



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY**  
**Clinical and Translational  
Science Collaborative**

**CTSC Mentoring Program for Community Engaged Researchers**

*Purpose*

Mentoring is a key component to the successful development of all academic investigators. While there are numerous mentorship and professional development programs abound across the many institutions in Northeast Ohio, none focus exclusively on the challenges associated with community engaged research such as fostering extensive and mutually beneficial partnerships with community members and community-serving organizations. Additionally, pilot grant funding initiatives are more likely to benefit awardees when additional supports such as mentorship are included with the funding. Building on successes of the Center for Health Equity, Engagement, Education and Research's (CHEEER) community engaged research pilot grant program, Community-Based Research Network, and over 20 years of research mentorship, this program will work with early-stage investigators (ESI) and/or those new to community engaged research to amplify their skills in conducting this important research. This program will meaningfully increase the number of proficient investigators in this important and growing sector of translational science. This program will align with a National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) CTSA national initiative, *CTSA Community of Practice -- Advancing the Science of Mentorship*. We will collaborate and pull from the resources and models being developed nationally to pilot and build a more evidence based and impactful research mentoring network.

*Program Description*

Mentees will be matched with a mentor based on aligned interests, career goals, and personality traits. The program will begin with a mentor/mentee orientation in September to outline expectations and facilitate the first in person interaction of the cohort. Mentees and mentors will be expected to **meet at least monthly** to discuss project progress, future plans, challenges, and approaches to resolve the challenges. Mentees will be assigned to small groups with other mentees to **meet every other month** to discuss common challenges and potential solutions. At mid-academic year, mentees and mentors will convene to discuss projects with one another and brainstorm successful strategies to improve the mentored relationships. An invited speaker will discuss additional approaches to mentoring. Mentees will attend monthly Community Based Research Network(CBRN) meetings to learn about community engaged projects planned or currently underway and to share their project ideas for feedback from a diverse group of community partners. The program will conclude in June with a mentee graduation and recognition of the mentors.

*Eligibility & Benefits*

Mentees:

- Must be a post-doctoral scholar, fellow, faculty member, or research scientist at a CTSC-affiliated institution (CWRU, Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, NEOMED,



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University of Toledo, University Hospitals, and/or VA) with interest in leading community-engaged research.

- Must be interested and willing to participate in the outlined activities and grow as a community engaged researcher
- Will receive individual and team-based mentorship around community engaged research
- Will become part of a community of practice invested in nurturing authentic partnerships with community members to create more impactful research
- Will receive career development tools and resources

### Mentors:

- Mentors must be an investigator at a CTSC-affiliated site (CWRU, Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, NEOMED, University of Toledo, University Hospitals, and/or VA) with experience as a Principal Investigator (PI) or Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) leading peer-reviewed projects funded by the NIH, HRSA, DOD, other federal or major national research foundations (e.g., American Heart Association, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or American Cancer Society).
- Must be interested and willing to participate in all activities, to help mentee to grow and develop as a community engaged researcher
  - *Estimated time commitment is 1-2 hours per month*
- Option to receive formal mentorship coaching
- Provided resources from national CTSA around effective mentoring
- Will help lay the foundation for the next generation of community engaged researchers

### Key Dates

Application Deadline: **September 4, 2026**

Mentorship Pairings: **Week of September 7, 2026**

Orientation: **September 30, 2026 at the MidTown Collaboration Center**

Mid Program Summit: **January/February 2027**

Graduation: **June 2027**

**\*\*Mentees and mentors will be chosen based on capacity and interest.**

### Links to Application for Mentees:

<https://redcap.case.edu/surveys/?s=DRHMYMAKCRX3HYXY>

### Link to Application for Mentors:

<https://redcap.case.edu/surveys/?s=XNL9C9KD8ACHPWA9>