FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant

Application Draft for: MercyOne Cancer Center

Applicant Information

Name of Project Lead: Samantha Redmond, PA-C

Email Address: samantha.redmond@mercyone.org

Phone Number: 563-589-9820

Organization: MercyOne Cancer Center

Street Address: 150 Mercy Drive

City: Dubuque

Zip Code: 52001

Project Title and Funding

Project Title: Mobile PSA Screening Initiative for Underserved Populations in Dubuque County

Total Funds Requested for FY26: $25,000

Project Description & Organizational Background

MercyOne Cancer Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to delivering comprehensive, high-quality cancer care to individuals across the Dubuque region. As part of our continued commitment to reducing health disparities and increasing access to preventative care, we propose a mobile health initiative that offers free prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screenings to underserved members of the Dubuque community, particularly focusing on African American males and low-income individuals.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among men in the United States. African American men are more likely to develop prostate cancer and twice as likely to die from the disease compared to white men. Despite this risk, African American men and individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are significantly underrepresented in our cancer center's patient population. This disparity indicates a crucial gap in access, awareness, and early detection.

Our project aims to close that gap. Using our Mobile Medical Unit, we will deliver free PSA screenings directly to community-accessible locations such as churches, food pantries, community centers, and public housing complexes. We will attend accessible events such as our local farmer's market, National Night out, and events held by community centers including the Multicultural Family Center and Crescent Community Health Center.

In addition to on-site bloodwork collection, patients will be screened for concerning symptoms and if appropriate, be offered a digital rectal exam by our on-site provider to assess for bleeding, benign prostatic hyperplasia, and/or nodularity of the prostate. Participants will receive educational materials explaining prostate cancer risk, symptoms, and the importance of regular screening. Results will be communicated promptly, and for any individual with elevated PSA levels, we will help coordinate repeat PSA, follow-up diagnostics, and further care.

This project aligns with MercyOne's mission to improve the health of our communities, especially those most in need, through healing and compassionate care. Our experienced providers, mobile health capabilities, and strong relationships with local organizations position us well to carry out this project effectively and with measurable impact.

Impact & Reach

Expected Number of Individuals Reached: At least 250 individuals will be screened through our Mobile Medical Unit over the 11-month grant period.

Counties Served: Dubuque County (with potential outreach to surrounding rural counties).

Priority Areas Alignment

1. Addressing Cancer Disparities Across the Cancer Continuum:
This project focuses on health equity by targeting African American men and low-income individuals underrepresented in prostate cancer care. We will provide free PSA screenings and support for follow-up care to eliminate barriers.

2. Addressing Cancer Prevention and/or Early Detection:
By offering early PSA screenings and educational outreach, we aim to detect cancer at an early stage and empower individuals with prevention knowledge.

3. Formalizing Broad, Lasting Change in Cancer Control:
Through partnerships with community organizations, we aim to create a sustainable model for mobile screening and education beyond the grant period.

Iowa Cancer Plan Goals & Strategies

- Identify and eliminate cancer health disparities.
- Promote the benefits of screening tests to ensure early diagnosis.
- Reduce barriers to care for individuals with positive screening results.
- Increase community-based screening efforts.
- Provide culturally appropriate outreach to at-risk populations.
- Support patients in navigating follow-up diagnostics and care.

Project Objectives

Objective #1:
Conduct free PSA screenings for at least 250 individuals in underserved areas of Dubuque County using the Mobile Medical Unit.
Deadline: May 31, 2026
Baseline Data: No existing mobile-based PSA screening program currently active in target areas.
Target: 250 individuals screened.

Objective #2:
Distribute culturally and linguistically appropriate educational materials to 250+ individuals during PSA screening events.
Deadline: May 31, 2026
Baseline Data: Limited educational outreach on prostate cancer risk and screening in low-income, underserved, and African American communities in Dubuque.
Target: Educational materials provided at every event.

Objective #3:
Relay PSA results promptly and advise participants in next steps such as a free repeat PSA or guidance with insurance, follow-up care, etc.
Deadline: May 31, 2026
Baseline Data: No formal financial assistance program in place for follow-up prostate cancer care in this population.
Target: All participants will receive their results and be educated on next steps. All patients with abnormal results will receive guidance and support.

Project Collaborators

Collaborator #1: Michelle Arensdorf
Organization: MercyOne Cancer Center
Role: Mobile Medical Unit Coordinate and registered nurse. Michelle will be in charge of coordinating events, getting the medical unit there prepped with necessary supplies, and communicating with our local collaborators on relevant events for us to attend.

Collaborator # 2: David Moore
Organization: MercyOne Cancer Center
Role: Director of MercyOne Foundation, chief development officer. He will oversee our allocated funds, ensuring our usage is appropriate, well-managed, and we are aware of amount used/remaining as we proceed.

Collaborator # 3: Susan Bechen
Organization: MercyOne Cancer Center
Role: Registered Nurse for our mobile medical unit. Susan will provide on-site care for our participants. She will assist in them filling out paperwork, screenings, and assist as needed for vasovagal symptoms associated with lab work sometimes.

Collaborator # 4: Jessica Kennedy
Organization: MercyOne Cancer Center
Role: Jessica will lead on our educational initiative. With her vast knowledge in all things regarding prostate cancer, she will help patients understand key symptoms, the importance of screening, and more. She will be a key asset in educational promotion, community outreach, and utilize her capabilities as an RN as well.

Evidence & Evaluation

Scientific Evidence:
PSA screening is an established method for early prostate cancer detection, especially effective among high-risk groups such as African American men (USPSTF recommendation). African American males have a 70% higher incidence and 2-3 times higher mortality than white men. This staggering statistic is founded to be largely due men from underserved backgrounds being diagnosed at later stages, leading to worse outcomes. Lack of insurance, accessibility, and transportation are key barriers. Mobile health programs improve screening rates and reduce barriers in underserved populations by breaking down a lot of these key barriers. Studies also suggest that health interventions in trusted community spaces (e.g., barbershops, churches) increase **screening uptake** among underserved backgrounds.

References:

- Rebbeck TR. *Am J Med Genet A*. 2018;176(7):1369–1378.
- Mahal BA, et al. *Cancer*. 2020;126(24):5443–5450.
- Luque JS, et al. *J Cancer Educ*. 2011;26(1):101–107.

Evaluation Plan:
- Number of individuals screened and demographic breakdown.
- Number of abnormal PSA results and follow-up referrals.
- Patient assistance provided (transportation, insurance).
- Participant satisfaction surveys and partner feedback.
Data will be analyzed mid-year and year-end for quality improvement and final reporting.

Population Tailoring:
Outreach in trusted community hubs, culturally appropriate materials reviewed by partners, multilingual resources, and financial support for participation to ensure accessibility and trust among low-income and African American populations.

Budget Narrative & Table

We are requesting $22,000 to support PSA screening and follow-up services for underserved individuals in Dubuque County. $15,000 of this funding will go towards screening costs including the supplies, testing, and lab work. This will allow us to offer both the initial screening, but also repeat screenings for elevated results. Travel assistance is important for this population as many of them do not have their own means of transportation. Recommending them to see a primary care physician or specialist needs to

include a ride to and from this appointment to make it more obtainable. The remaining $3,000 requested will be used toward educational handouts, information, event promotion, and expenses with our medical unit such as fuel.

Budget Items and Explanation	**Grant Funds Requested**	**Other Funding**	**Total Funds for Project**
Supplies – PSA screening tests, gloves, alcohol wipes ($30/test x 250) ($30/test x 150 for repeat PSA)	$15,000	-	$15,000
Travel and Unforeseen Barriers – Transportation assistance for follow-up care	$4,000	-	$4,000
Printing – Educational pamphlets, event promotion	$1500	-	$1000
Mobile Unit Operations & Communications – Fuel, upkeep, etc.	$1500	-	$1500
TOTALS	$22,000	$0	$22,000

Letters of support:

MERCYONE

MercyOne Dubuque Foundation
250 Mercy Drive
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

T 563-589-8772

MercyOne.org

May 13, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the MercyOne Dubuque Foundation, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for MercyOne Dubuque Cancer Center's proposal to the FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant. We fully support their initiative to offer free PSA (prostate-specific antigen) screenings to underserved and at-risk individuals in Dubuque County through their Mobile Medical Unit.

As a community health provider, we understand the critical importance of early detection and equitable access to cancer screening services. African American men and low-income individuals are at elevated risk for prostate cancer but are often under-screened. This initiative will help address that gap by bringing essential screening and follow-up resources directly into our community.

The MercyOne Dubuque Foundation is proud to collaborate with MercyOne on this project. We look forward to assisting with outreach, identifying patients who may benefit from the screenings, and supporting care coordination when follow-up is needed.

We strongly endorse this project and believe it will make a lasting impact on cancer outcomes and health equity in our region.

Sincerely,

David T. Moore
Chief Development Officer
MercyOne Dubuque Foundation
563-589-8740
moordavi@mercyhealth.com

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250 Mercy Drive
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

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MercyOne.org

Michelle Arensdorf

MercyOne Dubuque
Mobile Medical Unit Coordinator
250 Mercy Drive
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

May, 2025

MercyOne Dubuque Medical Center

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of MercyOne Mobile Medical Unit, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for MercyOne Dubuque Cancer Center's proposal to the FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant. We fully support their initiative to offer free PSA (prostate-specific antigen) screenings to underserved and at-risk individuals in Dubuque County through their Mobile Medical Unit.

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Sincerely,
Michelle Arensdorf, RN
Mobile Medical Unit Coordinator
563-589-9636

MERCYONE

MercyOne Dubuque
250 Mercy Drive
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

T 563-589-9820
F 563-589-8053

MercyOne.org

Sue Bechen

MercyOne Dubuque
Mobile Medical Unit RN
250 Mercy Drive
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

May, 2025

MercyOne Dubuque Medical Center

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Sincerely,
Sue Bechen, RN
MercyOne Mobile Medical Unit
563-589-9600

MERCYONE

Mercy One Cancer Center
5/14/25

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Sincerely,
Jessica Kennedy
Resource Nurse Specialist/ Nurse Navigator
Mercy One Cancer Center
563-589-9144 / kennje@mercyhealth.com