

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

SUMMARY

Supported in part by ARPA, this federal funding will allow DHSS and LPHAs to invest in critical public health infrastructure needs across the state of Missouri. Funding from this grant will help ensure that every U.S. community has the people, services, and systems needed to promote and protect health. The grant creates a foundation for CDC's public health infrastructure work and provides maximum flexibility so jurisdictions can address their most pressing needs. The period of performance for this grant is five years. All of A1 funding will be dispersed in the first year, with five years to expend. A2 and A3 funding will be reapplied for every year in the fall. As outlined below, the three Strategies of this grant program are Workforce, Foundational Capabilities, and Data Modernization. Ultimately, this grant program will lead to accelerated prevention, preparedness, and response to emerging health threats, and improved outcomes for other public health areas.

A1 COMPONENT: WORKFORCE: RECRUIT, RETAIN, SUPPORT, AND TRAIN THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

- Strengthening Local Public Health Workforce Capacity: 55% of A1 funds made available for LPHAs to respond to workforce needs (recruit, retain, support, and train). 45% of funds will be deployed via DHSS for activities listed below.
- Missouri Public Health Association Section of Public Health Nursing: DHSS is contracting with Missouri Public Health Association to rebuild the section for Public Health Nursing and support public health nurses across Missouri.
- Mental Wellness: Department of Mental Health is creating tools to combat employee burnout and cultivate inclusive cultures of wellness.
- Electronic Inspection and Data Management System: New technology modernizing inspection operations (child care sanitation, onsite wastewater, lodging, retail food) granting LPHAs and DHSS ability to obtain, manage, and analyze field data. This will give LPHAs across the state access to timely public health data and pay for all licensing fees for the system.
- Workforce Development via Academic Partnerships:
 - Public Health Workforce Commission: Advisory group chartered by State to inform decision-making by Governor and DHSS.
 - Leadership Academy: Training for current and emerging leaders at DHSS and LPHAs.
 - Internship Program: Builds workforce pipeline via paid internships within LPHAs and DHSS for early-career professionals.
 - Missouri Health Care Workforce Project: Collaboration with MU to collect and integrate public health workforce data to improve public health needs, health care and workforce development.
 - Learning and Development Redesign: Training modules for leadership and other management skills, deployed via LinkedIn Learning.

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A2 COMPONENT: FOUNDATIONAL CAPABILITIES: STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS, PROCESSES, AND POLICIES

- Foundational Public Health Services Cost Analysis: Will provide an accurate assessment of public health services offered by LPHAs and DHSS to improve operations, expand services, and achieve accreditation standards. This analysis will help the implementation of the FPHS Model in efforts to increase long term public health funding.
- Accreditation for LPHAs and DHSS: LPHAs will receive technical assistance, support through Accreditation Coordinators and funding for each step in the accreditation process including the initial accreditation fee and annual maintenance fees.
- Communications Strategy: Statewide communications strategy that will promote a better understanding of what DHSS and LPHAs are working to achieve together as a comprehensive system to share the same “story” about public health, its mission and what it provides for the citizens of Missouri.

A3 COMPONENT: DATA MODERNIZATION AND {NEWLY ADDED AS OF APRIL 2023} LABORATORY DATA EXCHANGE: DEPLOY SCALABLE, FLEXIBLE, AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES

The purpose of this funding is to support public health departments to maintain, improve, and modernize the approach to acquire, manage, share, and use data for public health action to more effectively detect, respond, prevent, and control diseases and conditions to protect the public health and safety of Missouri citizens. Data Modernization funds will be used to meet critical public health data infrastructure needs to develop and deploy scalable, flexible, and sustainable technologies, policies, and methods to implement world-class data and analytical capabilities to support the Essential Public Health Services. The recently released supplemental funding, CDC’s Laboratory Data Exchange (LDX) Strategy, intends to establish a seamless, bidirectional, automated laboratory data exchange ecosystem that will move data faster, ensure higher data quality, and reduce reporting burden for partners. New work plans and budgets are due to the CDC by June 5, 2023 and DHSS is currently working on modifying the original work plans, in order to support this new supplemental funding.

