



Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI)
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & HEALTH EQUITY

Programs, Resources and Services

[HTTPS://CCTSI.CUANSCHUTZ.EDU/COMMUNITY](https://cctsi.cuanschutz.edu/community)

Community Engagement

The CCTSI is a collaborative enterprise between University of Colorado Denver, University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado State University, six affiliated hospitals and health care organizations, and multiple community organizations with a goal to accelerate the translation of research discoveries into improved patient care and public health. The CCTSI was created in 2008 with funding from the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) initiative of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Partnership of Academicians and Communities for Translation (PACT) is the nexus of the CCTSI Community Engagement and Health Equity (CE&HE) Core, facilitating practice-based and community-based participatory research (CBPR), educating and connecting investigators and communities, developing programs to create and improve relationships and build trust between academicians and communities, and making pilot grant funds available for community engaged research. The PACT encompasses more than 20 Colorado communities, 940 physician practices, 28 hospitals, eight focus communities, nine Community Research Liaisons who are embedded in the focus communities, community engagement pilot grant awardees, faculty and staff participants from the Colorado Immersion Training in Community Engagement (CIT) program, and a group of core staff dedicated to supporting the PACT and Community Engagement. The PACT brings these partnerships into a sustainable and collaborative group for bidirectional exchange, encouraging public trust in the research enterprise while investing in targeted community translational research initiatives.

The PACT is operationalized through relationships and strategies that are imagined, implemented, tested, and deployed through the leadership and governance of the PACT Council. This Council is a balanced governance structure comprised of equal numbers of community and academic experts who have equal influence over decisions. The Council oversees statewide initiatives, functioning very much as a non-profit board of directors.

PACT COUNCIL GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. PACT is guided by agreed upon principles with the ultimate goal of reducing health disparities in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region.**
- 2. Community translation includes bi-directional exchanges of ideas and information through equal research partnerships and mutual respect between communities and researchers.**
- 3. The work of the PACT will build on current health and social science research and best practice.**
- 4. There are new discoveries to be made and best practices to be developed in translation and community based participatory research.**
- 5. The diversity of individuals and of our communities is our strength and should be leveraged to increase health equity and reduce health disparities.**

Mission

The Partnership of Academicians and Communities for Translation (PACT) transforms health research to balance power and responsibility between community, clinicians, and researchers to improve the health of the people of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region.

Overarching Goal

To reduce health disparities in Colorado and the region through targeted investments in community translational research initiatives and dissemination of evidence-based practices.

Specific Aims

All of the CE Core's projects, programs and resources are designed to achieve our mission through addressing the following aims:



Core Competencies

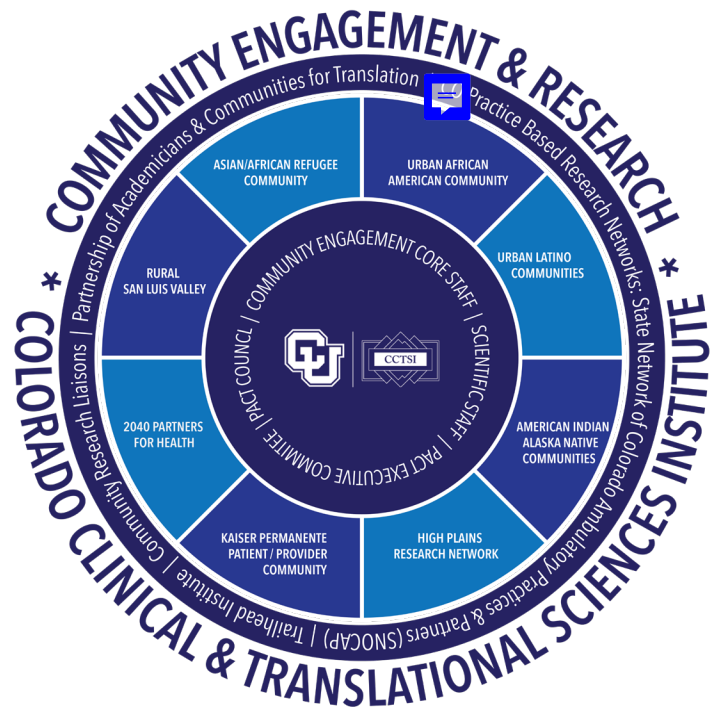
1. **Grow and build trusting relationships:** A commitment to engage and sustain diverse relationships between community and university, aimed at building capacity, for the sake of changing how research gets done and to empower communities to create positive outcomes
2. **Partnership Development:** Supporting relationships between communities and academics to co-develop, co-implement, and co-disseminate translational research to remedy power imbalances and facilitate mutual benefit among all partners
3. **Training, Coaching, and Mentoring:** Identify and respond to community and academic needs related to training and coaching in Community Engagement and Community Based Participatory Research so people gain foundational skills, apply/use relevant practices, and have ongoing and responsive support throughout the research and engagement process. We are continuous learners, expanding our own capacity in existing and emerging areas of health research

Partners and Programs

PARTNERS

Community Research Liaisons

As part of the CE&HE Core, the PACT Council directs resources to a team of Community Research Liaisons (CRLs) working in diverse urban and rural communities throughout the state. The liaisons build bridges between health research, clinical practice and community health initiatives while educating others about the purpose and value of equitable and participatory research partnerships. Liaisons live and/or work in the communities they serve and have an insider's understanding of their community's assets and challenges. Ultimately, the nature of their work stems from the community's needs. CRLs act as "guardians" in their respective communities (and/or allies in other communities) where they strive to establish and maintain the trust with communities by advancing community relevant and mutually beneficial research partnerships and discouraging research that neglects the community's best interests. There is considerable trust between a liaison and his/her community, which allows access to local residents and leaders on a more meaningful level.



CRLs comprise a critical workforce for the PACT and the communities they represent and, as such, are an extension of the PACT. As a group, the CRLs' work spans a range of activities. Activities may change over time and include PACT-directed activities, staff activities, community activities, and activities CRLs may do specifically for their home or affiliated organization. CRLs maintain ongoing relationships and relevant contact with organizations and entities that may benefit from or may be a benefit to CE&HE activities. Activities may change from time to time to accommodate requirements of grants and other sponsored projects. Not all CRLs must participate in every program or activity.

Funding for the CRL position is provided by the CCTSI, approved through the PACT and administered by Community Engagement and Health Equity Staff in partnership with the Trailhead Institute. There are four categories of CRLs:

1. University/Community-based: These liaisons are employed by the University but housed within a community organization. They are also seen in community as guardians or community representatives.
2. University-based: Employed by the University (though not necessarily housed at the University) and heavily involved in their respective communities. University-based liaisons are paid through the University.
3. Community-based: Community-based Liaisons are paid through Trailhead. Funding for Community-based CRLs is paid to the CRLs' home organization or directly to the CRL if he/she operates as an independent contractor.
4. Affiliate-based: Affiliate-based Liaisons are employed by organizations that are subcontracted under the University's Main CCTSI grant. They are paid through their home organization.

Trailhead Institute

While academic-community partnerships offer new opportunities for generating and exchanging knowledge and performing research, they also raise new social, ethical and administrative challenges. The CE&HE Program has developed a unique solution to these obstacles, involving an innovative partnership with the Trailhead Institute. We have established administrative systems that allow meaningful community representation and participation in the research enterprise while eliminating the previously perceived “red tape” that often accompanies contractual relationships in an institutional bureaucracy such as the University. Trailhead serves as an administrative liaison between the University and Community to create efficiencies in the distribution of funding and other resources to community-based partners and to improve responsiveness to community administrative needs.

The State Networks of Colorado Ambulatory Practices & Partners (SNOCAP)

SNOCAP is an umbrella network of Practice Based Research Networks (PBRNs) affiliated with the University of Colorado Denver. The Adult and Child Center for Research on Delivery Systems (ACCORDS) and the Department of Family Medicine provide central support for the consortium. SNOCAP member networks are housed within the Department of Family Medicine and the Division of General Pediatrics. SNOCAP member networks collaborate on projects and studies, share resources, and jointly sponsor an annual meeting of member practices and clinicians. SNOCAP works closely with practices across the state to develop and answer research questions that are relevant to primary care clinicians in the communities across the entire state.

PROGRAMS

Colorado Immersion Training in Community Engagement

Frequency: Annual, one cohort per track

Description: The Community Immersion Training (CIT) is a unique community-campus educational initiative that aims to introduce an expanded pool of researchers to community-based participatory research (CBPR) and community engagement. CIT supports a change in the research trajectory of academic health researchers, program developers, and graduate students towards community engagement. The program occurs on campus and in six community settings: urban African American, urban Asian Refugee, urban Latino, urban American Indian/Alaska Native, rural northeast Colorado, and rural San Luis Valley. Components include a four-week Directed Reading, Seminar on CBPR, five-day immersion experience in the target community, structured mentoring, and follow-up.

Pilot Grant Program: Improving Research Through Community-Academic Partnerships

Frequency: Two cohorts per year (one partnership development; one joint pilot)

Description: One of the CE&HE Core’s key functions is to build capacity in community-academic partnerships in order to transform the existing community research infrastructure using community-based participatory research (CBPR) principles to translate established efficacy into effective implementation at the community or clinic level. The CE&HE Core Pilot Grant Program is intended to support community-academic partnerships to perform pilot studies that will strengthen relationships and produce preliminary data for future competitive grant applications. Funded projects encompass partnership development, project planning, capacity building (i.e., data collection and management, recruitment and outreach, etc.) as well as implementation of research projects within specified areas of emphasis (cardiovascular disease, childhood chronic conditions, social emotional health). The development of innovative interventions or the adaptation and implementation of existing advances within the community setting is the expected long-term outcome.

Technical Assistance and Coaching for Pilot Awardees

Let’s Get Started and Let’s Keep it Going Trainings: Introduction to Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) is designed for new or emerging community-academic research partnerships and provides an overview of CEnR principles and methods. This training is required for all CCTSI CE pilot grantees and is intended to provide a common frame of reference for their research

partnership. Following the training, grantees receive an additional four hours of one-on-one coaching from a Community Research Liaison or other community engagement experts.

Community Engagement Consults

Frequency: Ongoing, continuous

Description: Consultation services for academic researchers and study team members regarding ethical issues that arise in preparation for and/or in the process of doing research with and in community. Community Engagement Consults are intended to supplement the traditional Institutional Review Board approval process, especially when concerns regarding working in partnership with communities arise.

There are three types of consultation services offered through the CCTSI Community Consults Committee:

1. Consultation regarding a Plan for Community Consultation, as required by the COMIRB Policies and Procedures for the Protection of Human Subjects section 22.7.3.2 – Documents for Approval of the Emergency Research Exception from Informed Consent. This policy states that “Before the community engagement plan is submitted to the IRB for review and approval it must first be reviewed and approved by the UCD Community Advisory Committee [the CCTSI Community Consult and Ethics Committee] which is a subcommittee of the PACT Council for the CCTSI.”
2. Community Engagement Consult with the CCEC and relevant community and/or academic experts.
3. Individual consultations on community engagement in research activities with members of the PACT Council, CE&HE Staff and/or Community Research Liaisons.

Community Clinical Trials Advisory Board

Frequency: Ongoing, continuous

Description: The Community Clinical Trials Advisory Board was created as part of the Colorado Community Engagement Alliance Against Health Disparities (CO-CEAL) project to establish linkages between our CCTSI-CEHE infrastructure and clinical trials teams to ensure responsiveness to community concerns and needs. The Board meets monthly and consults with clinical trials PI’s and study teams while they are in preparatory phases of proposing and/or launching their trials. The Board provides input on modifying recruitment materials, how to engage the communities and provides ongoing support to assist with implementation of the advice of the Board.

Research Readiness

Frequency: Ongoing, under development

Description: The CE&HE Core, over the last decade has developed a series of trainings, educational activities and funding opportunities to build capacity in community-academic research partnerships. These trainings are now being combined into a comprehensive “Research Readiness” training program to equip CBOs with the knowledge and tools to design their own organizational strategies and policies related to research and to effectively and equitably partner with researchers in all phases of the research process. In the spring of 2018, the CE&HE Core completed more than 20 key informant interviews with academic investigators and CBOs to assess the need and potential value of formal “Research Readiness” training for CBOs. The interviews revealed that academic researchers are enthusiastic about the possibility of being able to access a network of formally trained CBOs that are ready and willing to partner on research projects. CBOs expressed a desire to establish a more strategic, intentional and informed approach to participating as full partners, or even as leaders, in research efforts that align with their organizational priorities, as opposed to participating in one-off projects in which they are primarily engaged in data collection or participant recruitment, but excluded from the rest of the research process. Research Readiness for CBOs goes beyond research fundamentals. It also encompasses the principals of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), partnership development, trust, equity, data use and ownership, and the development of organizational plans, policies and procedures to guide strategic research efforts. Development and formalization of the Research Readiness program is ongoing.

Community Engagement Forum

Frequency: Quarterly

Description: The CE&HE Core develops education and training programs for multiple different audiences. The CCTSI Community Engagement and Health Equity Core and the ACCORDS Education Program are partnering to offer a forum for investigators and study teams conducting community/stakeholder-engaged research. The Community Engagement Forum runs quarterly and includes brief seminars from leading engagement scholars and community research partners. Additionally, this serves as a learning community for sharing best practices and lessons learned. The forum is geared towards supporting investigators and study teams throughout design, conduct and dissemination of engaged research. Each forum is recorded and posted on our website under the Community Engagement and Health Equity Services section.

Education and Training

Frequency: Ongoing, as needed

Description: The CE&HE core designs and implements tailored training activities for various conferences and community or academic partners by request.

Research Exchange and Networking Forum

Frequency: Annual

Description: The annual Research Exchange and Networking Forum is an event, hosted in either a community or academic setting, which is designed to: share information about flourishing partnerships between community-based organizations and academic researchers from across the state; provide a platform to learn about programs designed to improve relationships and build trust between academicians and communities and how you can get involved; and showcase work in translational and community-engaged research through a poster session.

Special Projects

Frequency: Variable, based on grant funding

Description: The CE&HE Core may participate in various grant-funded projects throughout the year. Special projects may occur in partnership with other academic or community organizations and must be aligned with the mission of the PACT.

Current special projects include:

- Colorado Community Engagement Alliance Against Health Disparities (CO-CEAL)
- REACH OUT
- Older Adult Research Specialist Program
- Enabling Caring Communities
- Engage for Equity
- Boot Camp Translation Facilitator Training
- iHeard