

NCC

National Community Committee

Healthier Communities Together



FAST FACTS

The National Community Committee (NCC) connects the interests of community residents with the experience of academic researchers to help guide the Prevention Research Centers Program. Together, these partners develop disease prevention and health promotion strategies for Americans from all walks of life. The relationship starts with trust.

ABOUT THE PRC PROGRAM AND THE NCC

The Prevention Research Centers (PRC) Program is a network of academic research centers, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program brings together researchers, staff from state and local health departments, and representatives of underserved communities to conduct research on the best ways to fight disease and promote wellness according to priorities determined by each community-PRC partnership. At a PRC Program meeting in 1999, community representatives worked with CDC leaders and PRC directors to set a course for community contribution on both local and national levels. This dialogue led to the creation of the National Community Committee (NCC) and enabled community members to make recommendations on standards, policies, collaborative research, and other network activities of the PRC Program. The NCC joined six established committees, whose members represent the academic centers and the CDC, and broadened the guidance provided to the program. Today, the NCC has representatives from every center and serves as a resource on community participation in research. The committee ensures that community members understand the scientific approach that PRC researchers use, and helps PRC researchers incorporate the community's needs and knowledge into research projects.



Did you know?

The NCC performs the following essential functions:

- Facilitates education, training, and resource-sharing to encourage and enhance community members' participation in research.
- Provides technical assistance to help communities adopt prevention strategies.
- Translates new health findings into knowledge that people can use to make healthy decisions every day.
- Advocates for health policies at all levels of government.

"We train community members in community-based participatory research methods. This training helps them understand scientific jargon and prepares them to communicate with researchers."

— Beth Baker, Co-Director, Prevention Research Center in St. Louis



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

- Every PRC designates one community member to serve for two years as a representative to the NCC.
- Members relay information between the NCC and their PRC's local community committee, discuss issues that arise in their PRC and community partnership, solicit advice, and ask the committee to address concerns with the PRC Program.
- A leadership team, selected by NCC members, provides oversight and guidance, deliberates on identified issues, provides recommendations, and makes decisions on behalf of the overall committee.
- Leaders serve for up to four years to ensure continuity.
- Members also serve on four committees: policy, procedure and operations; fund development; communications; and content.
- The committee is divided into six regions, each with its own director who helps address concerns and plans NCC activities.

“Our members have learned how to communicate effectively by matching the right effort with the right audience: we work with scientists to set research priorities, with policy makers to increase awareness of our public health contribution, and with members of the media to generate interest in prevention research.”

—Antonio Tovar, NCC Chair

NCC IN ACTION

In 2008, the NCC made a series of recommendations for improving the practice of community-based participatory research (CBPR). As a result, the PRC program took additional steps to ensure communities' priorities were represented in research activities. New expectations were set for consulting community representatives to ensure that health promotion strategies are sustainable, relevant, and culturally appropriate. The PRC program also began providing logistical and financial support for an annual NCC planning meeting and a wide range of knowledge and skill-building activities for the committee's members. This support increased NCC's ability to strengthen the practice of CBPR and led to the committee's involvement in prevention research initiatives beyond the PRC program.

The NCC represents communities in national conversations about public health genomics research and policy. In 2006, NCC members attended the Genetics Equity Network meeting in Washington, D.C., to provide input on a Senate genomics bill. Then in 2007, funded by a grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute, the NCC teamed with the Michigan Center for Public Health and Community Genomics (MCPHCG) to hold community genomics education forums in five Midwest states. Between 60 and 200 people participated in each state. In September 2010, NCC and MCPHCG hosted a two-day kick-off meeting of the national GenoCommunity Think Tank, made up of state and local public health professionals, academics, and community representatives. The participants discussed how to promote community engagement, education, and policy development in genomics and health.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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