**Community Academic Research Partnership Institute**

**Community Partners Educated as Arkansas Research Leaders (CPEARL) Program**

**Request for Applications**

**2024**

**Key Dates**

RFA Release Date: April 1, 2024

Online Information Session: April 9, 2024

Applications due: June 7, 2024

Applicants Notified: July 12 2024

Required Virtual Orientation: August 27, 2024, 1:00-2:30

Required 3 Day Workshop: September 18-20, 2024 (see program for times)

Required Virtual Sessions: October 15, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

 November 12, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Project Presentations and Graduation: March 2025 (dates to be announced)

**Program Description**

The CPEARL program is a 6-month leadership development training program offered by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Translational Research Institute (TRI). The CPEARL program targets leaders and emerging leaders within non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) located in Arkansas. This program is designed to enhance research partnership and program development competencies within CBOs. Each of the six CBO’s selected will be given up to $2,500 in seed funding to implement a real-world project. Teams of two to three individuals per selected CBO will be invited to participate in the program. Academic, practice, and community experts will provide interactive didactic learning sessions during the 3-day in-person workshop and virtual sessions. Each team will also have a UAMS researcher and community mentor assigned to mentor them throughout the year. This program is free and the in-person workshop will be held in Little Rock, AR.

**Program Goal**

The overall goal of the CPEARL program is to build the capacity of CBOs to address health disparities through improved programs, resources, and research partnerships. We adhere to the World Health Organization’s definition of health: **“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”[[1]](#footnote-1) and define health disparities as “differences in health that are not only unnecessary and avoidable but, in addition, are considered unfair and unjust.”[[2]](#footnote-2)**

**Award Priorities**

The Translational Research Institute has a goal of reducing health disparities in Arkansas and a special focus on vulnerable populations underrepresented in research (i.e., racial or ethnic minorities, veterans, LGBT individuals, people with disabilities, and others that experience a disproportionate burden of poor health outcomes).

Projects focused on disparities might include but are not limited to efforts to address:

* Higher rates of preventable illness and death due to cancer, chronic disease (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, asthma, addiction, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, etc.), preventable injuries, and other conditions where disparities exist.
* Health behavior, policy, systems, environmental, and other risk factors associated with obesity, nutrition, physical activity, or tobacco/drug use.
* Barriers to health associated with rural residence, transportation, and geographic access to healthcare; lack of insurance and/or poor quality of care; and religious or cultural issues affecting health.
* Social determinants of health such as homelessness and housing issues, unemployment, access to quality education, incarceration, stigma and discrimination, psychological stress, violence, neighborhood gentrification, environmental justice, and residential segregation.

**Program Requirements**

To accomplish the goals of the program, the full participation of each individual selected is necessary. To successfully complete the program, participants must:

1. Develop and implement a project to ensure that there is a “real world deliverable” that builds organizational and community capacity. Examples of projects and a budget are provided in the Appendix.
2. Attend all sessions. In order to achieve maximum benefit, each CBO’s entire team is expected to attend each session and attend the presentation of their project during the conference at the end of the program. We anticipate that this program will be highly competitive, so please carefully consider your commitment before you apply.

**Program Expectations**

Upon completion of the program, leaders will have increased competencies in community research that allow them to access and leverage the funding needed to build capacity in their programs and organizations. The long-term goal is to improve community capacity for partnered research to address health disparities in communities in Arkansas.

**Program Benefits**

The CPEARL program is designed to provide participants with opportunities to:

1. Participate in thought-provoking and interactive training activities.
2. Gain a broader perspective of community health issues, health disparities, and social determinants of health.
3. Improve skills in grant writing, public speaking and presentations, finding and using county-level and other data, incorporating evidence-based approaches in their programs, and assessing whether their programs are working (evaluation).
4. Receive seed funding to carry out a project designed to address a problem affecting the health of their community.
5. Network among community organizations in Arkansas.
6. Improve abilities to partner with community or academic organizations.
7. Enhance leadership skills.
8. Receive deserved recognition and prestige as a community leader working to improve the health of Arkansans.

**Who Should Apply?**

* Applicants must be a 501c3 community-based organization in Arkansas.
* We encourage teams of 2 to 3 individuals from each CBO to apply together as a team.
* Team members may include CBO directors, emerging leaders, board members, administrators, and other key program staff.
* This opportunity will be most beneficial to organizations with moderate experience with program development and evaluation.

**Grant Funding**

Each participating organization selected will receive seed funding of up to $2,500 to support their organizational team in implementing their proposed project. Upon acceptance into the program, the following documentation is required:

* W-9 Form
* Independent Contractor Agreement
* Sole Source Form
* New Vendor Individual/Business Application

**Each organization must have 501c3 status to receive and manage their funding.**

The seed grants will be distributed in three installments to allow for upfront funding to be available for project implementation. The following is the tentative installment schedule:

* September 2024: $1250 (post completion of the 3 day workshop and project approval of mentors)
* Late October/early November 2023: $950 (project progress approval by mentors)
* March 2025: $300 (completion of conference presentation)

**Hotel and Meal Accommodations**

We will provide the following for the selected organizations:

3 Day Workshop on UAMS Little Rock Campus:

* Breakfast and Lunch
* Hotel Room(s) (**up to 2 rooms per team for those who live outside of Central Arkansas**)

March Conference

* Roundtrip Travel **(for those who live outside of Central Arkansas)**

**Travel Grants (3 organizations) for Hotel and Mileage\***

We will award up to three travel grants for selected organizations located outside of Pulaski County. We hope this will afford organizations serving more rural populations to participate in this program. Applicants needing a travel grant will be provided with information on how to apply if selected to participate.\*Mileage rate (0.52 cents per mile)

**Application Review and Selection Process**

Each application will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

* + - Potential for program participation to increase organizational capacity to address health disparities
		- Likelihood of program completion
		- Organizational interest in future research partnership
		- Documentation of need
		- Potential to address health disparities
		- Engagement of populations affected
* The UAMS TRI CSE (Community & Stakeholder Engagement) team will review applications received by the deadline for eligibility and completeness. The CE team may contact applicants prior to sending out for review if questions arise.
* Applicants will receive notification of acceptance by July 12th, 2024

**Graduation**

Participants will present their projects during TRI Research Day Conference in March 2025 in Little Rock, AR where they be recognized as graduates of the CPEARL Program.

**Training Location and Schedule**

CPEARL will begin with a virtual orientation the week prior to the three-day in-person workshop on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. The following week, the three-day in-person workshop will take place at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, AR, from Wednesday, June 15 – Friday, June 17, 2022. Following the workshop, mentoring and technical assistance will be available as participants’ projects are implemented and completed. In addition, there will be two virtual check in and content sessions on Wednesday, July 20and Wednesday, August 17, 2022. Time will be allotted for participants to work on their individual projects, to network, and meet with mentors. Please review this list of training dates to make certain that we can expect your full participation should you be selected.

**Dates**

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| Program Topics(See Appendix A for topic descriptions and learning objectives) |
| Health Disparities/Social Determinants of Health |
| Assessing Community Needs/Assets Mapping |
| Research Partnerships/Research Readiness Assessment |
| Evidence Based Decision Making |
| Finding, Using, and Presenting Information from Public Data Sets to Support Your Mission |
| Nuts and Bolts to Survey Development |
| Community Scientist Academy |
| Designing a Solid Budget |
| The Dos and Don’ts of Grant Writing from a Grant Reviewer’s Perspective |

**Virtual Orientation:**

August 27, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. on Zoom

**Three-Day In-Person Workshop**

September 18, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

September 19, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

September 20, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

UAMS Main Campus, Little Rock

**Virtual Sessions and Check Ins**

October 15, 2024, 1:00-2:30

November 12, 2024, 1:00-2:30

**Graduation and Project Presentations**

March 2025

Little Rock, AR

Date and Time to Be Announced

For questions regarding this training program, please contact Dr. Keneshia Bryant-Moore at KJBryant@uams.edu or 501-526-6698

To apply, please complete the attached CPEARL application form and submit according to the application instructions.

1. Preamble to the Constitution of WHO as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19 June - 22 July 1946; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of WHO, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948. The definition has not been amended since 1948. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Whitehead M. 1990. The Concepts and Principles of Equity in Health. Copenhagen: WHO, Reg. Off. Eur. (EUR/ICP/RPD 414 7734r). 29 pp. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)