

## **Legislative Proposal - 2022**

### **University of Minnesota Academic Health Center Duluth**

**State Request:** \$12 million for design

The University is proposing to design and build a new academic health care center located in the Duluth Medical District, where students would be immersed in interprofessional education and practice in collaboration with the two Duluth health care centers, Essentia Health and St. Luke's Health System. This new center will expand the number of programs offered in various high-need health care professions for the state, in partnership with Minnesota state and private colleges in the area and the health systems. It will train teams in a new, enhanced way to prepare a health care workforce for new realities of the sector, while better addressing the needs of Duluth, Greater Minnesota, and Native American communities with a focus on health equity.

The University of Minnesota is the public land-grant institution for the State of Minnesota. With this comes the responsibility and the privilege of serving our state in all ways in which we have the expertise, training, innovation and care delivery.

This role is particularly critical in Greater Minnesota as we strive to provide access to high quality primary and specialty care in areas that see provider shortages, as well as additional barriers to accessing health care. The solutions need to include training health care professionals to serve in all corners of the state, developing the ability to offer clinical trials to Minnesotans regardless of zip code and providing connection and support to physicians practicing in smaller communities. The University is uniquely able to be the convening, collaborative partner in advancing health equity on behalf of the residents of our state. The academic health center facility is proposed to be located in the Duluth Medical District, leveraging the State's previous investment in the medical district and supporting the renewal of downtown Duluth and economic development. The University building, as others, will bring jobs, consumers, and opportunities to Duluth and will further the regional impact of the district as originally proposed.

The proposed University facility will include cutting edge teaching spaces and clinical research spaces that will be designed and built based on health care needs identified by the University and the State of Minnesota, and will be fully integrated with the amenities and features of the broader Duluth Medical District, including St. Luke's and Essentia Health. The University is preparing for design by focusing on programming for pharmacy and medicine education, but we expect future growth will include a wider scope of health professions needed to ensure access to care across Minnesota. This expansion will also include more emphasis on encouraging Greater Minnesotans to pursue careers in health care.

With this vision for world-class health care in Greater Minnesota, patients would have access to groundbreaking clinical trials, subspecialists in an academic practice, and one of the most recognized and respected teams in Minnesota. The University health science schools and colleges lead the nation in many areas in clinical innovation. The health care of the future is

different from that of today – as we watch it nearly change before our eyes. It will take investments in research, technology and training, and a focus on collaboration, diversity, and interdisciplinary care, to prepare our workforce and ensure our communities benefit from accessible, high-quality care. Health care access is essential to keeping our communities and economy strong. We are committed to partnership with the State, the City of Duluth, and health care providers and Minnesotans to lead in advancing care and care delivery for all.

**Timeline**

Assuming \$12 million in legislative funding in 2022, the design phase for the new facility would begin in summer 2022. We would come forward in 2023 with a legislative proposal for the full building construction (subject to Board of Regents approval). If approved, building construction could begin in summer 2023. Construction and site work is projected to last 24 to 30 months.