



Public Health Laboratory and Workforce Development & Education Center

Department of Health

Overview

As inflation continues to raise construction costs, projects that have previously been funded by the legislature are being impacted. Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$12,800,000 in one-time funding to support the building of a new Public Health Laboratory and Workforce Development & Education Center to ensure South Dakota remains poised to respond to public health threats.

While South Dakota's response to the pandemic was one of the best in the nation, the experience challenged our public health system and demonstrated the need to replace our outdated public health laboratory. It also shone a spotlight on the importance of having a trained workforce ready to respond to current and emerging public health threats.

Project Description

The building of a new Public Health Laboratory and Workforce Development & Education Center includes construction of a new Public Health Laboratory, administrative office space, and renovation of the existing Public Health Laboratory building into office space and storage.

Funding

Building a new Public Health Laboratory and Workforce Development & Education Center was estimated to cost \$69.6 million in late 2021, and the 2022 Legislature approved the Department of Health's request for federal spending authority of this amount. Inflation has increased the estimated cost to \$82.4 million. The Department of Health has applied for \$69.6 million in federal grant funding through the United States Treasury Capital Project Funds, as approved by the legislature last year. This leaves a \$12.8 million shortfall in funding, which is covered by Governor Noem's budget proposal.