



## 2024 Community-Driven Ensemble Award for Identification of Unmet Community Health Needs and Development of Solutions (RFA Reference No. = CommEnsemble-001)

Four Possible Awards, \$50,000 each

### Overview

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin (CTSI) consists of eight partner institutions, which include [Froedtert Hospital](#), [Medical College of Wisconsin](#), [Children’s Wisconsin](#), [Versiti Blood Center](#), [University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee](#), [Marquette University](#), [Milwaukee School of Engineering](#), and [Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center](#). Together, we are pleased to announce the first Community-Driven, Community-Focused Ensemble Award.

The Community-Driven Ensembles will be the driver to (1) identify unmet community health needs in Milwaukee and surrounding communities and (2) work closely and collaboratively with researchers to develop community-informed, community-focused solutions through translational science research and discovery.

### Ensemble Concept and Process

The Community-Driven Ensemble is defined as a team that will identify unmet community health needs and work in collaboration with academic experts towards solutions. These teams bring together individuals with different experiences, perspectives, and skills, to solve such unmet needs. Furthermore, the Ensembles represent community members, stakeholders, representatives and leaders who come together to develop a shared vision and strategies towards solutions. Teams will work together using the principles of Team Science, including coequality of members, shared understanding of team goals, trust, active listening, self-awareness, and common vocabulary.

### How to Apply

Teams can form around one of the following four areas of community health interest: **(1) oral health; (2) obesity and its complications, including cardiovascular and liver disease, impact of high cholesterol; (3) pediatric mental health; or (4) women’s health, including urinary or fecal incontinence.** The applicant team will submit a one-page description of the unmet health need(s), why it is important, barriers, contributing factors, and the relevance to health inequities/health disparities. The one-page description should include the team member information and affiliations. It should be emailed to Braxton Keil ([bkeil@mcw.edu](mailto:bkeil@mcw.edu)) **by April 1, 2024**; and will be reviewed by an Ensemble Committee as the next step. One Ensemble will be approved for each of the 4 community health focuses (i.e., total of 4 Ensembles will be awarded).

### Funding Overview

The CTSI will approve **four** Ensemble teams, by selecting the best One-Page Summary submitted for each of the four areas of community health interest. The approved teams will receive a \$50,000 line of credit. After funding, the CTSI will recruit clinicians and other research investigators to work collaboratively with the Community-Driven Ensembles to identify community health problems and develop innovative health solutions through translational science research and discovery.

### Eligibility

Any community stakeholder is eligible to participate on an Ensemble research team.

### Team Members

It’s important to remember that innovative solutions often require the participation of novel team members. Therefore, any community stakeholder, expertise, or background is welcome on teams, and inclusion should be based on the health

focus of the team. The size of the team depends on the scope of the health focus, but based on experience, 8-12 team members is recommended.

### **Funded Ensembles**

Up to four Community-Driven Ensembles will receive a \$50,000 line of credit and the support of the CTSI Community Engagement Program. A dedicated CTSI Project Manager will be assigned to help teams stay on track and document progress to goal accomplishment.

This line of credit includes stipends or payments that will be paid to Community-Driven Ensemble team members for participation (in-person) in team meetings (per hour). Team meetings are typically held every other week in the beginning of the project, and then decrease to monthly meetings, depending on the needs of the project.

Pre-Approval of Expenditures: The line of credit is available for supplies, stipends, services, or other items that directly support the goals of the Community-Driven Ensemble. All requested items require pre-approval and will be purchased by CTSI on behalf of the Ensemble.

### **Additional Resources**

The CTSI offers a broad collection of services that can help with Ensembles implement a solution, including expertise in community engagement, health education, event promotion, advocacy, and research services.

### **Important Dates**

- Announcement of RFA
- April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – Deadline for One-Page Summary (RFA Reference No. = CommEnsemble-001)
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 – CTSI determination of approved Ensembles
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – Approved Ensemble teams are notified
- April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Begin adding clinical researchers to approved Ensembles
- April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Begin projects: (1) Identify community health problems and barriers to community; (2) Identify community resources and partners; (3) Develop potential solutions; and (4) begin health improvement solutions and test the effectiveness of these in the community.

### **Important Contact Information**

- For all questions on this funding opportunity, contact Braxton Keil – CTSI Ensemble Project Coordinator ([bkeil@mcw.edu](mailto:bkeil@mcw.edu)) and Tanya Aigner – CTSI Community Engagement Project Manager ([taigner@mcw.edu](mailto:taigner@mcw.edu)).

### **CTSI Background Resources**

- Community Focus at CTSI: [www.mcw.edu/community](http://www.mcw.edu/community)
- Ensemble Program at CTSI: <https://ctsi.mcw.edu/home/team-science-ensembles/>

### **Team Science Information**

- From community engagement to community-engaged research, to broadly engaged team science <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6798217/pdf/S205986611700012a.pdf>