

Feasibility Study

of a Countywide Innovation Center & Library Network

Frequently Asked Questions



Why is this feasibility study being conducted right now?

- This feasibility study is a result of the Dream Big Countywide Listening Project conducted in June 2021 - August 2022, where county residents responded to help identify the priority needs and desires of the county, Big Dreams are coming to fruition! (See the results of the Dream Big Survey here <https://www.maximizenwmo.org/clinton-county>.)
- Respondents from several age groups determined the need for business, job growth, and innovation opportunities as a top priority along with the needs of accessible and reliable broadband. Coming in second was other public services such as a library and center with fun and interesting activities for people of all ages in addition to those already in existence through church, school, and sports. Meeting these needs is complex so, The Clinton County Initiative applied for a grant to help determine what might be possible to address the needs voiced.

What is this feasibility study?

- In our case, the feasibility study is a "**possibility study**" to understand better the needs and desires of as many people as possible who live, learn, work, and play in Clinton County. The questions being explored relate to how a modern-day facility with the programs, educational resources, and types of space that attract many residents in other rural communities could work for us in Clinton County.
- It is **just a study at this point with no firm decision yet** on whether or not to establish a facility or network of facilities that can meet the needs of those who want a library, digital media resource center, space for networking, meeting, working, and programs for entrepreneurs, remote workers, and small businesses seeking opportunities to grow their skills, educational space for people of all ages that features the latest in technology, a visitor center for the county, telemedicine private meeting areas, etc. **The list is endless, and that is why our quick survey, listing many possibilities, is so critical.**
- **Help us prioritize what is needed and wanted by:**

- **Completing a short 2-question survey by visiting:**



<https://bit.ly/CCIC-GSurvey>

- **Or, completing a 5-10 minute survey by visiting:**



<https://bit.ly/CCIFocusGroup>

Who is funding this study?

- The study is being **funded by USDA-Rural Development and Clinton County Initiative members representing all communities around the county.**

How is the study being conducted and when will it be done?

- **We are collecting factual data so a confident decision can be made about whether the study will recommend moving forward or not.** Three teams are working to research potential features and activities, locations, partnership and funding structures, and community input.
- **The study will be completed by Summer 2024.** If the consensus is yes, then the project's next steps can move forward.

Why are you calling this an Innovation Center and Library Network? I don't understand what an Innovation Center I'm not sure people will vote for a library in this county.

- **We don't know what to call it yet.** It could be an Innovation Center and Library Network, Resource Center, Educational Resource Center, Learning Hall, Connection Center, CollaborACTION Hall, or many other options. The vision is that it will be a **multi-purpose facility that houses programming and resources (books, computers, equipment, exhibits, and workspaces) for youth and adults in partnership with many organizations** (think MU Extension, nonprofit organizations, other educational institutions, SBA's Small Business Development Center professionals, North Central Missouri Business Facilitation, etc.) The goal is to help them expand their services to our residents in a meaningful way.

How do you plan to fund this project past the study if it moves forward?

- Answering this question is a key part of the research being gathered through this study. We're looking at what has worked best for areas like ours all across the Midwest. We do know that a **combination of many methods of funding is being explored**, from private donations and grants to endowed fund revenue to different models of a public tax levy. Cameron residents are lucky to have a library that serves their community so they likely wouldn't be included in a public tax, but would access the resource through a potential partnership with their local library. Based on what we've discussed so far, the cost of anything that may be put to ballot in the future would likely be less than it costs to become a member of libraries in surrounding areas. **The idea is that multiple streams of revenue will be used, so it is not only funded through one source.**
- The budget for a facility is expected to be separate from a budget for operations.

Hasn't a library tax been on the ballot in the past and not passed?

- Yes. However, the last attempt was more than a dozen years and a lot has changed in the world and Clinton County since then. A whole new generation of parents, grandparents, and new business owners are voicing the need for basic modern-day library services and educational programs that can help our residents of all ages build a "great rural life" here at home while still being able to connect with the world.

Who would this project serve?

- Remember to think about how such a facility will benefit **you, your family, your kids, grandkids, grandparents, your business, your hometown, and your county.**

As The Clinton County Initiative, we come together to create a growing economy, an inclusive and diverse countywide community, and a vibrant learning environment as the building blocks of a GREAT RURAL LIFE.

For more information about The Clinton County Initiative and how you can get involved, the guidance we are using, "The Maximize [My Community] Journey Framework" through Maximize NWMO/The Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri, and funding we've received for helping residents please visit <https://www.maximizenwmo.org/clinton-county> or contact our team at together@maximizenwmo.org.

THANK YOU!