

LATINA/O WELL-BEING RESEARCH INITIATIVE (LWRI)



SUMMARY

The long-term objective of LWRI is to establish a sustainable institute that connects scholars and community constituents to advance scientific knowledge about Latina/o well-being with real-world practicality.

DESCRIPTION

The Latina/o Well-Being Research Initiative (LWRI) seeks to advance impactful, community-based scholarship about Latina/os living in Milwaukee. A major objective is to bridge and forge academic-community partnerships that serve to reduce health disparities and promote well-being among Latina/os. The work by LWRI addresses several challenges including marked health and academic disparities for Latina/os; limited community resources that focus on scholarship; and a lack of infrastructure for establishing sustainable and mutually beneficial academic-community research collaborations. The long-term objective of LWRI is to establish a sustainable center or institute that bridges the gap between scholars and community constituents in order to advance scientific knowledge about Latina/o well-being with real-world practicality. The Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) would position LWRI to move towards these longer-term goals by accomplishing critical intermediary steps. As such, the current SIF proposal is focused on two goals: 1) to establish the infrastructure necessary to maintain LWRI, and 2) to develop and advance community-based research regarding Latina/o health and well-being.

MILESTONES

Year 1

Establish Action Group of community stakeholders and develop collaboration model. Identify specific themes and areas of need for community-based research.

Year 2

Seed funding for 1-2 research projects.

Year 3

Apply for extramural funding.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Lucas Torres, co-Director

Lisa Edwards, co-Director

Drs. Edwards and Torres have a long track record of scholarship addressing mental health and well-being within the Latino community. The idea to develop the Latina/o Well-being Research Initiative (LWRI) stemmed from the lack of a consolidated mechanism that connects community members and MU scholars to develop research projects that are mutually beneficial and that examine key issues of Latino well-being.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

The Latina/o Well-Being Research Initiative (LWRI) and its activities align closely with the mission of Marquette University (MU) and this SIF proposal embodies both the strategic themes of Research in Action and Community Engagement. A significant innovation of the current project is that it intertwines these themes in a concerted effort such that both are promoted and advanced. Whereas other ideas may focus on one strategic theme or multiple independently, this project relies on scholar and community involvement to drive the overarching goal of reducing Latina/o health and academic disparities while promoting well-being. The end product will be an enduring, trusting, and sustainable research partnership between MU and the Latina/o community; a mechanism of change that is culturally-relevant and embedded in scientific principles; and progress towards the development of a center or institute that advances actionable research, promotes leaders from different disciplines, and serves as a locally- and nationally-recognized research hub in Milwaukee.