

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO RENAME AND REORGANIZE THE IOWA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
RESEARCH AND POLICY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Approve the request by the University of Iowa to rename and reorganize the Iowa Institute for Public Health Research and Policy to the Institute for Public Health Practice, Research and Policy in the College of Public Health.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

**Description of current institute.** The Iowa Institute for Public Health Research and Policy (IIPHRP) was established to expand the scope, scale and impact of public health research at the University of Iowa. The Institute fosters and nurtures grassroots application of cutting-edge, public health research to address grand challenges in population health. The Institute serves as a catalyst and creates intellectual communities that reach across disciplinary boundaries by bringing together researchers, healthcare organizations, providers, citizens, community leaders, state agencies, private partners and policy makers to help shape and inform public health policy. By bringing together the best of what we know, the Institute aims to create better population health in Iowa and across the nation.

**Reason for proposed changes.** While the Institute has continued to undertake many of the activities originally outlined in the proposal (e.g., hosting visiting scholars and executives-in-residence and providing resources for faculty research “collaboratories” and “policy fellows”), it has also branched out into different areas of public health practice, including working closely with the Public Health Division of Iowa DHHS on several funded projects. These new areas have added value to the College but have raised questions of the interface of this Institute with the already existing Institute for Public Health Practice (IPHP), which also houses the Midwestern Public Health Training Center, and the Center for Public Health Statistics (CPHS), and what structure will best ensure collaboration and expanded support of public health and health care entities in population health.

Each of these three units (IIPHRP, IPHP, CPHS) is critical to fulfilling the mission, vision and goals of the University of Iowa and College of Public Health and contributes expertise to bettering the health of Iowans as well as to meet the high-quality accreditation standards set by the Council on Education for Public Health such as:

- Facilitating interdisciplinary communication, cooperation and collaboration.
- Collaborating with local, state, national or international health agencies and community-based organizations on current research.
- Engaging in activities other than its offering of degree programs that support the professional development of the public health workforce.
- Periodically assess the continuing education needs of the community.
- Practices, policies, procedures and evaluation that support continuing education and workforce development strategies.

Additionally, the Health Policy Research Program (HPRP), formerly located in the Office of the Vice President for Research’s Public Policy Center, recently joined the College of Public Health. This program brings expertise on Iowa Medicaid evaluation and will strengthen the College’s ability to respond to state of Iowa requests to assess the effects of policy initiatives and

government activities on cost of, access to, and quality of health care systems and their effects on consumers, health care providers, policymakers and businesses across Iowa and the nation.

SUI proposes a reorganization and name change that would combine the existing IIPHRP and IPHP into one overarching Institute for Public Health Practice, Research and Policy (IPHPRP). Additionally, the Midwest Public Health Training Center and CPHS will be brought into the Institute under the Public Health Practice and Workforce Development Core and the Analytics Core, respectively. The HPRP will be incorporated into the Research and Evaluation Core and will enhance the Institute's capacity to provide evaluation and assessment services. The new organizational structure will include the following units:

- Public Health Practice and Workforce Development Core
- Statistics/Analytics Core
- Research and Evaluation Core

The mission of the combined unit would continue to:

- Foster and nurture grassroots application of cutting-edge public health research to address grand challenges in population health.
- Promote the linkage between the academic and service activities with public health practitioners at the local, state, regional, and federal levels.
- Serve as a catalyst and create intellectual communities that reach across disciplinary boundaries by bringing together researchers, healthcare organizations, providers, citizens, community leaders, private partners, and policy makers to help shape and inform public health policy.
- Serve as a repository to collect, analyze and disseminate public health and health care data.
- Continue to serve as a leader in public health workforce development for the state and Midwest region.

As was the case when the Institute was established, the dean of the College of Public Health will serve as the leader of the Institute. The current interim director will step into an executive director role and will assist the dean by providing strategic leadership, direction and coordination across the institute.

With the merger of the IPHP into the IPHPRP, the current interim director of the Institute for Public Health Practice will transition into the role of director of Public Health Practice and Workforce Development Core and remain co-Director of the Midwestern Public Health Training Center. The director of the CPHS will become head of the Statistics/Analytics core and remain head of CPHS when the center moves into the IPHPRP.

**Impact on resources.** This new structure will collectively raise the visibility of the cores and centers within and will provide enhanced collaboration opportunities across the units to strengthen competitive funding outcomes. Efficiencies will be gained through 1) utilization and deployment of externally funded staff who can more strategically be shared amongst the units as grants end or begin and 2) integrating faculty and staff who work with similar partners (e.g., state agencies) in the same unit, allowing for ease of contract pre- and post-award support, coordination of requests, and coordination of activities.

With Board of Regents approval, the dean of the College of Public Health will begin a strategic process to realign and reorganize these units with thoughtful consideration to strengthening

leadership, collaboration, and good stewardship of limited resources. The goal is to expand capacity to provide rapid response to emergent needs in the state. Some initial reallocation of staff effort and resources during this reorganization is likely with the objective of growing resources through increased partnerships with external partners and grant funding.

**Effective date of changes.** Upon approval by the Board of Regents.