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Allen County READI Proposal

Project or Program Contact Information

Project/Program Name	University of Saint Francis Center for Integrated Public Health Education and Research
Project/Program Contact	Jessica Buttes
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Relationship to Project/Program	Director of Foundation Relations

Project or Program Location

Address	2701 Spring St. Fort Wayne, IN 46808
County	Allen

Project or Program Details

What type of project/program?	Both
What is the duration of the project/program?	Four years
Is this a hybrid project and program?	No
Select project/program focus areas. (You can select multiple)	Grow the Workforce Downtown Vibrancy

Share a description of the project/program.

The University of Saint Francis proposes to create the Center for Integrated Public Health Education and Research (CIPHER). Housed at our campus in downtown Fort Wayne, the CIPHER would allow USF to expand its position as the premier destination for health science education while providing a centralized location for public health research, education, promotion, and initiatives in the greater Fort Wayne community and across Northern Indiana.

Because improving the State of Indiana's health is a task that transcends any one sector's ability, CIPHER will be a neutral site for decision-makers to come together, allowing for cross-sector collaboration and the ability to quickly act on pressing public health issues. As a leader in public health research and education in the State of Indiana and beyond, CIPHER will be an incubator for new ideas and strategies to address our State's public health crisis by:

- * Enhancing the educational mission of the institution and promoting regional workforce development by delivering integrated curriculum in public health, healthcare delivery, and social services.

- * Hiring, mentoring, and retaining research investigators in public health. This includes grant writing and research in support of initiatives and community partnerships for regional public health.

- * Providing expert consultation and management of cross-sector initiatives, which will drive changes in mindsets, practice, and policy to achieve improved public health.

Rather than construct a new building for the CIPHER, USF will renovate a historic building on our downtown campus. This building was built in the 1800s and is one of Fort Wayne's finest examples of Italianate architecture. USF purchased it in 2014 when planning began for its campus in downtown Fort Wayne, which opened in 2016. The facility is adjacent to a 2000-person auditorium in USF's Performing Arts Center, which will be the site for large seminars and conferences sponsored by the CIPHER.

Why is this project/program regionally significant?

Nationwide spending for state public health departments has dropped by 16% per capita and spending for local health departments has fallen by 18% since 2010 according to a study by Kaiser Health News and the Associated Press. In fact, when the Allen County Health Commissioner recently retired, the position was reduced to part-time. Indiana places 41st in the nation in America's Health Rankings (United Health Foundation, 2019), making it one of the unhealthiest states in the country. Although public health spending increased in Indiana last year, spending was still only \$17.58 per person; ranking 49th in the country.

The Center for Integrated Public Health Education and Research (CIPHER) at the University of Saint Francis will foster stronger, sustainable connections among health care and social services providers, the business community, and partners in local and state government to improve the health of the communities we collectively serve. Housed at our campus in downtown Fort Wayne and rooted in our Catholic, Franciscan mission and the Ethical-Religious Directives guiding all Catholic healthcare, CIPHER will link the academic and practice communities in cross-sector collaboration to drive public health advocacy efforts in greater Fort Wayne and across northern Indiana.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reiterated the importance of well-designed, integrative, and adaptable public health initiatives. Establishing the CIPHER in northern Indiana will allow for public health education, promotion, and initiatives to be centralized and create a resource that can be accessed and utilized by the greater Fort Wayne community and more broadly the state of Indiana.

How does this project/program relate to the identified focus area(s)?

Located in Downtown Fort Wayne, the CIPHER will be uniquely equipped to be a neutral place for decision-makers to come together and allow for cross-collaboration and the ability to make quick decisions. The CIPHER help to revitalize the historic Shriners Building and make downtown a destination for public health professionals throughout the region. Due to its location in an adjoining building to the USF Performing Arts Center, the CIPHER will host conferences and seminars that will attract leading experts in order to educate community members and professionals on the importance of public and preventative health and research.

The Indiana Public Health System Review study, performed by the Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, calls on the state of Indiana to maintain a competent public health workforce by encouraging the development of qualified public health workers and ensuring a competent workforce through professional and career development for all public health staff. When established, the CIPHER will be a key competent of these efforts in growing a trained public health workforce.

What is the project/program timeline? 2022 -Renovation of facility begins. Hire CIPHER Executive Director. Executive Director will begin recruitment for additional staff positions: Executive Assistant to the Director and Directors of External Partnerships and Research.

2023 - Construction is complete. Master in Public Health degree and/or graduate-level concentrations to existing programs begin. The undergraduate concentration in public health begins.

2024 - Hold first National conference in Public Health at the CIPHER in downtown Fort Wayne

List the partners involved in this project/program. Potential partners include healthcare providers (such as Parkview Health, IU Health, Franciscan Alliance, Lutheran Health), social service organizations (such as McMillen Health, Lutheran Social Services, Turnstone, Catholic Social Services), government agencies (Allen County Board of Health), and private sector business to establish, design, and integrate the Center's work.

Project or Program Finances

What is the total amount of READI program funds requested? 1,800,000

Upload a file with project/program finances. <https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/10989627802>

What is the sustainability of the project/program? Share your 3-year plan.

The new degree programs and concentrations will enhance the relevance and marketability of our programs, as well as provide additional revenue toward financial sustainability. The possibility of moving all our graduate health programs downtown in a USF facility adjacent to CIPHER only enhances the functionality and sustainability of this proposal, since it will allow academic integration of the work of the center and provide a skilled student body to assist, through research and community connections, in carrying out the research of the center. This community research for the community, in turn, is key to securing external funding through partners and granting agencies that assist in sustainability and return on investment.

Additionally, to achieve sustainable cross-sector collaboration, the CIPHER seeks innovative partners to share data to define, measure and guide public health initiatives. To build accountability for all those involved, these partners will be asked to contribute ongoing support to enable its work and extend it across the greater Fort Wayne community and Northern Indiana region.

Describe the return on investment for this project/program.

Findings from the Indiana Public Health System Review show that a higher investment in public health relates to reductions in the incidence of chronic diseases, infant mortality and deaths, diabetes, and cancer. It can also be associated with increased life expectancy and reductions in Medicare expenditures. Overall, the study found that public health investments result in improved health across the population and reduced healthcare expenditures.

Investments in public health can produce improvements in the health status for residents while helping to control medical spending and creating more equitable opportunities for health in low-resource and under-served communities. Over the long term, these investments can also increase economic development and advancements across the region as children face fewer health-related interruptions in learning and educational attainment, and as workers face fewer health-related interruptions in productivity, earnings, and career advancement.

One recommendation from the Indiana Public Health System Review to improve public health capacity and effectiveness is to assure that universities with accredited schools of public health are formally collaborating with and supporting all levels of the public health system. These partnerships have been found to be mutually beneficial for the local health department and the academic institution, resulting in impactful research, innovative programming, and public health policies.

Project or Program Assets

Share an image of the project/program. (Option 1) <https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/10989627805>

Share an image of the project/program. (Option 2) <https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/10989627806>

Share an image of the project/program. (Option 3) <https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/10989627807>



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Project Cost/Budget – Construction Projects (if applicable)								
Description		Cost – Fiscal Year 2021	Cost – Fiscal Year 2022	Cost – Fiscal Year 2023	Cost – Fiscal Year 2024	Totals Per Category	% of Total Expense	
Acquisition/Rights-of-Way Expense		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Design/Inspection Expense		\$ 280,766	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 280,766	4%	
Legal/Financial Expense		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Infrastructure Construction Cost		\$ 3,295,610	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,295,610	48%	
Building Construction Cost		\$ 2,515,340	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,515,340	37%	
Other Construction Costs		\$ 794,984	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 794,984	12%	
Project Construction Expenses Totals per year		\$6,886,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
Total Construction Expenses Project Cost		(all fiscal years)				\$ 6,886,700		
Project Cost/Budget – Programs (if applicable)								
Description		Cost – Fiscal Year 2021	Cost – Fiscal Year 2022	Cost – Fiscal Year 2023	Cost – Fiscal Year 2024	Totals Per Category	% of Total Expense	
Personnel		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,000,000	69%	
Technology		\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160,000	5%	
Marketing		\$ 95,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 227,000	8%	
Conference Expenses		\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	3%	
Building Operating Expenses	Utilities, Custodial, and Maintenance	\$ 89,000	\$ 92,450	\$ 98,322	\$ 105,028	\$ 384,800	13%	
Program Operating Support	Instructional Support, Accreditation Expenses, Office	\$ 6,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 33,500	1%	
Travel		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 8,000	0%	
Project Program Expense Totals per year		\$ 852,500	\$ 668,450	\$ 691,322	\$ 701,028			
Total Program Expenses Project Cost		(all fiscal years)				\$ 2,913,300		
Funding Source								
Description		Cost – Fiscal Year 2021	Cost – Fiscal Year 2022	Cost – Fiscal Year 2023	Cost – Fiscal Year 2024	Totals Per Category	% of Total Expense	
READI		\$ 1,800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800,000	18%	
Other Funds \$						\$ -	0%	
Private/Philanthropic Funds \$	Potential partners: Parkview Health, Lutheran Health, IU Health	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	61%	
Local Government Funds \$		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,000,000	20%	
Project Income Totals per year		\$3,300,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$ 9,800,000		
Total Project Income		(all fiscal years)				\$ 9,800,000.00		
Total Project Cost		(all fiscal years; Construction Expenses + Program Expenses)				\$ 9,800,000.00		