

Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engaged Research Core (CERC) PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINI-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 partnership to undertake pilot research activities.** Both grants require the active participation of all partners in the development of the proposal and that they will result in benefits to each partner involved. **These guidelines describe the Partnership Development Grant.** For more information about the opportunity, please contact lexie.lipham@vumc.org.

Partnership Development Grants are intended to engage academic and community partners in forming and strengthening of existing community-academic partnerships. These grants are not intended to support research projects, but to enable partners to develop the trust, capacity and skills to undertake research and other partnership opportunities in the future.

Examples include:

- Engaging potential partners and collaborators for a proposed project through a series of workshops to explore shared research interests, resources and capacities to conduct sustainable research.
- Joint partner training activities to develop skills in design and implementation of community engaged research.
- Developing partnership infrastructure mechanisms to facilitate on-going research (such as Mission Statement, Memorandum of Understanding, Guiding Principles, Logic Models, Advisory Committee By-Laws).
- Planning activities to enable future collaborative grant writing.

Funding of up to \$2,500 may be used for meeting space, supplies, meeting facilitation, consultants, or training. Funding will go directly to the community partner. It may not be used for operating support of existing programs for 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. **Activities must clearly contribute to future collaboration on research projects and related proposals.** Funded projects should be completed within **12 months** of award.

Review criteria will include responsiveness to the application criteria, the potential for building or strengthening a sustainable community-academic partnership, mutual benefit to each partner, and a clear picture of how the partnership will address community health priorities. 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 project's 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 be collaborators, but the lead community partner must have 501(c)3 status.

Faculty members from Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University, or Vanderbilt University Medical Center are eligible to apply as the project’s academic partner. They must be committed 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 apply to serve as additional academic partners.

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 4 PAGES** in 12 point type. Additional appendices of up to 4 pages may be added as explained below.

1. Title of Partnership Project

2. Brief Statement of Purpose | Why are you undertaking this partnership project? What is the community health concern or research question you hope to be able to address through this partnership?

3. Project Plan

- Description of how this project improves the ability of the partner organizations to engage in research in the community.**
- Main components of the project.**
- Completion of a GIVE-GET GRID that explains what each partner plans to contribute (to “give”) to the project and how each partner expects to benefit (to “get”) from the partnership development proposal (see example below).**
- Timeline indicating the sequence of steps in the project implementation** (grant activities must be completed within 12 months; the 12 month period begins when funds have been received).
- Budget with brief justification of how you arrived at the budget numbers.**

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

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.

4. **Outcomes/Products** | *Briefly describe the expected outcomes of the proposed activity, and how your partnership will measure success in attaining these outcomes. For example, the outcome of a partnership building grant might be completion of joint training on community-based participatory research with key organizational and research staff. Success in reaching this outcome might be measured by comparison of pre- and post-testing to measure what was learned. Or, if the goal of the project is to explore how research will enhance the mission of the community partner, the outcome might be a new Logic Model for the organization that incorporates research as a strategy for achieving long-term goals.*

If a tangible product is proposed, a copy of each product must accompany your final report or, in the case of publications, be submitted when they become available.

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.”*

5. **Impact on Community Health** | *Please share your vision of how this partnership-building activity will lead to research that might ultimately improve health.*

6. 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 describe their role in the partnership.*
- **Appendix B | Academic Partners.** *Provide a biosketch for each academic partner.*
- **Additional Appendices** | *Up to 3 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.*

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 on-line 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. Your **final report** will also include completion of a **GAVE-GOT GRID** (see example below) that will help us understand how each partner actually contributed and what each partner learned from the experience. In addition, you must include a copy of any tangible products (e.g. an MOU or a logic model) with your final report. Finally, you will also provide a description for the next steps in your partnership.

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.”