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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



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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**



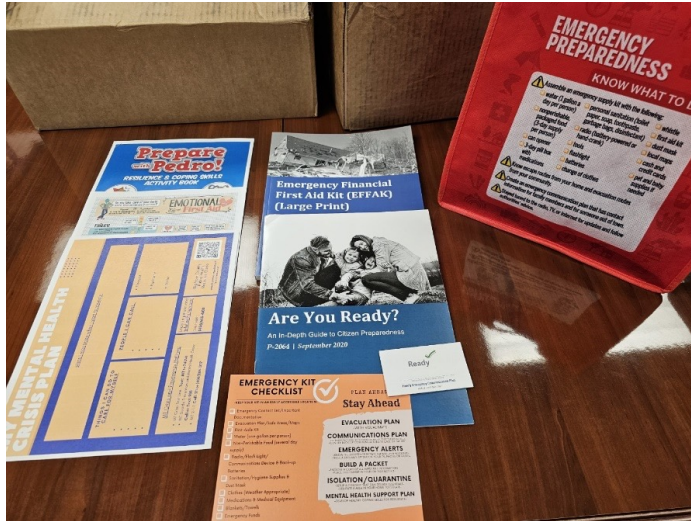
**Increase Your
Organization's
Capacity to
Respond to AFN**



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

Montanans in Action

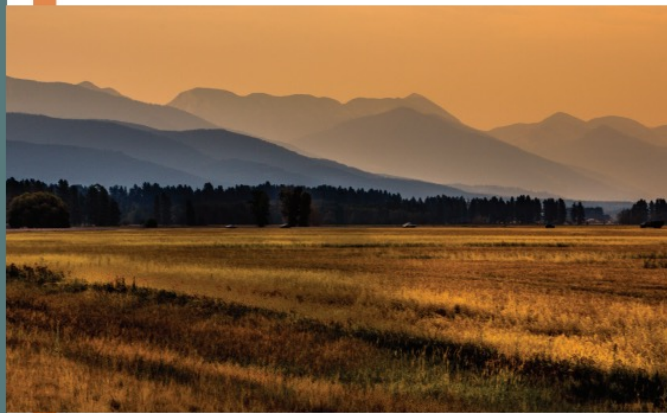
Big Horn County attended local Farmers Markets and handed out emergency kit bags with preparedness information printed on the bag.



Fort Peck Tribal Health has a dialysis patient list which is passed on to the Tribal Health Director and Tribal Road Department to ensure that patients' roads get plowed. Fort Peck Tribal Health also uses social workers and public health nurses to identify people in the community who may have access and functional needs, often using a mobile clinic to reach more rural areas of the reservation.

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**



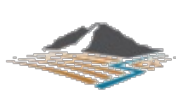
Panel Discussion



Dillon Lytsell

He/him

PHEP Coordinator
RiverStone Health



PARK
COUNTY

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



VALLEYCOUNTY
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

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

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