Funding Opportunity: Advancing Health Disparities Interventions Through Community-Based Participatory Research - Letters of Intent due July 3

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Program announces a new funding opportunity: Advancing Health Disparities Interventions Through Community-Based Participatory Research. The overarching goals of the program are to enhance community capacity in research for which they will directly benefit; support collaborative intervention projects addressing health disparities; and accelerate the translation of findings into improved health and health outcomes.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support promising community interventions using CBPR principles and approaches aimed at reducing and eventually eliminating health disparities. In the health disparities framework, this includes partnership approaches that focus on changing the determinants of health or the community conditions and environments, in which their members are born, mature, play, study, work and age. The research approach may begin with a needs assessment to identify a health-related issue for action, or a community-led proposal on an identified need or issue of importance to the community.

The participatory research process is such that community members, persons affected or impacted, public health and policy professionals, and other key stakeholders in the community’s health have the opportunity to be full participants in each phase of the research (from conception-design-conduct-analysis-interpretation-conclusions-communication of results). CBPR benefits are numerous and include the creation of bridges between the community, scientists and policy professionals to facilitate the bidirectional transfer of knowledge and skills, improved community research literacy and creation of appropriate and effective interventions.

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications for intervention studies using CBPR principles and methods. For the purpose of this FOA, "community" refers to a population that may be defined by geography, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, illness or other health condition, or to groups that have a common health-related interest or cause. Communities must include significant representation of one or more NIH-designated U.S. health disparity populations, which include Blacks/African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, socio-economically disadvantaged populations, and rural populations.

In 2012, NIMHD issued RFA-MD-12-006 to invite applications for a three-year planning grant. The first year of the planning grant was devoted to partnership development, community needs assessment, identifying the disease/condition for intervention research, and planning the intervention methodology with substantial input from the community. During the second and third years, a pilot health intervention study was conducted with community participation. This FOA is open to current NIMHD CBPR planning grantees and their community coalitions, and other applicants poised to implement and evaluate promising broad scale interventions using CBPR methods. The intervention study must take place in the United States or U.S. Territories or Possessions.