. Its contents are solely the responsibilities of the authors and do not necessarily represent official views of Vanderbilt University, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, or Meharry Medical College.”