

Intramural Funding and Extramural Funding Resources to support Community-Engaged Research at VCU



Within the academy and across VCU there is growing recognition that community-engaged research (CEnR) is a valuable framework that enables researchers to conduct research and produce results that benefit our communities. In support of promoting high-quality, high-impact CEnR, VCU offers intramural funding to encourage and advance research that involves stakeholders in the design and conduct of the research process. The following examples highlight the breadth of opportunities that specifically mention community engagement as a priority area. This list does not include the many funding opportunities offered through VCU's individual academic units. Resources in support of seeking extramural funding are also included.

VCU's official definition states that CEnR is:

“A collaborative process between the researcher and community partner that creates and disseminates knowledge and creative expression with the goal of contributing to the discipline and strengthening the well-being of the community. CEnR identifies the assets of all stakeholders and incorporates them in the design and conduct of the different phases of the research process.”

Intramural Faculty/Staff Funding for CEnR

Council for Community Engagement Grants – Awarded annually

With support from the Offices of the Provost and the Vice President for Health Sciences, the Council for Community Engagement (CCE) provides one-year seed grants up to \$20,000 to support interdisciplinary projects that will enhance and increase university engagement with the greater Richmond community and will contribute to the research and teaching within VCU units. <http://www.community.vcu.edu/council-for-community-engagement/community-engagement-grants>.

Council for Community Engagement Extension Grant Program – Awarded annually

In addition to the CCE grants described above, the CCE Extension Grant program is intended to develop community-engaged scholarship (CES) based upon the activities of the projects funded by the CCE grants discussed above. The project's PI or other key full-time faculty or staff members who were involved in the project can submit a proposal for up to the maximum amount of \$5,000 to further sustain efforts begun through CCE grants. <http://www.community.vcu.edu/council-for-community-engagement/community-engagement-grants/extension-grants/>.

Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR) Endowment Fund – Awarded annually

This funding from CCTR supports meritorious pilot and feasibility research. Under this mechanism, VCU faculty may apply for money to support clinical and translational research, including CEnR that enhances the adoption of best practices in the community. Individual investigators and small groups of investigators may apply for up to \$50,000 for their research. Interdisciplinary research teams may apply for up to \$130,000 to support research that involves collaborators from at least two different VCU schools. <http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/community/funding.html>.

Quest Innovation Fund – Awarded annually

This is a pool of funds designed to support innovative pilot initiatives that help us realize our strategic plan, *Quest for Distinction*. *The Quest* articulates a vision for VCU as a premier urban, public research institute focused on student success, innovative research, human health and community impact. Much like a venture capital fund, this fund seeks to provide seed funding for disruptively innovative ideas that will create a service, program or initiative that will improve what we are doing in a creative and unique manner. <http://www.quest.vcu.edu/innovation/>.

Support for Connecting to Extramural Funding for CEnR

COS PIVOT Database Access

VCU secures access to the proprietary COS PIVOT system through ProQuest, LLC. Pivot combines the most comprehensive, editorially maintained database of funding opportunities worth an estimated \$33 billion with a unique database of 3 million pre-populated scholar profiles. Its algorithm compiles pre-populated researcher profiles unique to VCU, and others, and matches them to current funding opportunities in the database. This allows users to search for a funding opportunity and instantly view matching faculty from inside or outside VCU. Conversely, a search for a scholar will link to matching funding opportunities. You can [create a Pivot account](#) here in order to manage your searches. To view the PIVOT system and web tutorials visit <https://pivot.desk.com/>.

Research Consultations and Web Tools

To support those interested in seeking extramural funding across all forms of research, the Office of Research provides web tools that connect the VCU community to various databases that hold information about potential funders, such as the PIVOT system, Grants.gov, and the Foundation Directory Online. They also offer individual consultations that can be tailored for identifying community-engagement funding opportunities.

<http://www.community.vcu.edu/research/funding/>.

Research Funding Development Training Workshops

The VCU Office of Research offers a variety of live educational workshops for faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars and graduate students to aid in the development of competitive proposals for external funding and to successfully manage awards. The Office of Research can also provide customized training to your unit in addressing specific areas. To request a workshop, visit: http://www.research.vcu.edu/research_development/training.htm.

Intramural Funding and Supports for Extramural funding for Student Initiated CEnR

UROP Fellowships for Summer 2014 – deadline for applications occurred March 1st, 2014

For the summer of 2014 the Division of Community Engagement and the Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR) will fund three undergraduate community-engaged research and one translational fellowship awards for research projects mentored by VCU faculty and carried out in collaboration with a community partner. Proposals for this fellowship should include a community-engaged research project that creates and disseminates knowledge or creative expression with the goal of contributing to the discipline and strengthening the well-being of the community. At least one of these fellowships will be awarded to a project that focuses on the advancement of human health. Each fellowship award includes \$1500 in funding for the student and \$500 for the faculty mentor. Similar to the VCU UROP Summer Fellowship, student applicants should establish a partnership with their faculty mentor before applying. http://www.research.vcu.edu/vpr/ugresources/ce_ctr_fellowship.htm.

Finding Extramural Funding for Graduate Research Web Tools

VCU Libraries maintains a webpage designed to support Graduate students in locating funding for research. This interface compiles information about proposal writing and VCU research resources, as well as information about how to connect to the PIVOT system to identify potential funding sources for graduate work.

<http://guides.library.vcu.edu/graduate-grants>.

For more information about CEnR at VCU:

Division of Community Engagement

www.community.vcu.edu

Center for Clinical and Translational Research

www.cctr.vcu.edu

