

## What is CURES?

- CURES stands for Community-University Research Partnership Award. One of four pilot funding mechanisms within the Univ. of Michigan's (UM) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) – Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHR)  
Purpose is to support one-year pilot community-engaged research projects with funding up to \$25,000
- Applications must be submitted on behalf of at least two investigators; an academic partner representing a school/department at UM and a community partner representing a community-based organization in one of several focal communities:



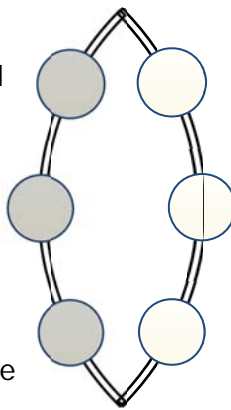
- The goals of CURES projects are to:

### Pilot Grant Program

Lead to external funding through federal government and foundations

Assist early career investigators by providing support to enable a translational and clinical research path

Support clinicians and basic science researchers to pursue innovative questions & translate research to practice



### Community Engagement Program

Build capacity of communities and UM faculty to engage in research partnerships

Enhance networks and infrastructure for research that engages the community in all phases of research

Combine the knowledge, wisdom, and experience in communities and UM to make a positive impact on local health

- Examples of funded pilot project topics:
  - Patient-empowerment programs for people with chronic kidney disease
  - Integrating traditional healing and behavioral health for urban American Indians
  - Technology-enhanced social network intervention to promote HIV testing for MSM
  - Understanding the impact of urban gardening in reducing food insecurity
  - Peer-led lifestyle intervention for African Americans in a church-based setting

## What is the review process for applications and who reviews?

- CURES applications are reviewed by two groups:

### Scientific Review Committee

- Faculty representing schools across UM
- Reviews for technical and scientific merit
- Emphasizes academic knowledge and expertise

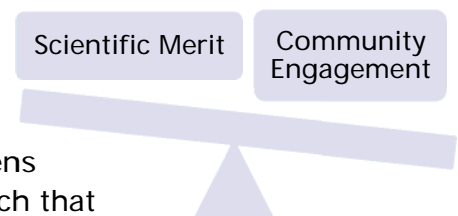


### Community Engagement Coordinating Council

- CE program faculty and community partners representing diverse focal communities
- Reviews for quality of community engagement
- Emphasizes community partner knowledge, experience, expertise



- Both groups use review procedures that are similar to National Institutes of Health:
  - Applications are assigned primary and secondary reviewers
  - Reviewers provide preliminary scores and critiques; the entire CECC participates in preliminary scoring
  - The CECC scores applications by assessing the extent of community involvement and engagement in all aspects of the research
  - A review meeting is held where assigned reviewers present critiques and engage in discussion with the larger committee; community facilitators moderate the CECC review meeting
- Examples of CECC review criteria questions and considerations:
  - **Significance:** Does the application clearly show that the research topic is a health priority to the community partner and community of focus?
  - **Community Benefit:** Does the project benefit the community directly, for example, by hiring and training local people to conduct the research activities?
  - **Budget:** Is the budget distributed fairly and equitably between community and academic investigators?
- Final CECC scores are used to determine which applications receive priority for funding. Applications must also receive scientifically meritorious scores; in the event that SRC and CECC scores conflict, scientific issues must be addressed by applicants, however the CECC makes the final funding decision.
- The CECC's involvement in CURES grant review strengthens community voice and decision-making in funding research that addresses community-identified health priorities.



For more information about MICHR's CE program, visit: [www.michr.umich.edu/community/](http://www.michr.umich.edu/community/)  
For more information about CURES, visit: <http://www.michr.umich.edu/funding/pilotgrant>