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# Uniting Efforts:

Emergency Preparedness &  
Health Equity in Rural and  
Frontier Communities

## MTPHI Vision:

Healthy Montana communities supported by a cohesive, responsive and informed public health system.



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## CONCEPTUAL MODEL



# Health Equity

## Definition:

- Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires **removing obstacles to health** such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.
- Topic can be broad
- Use health equity as a lens to improve public health work
- Build off existing efforts
- Learn from peers
- Frame for rural and frontier contexts



# Rural and Frontier MT

- Unique approach to health equity is needed for these contexts – builds off strengths, acknowledges limitations
- Native Nations in rural areas with unique cultures, governments, and concerns
- Organizations may have small staffs, resource limitations, political constraints
- Close-knit communities, creative solutions



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# Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

- Component of all local and tribal health departments
- Includes consideration of Access & Functional Needs (AFN)
- AFN has common ground with health equity; way to unite efforts
- PHEP staff wanted clear, actionable ways to address health equity



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MTPHI & DPHHS PHEP co-  
developed an **Access and  
Functional Needs Quick Guide** to  
help PHEP programs at local &  
tribal health departments expand  
their health equity efforts

# Process



# Quick Guide Contents

**Introduction  
to Access  
and  
Functional  
Needs**

**Ideas and  
steps for  
action by  
category**

**Montana  
examples  
from the  
field**

**Resource links for tools, templates, and additional information.**

# Guide Categories



**Develop and  
Strengthen  
Partnerships**



**Identify AFN  
in Your  
Community**



**Engage and  
Communicate  
with Community  
Members**



**Increase Your  
Organization's  
Capacity to  
Respond to AFN**



**Prepare and  
Plan with an  
Emphasis on  
Inclusion**



# Quick Guide

**BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES:  
SUPPORTING POPULATIONS  
WITH ACCESS AND  
FUNCTIONAL NEEDS  
IN MONTANA PHEP**



**Building  
Resilient  
Communities:**

Supporting  
Populations with  
Access and  
Functional Needs in  
Montana PHEP

**SCAN TO ACCESS GUIDE IN  
OUR RESOURCE LIBRARY**



# Panel Discussion



Dillon Lytsell  
He/him  
**PHEP Coordinator**  
**RiverStone Health**



Darra  
Perdaems  
She/her  
**PHEP &  
Communications  
Coordinator**  
**Park County**

Hill County Health Department



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Bridget  
Kallenberger  
**Lead Public Health  
Nurse**  
**Hill County**



**VALLEY COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Lynn Miller  
She/her  
**RN/Director**  
**Valley County**

# Panel Discussion

- 1. Please introduce yourself (name, title, organization/location) and give a brief overview of your work, related to health equity in PHEP.**
- 2. What are some unique partners you've engaged or developed relationships with through your PHEP & AFN work? How did you engage or partner with them?**
- 3. What advice would you give others on the first steps they could take to replicate your work or introduce something similar in their counties? Please share any resources your health department may have used or developed that were essential to this work.**
- 4. What were the lessons learned on this project? (including what not to do)**

# Thank you!



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**For more information:**

[www.mtphi.org](http://www.mtphi.org)

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/phep/>

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