Background

A central aim of the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Grant Writing Series: Six Initiative (EBBI) (The Children's Fuel Your Health Through Movement CDU / UCLA is to strengthen community infrastructure for sustainable, partnered research. Many of our community partner organizations identified the need for grant writing support as a barrier to engaging in partnered translational research. To address this barrier, EBBI collaborated with longstanding community partners from Assist Non-Profit Management Consulting, LLC, to modify their grant writing workshop to provide advice and support for translational research projects co-led by community partners and academic investigators. We developed the Community Academic Grant Writing Series, a no-cost, 12-week workshop designed to:

- Strengthen community and academic infrastructure for partnered research
- Develop new community-academic partnerships, and
- Help community-academic partnerships conduct sustainable translational research

Objectives

1. Identify teams of community partners and investigators who were prepared to write a partnered proposal
2. Introduce community-academic grant writing teams to diverse sources of funding and standard grantmanship language
3. Help the community-academic grant writing teams prepare or revise a funded proposal
4. Help teams demonstrate evidence of partnership in their proposals

Methods

Eligibility:
- Community-academic partnered teams consisted of 2 to 4 people with at least 2 representatives from the partnering community organization
- Priority was given to community organizations and community-academic partnership projects
- Community organization had to have a 501(c)(3)
- Applicants submitted a letter of intent (LOI):
  1. A description of their potential proposal for federal or private foundation funding
  2. Information regarding targeted Request for Funding Announcement (RFA)
  3. Address at least one of the CERP aims

Review criteria:
- Clearly defined project proposal
- Demonstrated intention of including at least one community partner and one academic investigator
- Addressed at least one of CERP aims

Evaluation:
- At the end of each section, feedback was collected to evaluate series goals
- At completion of the 12-week series, we asked teams to report the number of proposals submitted, the proposal topic, and awarded

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Results

Background

Table 1. 12-Week Grant Writing Series: Six Month Follow-up Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Writing Series</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everyday Bright Beginning Initiative (EBBI) (The Children’s Clinic)</td>
<td>Everychild Foundation</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Visitation Program (The Children’s Clinic)</td>
<td>First 5 LA (LA County)</td>
<td>$270,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhancing Communities Award (The Children’s Clinic)</td>
<td>Direct Relief Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>WorkABLE: Steps to a Better Quality of Life (LA County DPH/Wang)</td>
<td>LA County Quality and Productivity Commission</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving System-Wide Asthma Management Practices (LA County DPH)</td>
<td>LA County Quality and Productivity Commission</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness Rx/Patient Navigator Program (UMMA Clinic/Bharati)</td>
<td>UniHealth Foundation</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,870,000</td>
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</table>

Results (cont’d)

Figure 3. 12-Week Grant Writing Series: Self-Assessment at Module Completion

| Module 1 | 93% | Module 2 | 87% | Module 3 | 84% | Module 4 | 60% |

What We Learned & Next Steps

Conclusions:
- Guided collaboration on a grant proposal may help community academic partnerships build infrastructure for specific projects. Additional monitoring is needed to determine if participation in this workshop increases the likelihood of future partnered research.
- The introductory session helped individuals and teams determine readiness to partner on a proposal.
- The early evidence suggests that the intensive grant writing series enhanced infrastructure (both community and academic) partner self-efficacy and funding

Next Steps:
- Feedback from participants will contribute to modifications in the form and content of the workshops:
  1. We will offer distinct, shorter (e.g. 4 weeks) NIH or foundation grant writing tracks
  2. We will provide separate sessions for novice and more experienced writers
- Identify sources of extramural funding for the next iteration of the course
- Identify strategies to offer the grant writing series on a larger scale (e.g. webinars alone or alongside shorter sessions)