

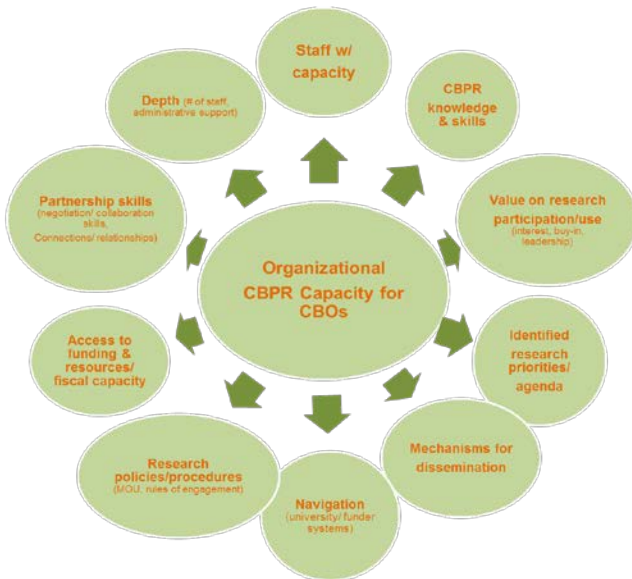
Building Community Research Capacity in Chicago: Community-Based Organizations Peer Mentoring on CBPR

This is a capacity-building peer mentoring program of the Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC). Based in Northwestern University's Center for Community Health, ARCC is guided by a diverse steering committee of community- and faith-based organizations, public agencies, Northwestern faculty.

- Two phases funded by Chicago Community Trust: \$450,000 over 36 months (2009-10 & 2011-12)
- 1st phase built CBPR capacity of 11 CBOs on ARCC Steering Committee, individually and within their organizations
- 2nd phase synthesized lessons learned and tools and mentored new cohort of 6 CBOs
- All funding to participating CBOs (no \$ to Northwestern). Each CBO supported for time and involvement. Led by CBOs with support from Northwestern faculty & staff.



Elements of Organizational CBPR Capacity



Challenges included fiscal challenges/economic conditions, competing interests/limited time, staff turnover/new partners, diversity of engaged CBOs.

Next steps

- Continued peer networking & support among CBOs (3 from 2nd phase joined ARCC steering committee)
- Piloted 3-session program summer 2013 with 5 new CBOs focused on considering and assessing CBO research purpose/use/value
- Online resource directory with tools & templates in final stages of development
- Submitted NIH R21 proposal to refine and test the developed evaluation tool
- Next evaluation being conducted November 2013

Successful ways CBOs Built Capacity in their Agencies

- Educational sessions for CBO staff or coalition partners
- Conducting small CBPR projects
- Developing CBO research agenda/priorities
- Developing research committees & tools
- Building negotiating skills
- Identifying or creating staff positions with dedicated research duties
- Incorporating research into CBO strategic plans

Evaluation showed all CBOs increased their capacity during project

Developed skills and confidence

- Developing/presenting posters/oral nationally
- Framing how research fits in CBO programs
- Understanding of local/national resources

Increased support of CBOs existing & new infrastructure

- Engaged more than 1 person at CBO, including leaders
- Engaged partner organizations
- Adopted research policies/ inquiry screening tool
- Hired student assistant to focus on research

Other outcomes

- Built connections among CBOs conducting/interested in research
- All but 2 CBOs developed partnerships with faculty
- Over 70% received ARCC seed grants to develop or conduct CBPR research projects
- Published article/podcast in *Progress in Community Health Partnerships*