



West River Health Science Center

Board of Regents

Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$8,000,000 in one-time funding to address and support the severe nursing shortage in South Dakota, particularly West River, by renovating and expanding the West River Health Science Center at Black Hills State University – Rapid City.

South Dakota is projected to have a significant nursing shortfall by 2030. Black Hills State University and South Dakota State University, in partnership at the West River Health Science Center, plan to address this shortage by increasing the nursing cohort size and making all nursing education available at one Rapid City site, which will increase the need for classroom space, support facilities, and specialized simulation and skills laboratories.

Project Description

The West River Health Science Center will consolidate all West River nursing education into a single site, providing efficiencies and improvement in space utilization. It will replace outdated and leased, program-limiting facilities in four different locations in Rapid City with one fully appointed modern educational facility. It will also provide the space necessary to increase the number of nursing graduates needed in Rapid City to address the severe nursing shortage in the region. Once funding is finalized, the project is expected to begin construction in 2022.

Funding

Design and construction budgets estimate the total cost of the West River Health Science Center renovation and expansion to be approximately \$15,100,000 million. In addition to the \$8,000,000 million federal ARPA funding, an additional \$2,000,000 million in private donations will be sought to support this state-of-the-art facility, and the remaining \$5,100,000 million will be funded through Board of Regents Higher Education Facilities Fund (HEFF) bonds. This project will be funded through federal ARPA Capital Construction funds, which need federal approval.