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:

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<tr>
<th>Scientific Review Committee</th>
<th>Community Engagement Coordinating Council</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Faculty representing schools across UM</td>
<td>- CE program faculty and community partners representing diverse focal communities</td>
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<td>- Reviews for technical and scientific merit</td>
<td>- Reviews for quality of community engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Emphasizes academic knowledge and expertise</td>
<td>- Emphasizes community partner knowledge, experience, expertise</td>
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- 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](http://www.michr.umich.edu/funding/pilotgrant)