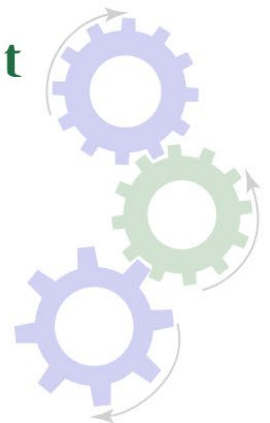# Public Health System Improvement Grants & Technical Assistance

Who can I contact for assistance?

Please feel free to contact the Public Health and Safety Division (PHSD) with any questions or concerns that you have. Kerry Pride (406-600-1594) is the main point of contact for Public Health System Improvement Grants & Technical Assistance.

How is the grant designed?

There are currently three options for the Public Health System Improvement project application:

1. A monetary grant that will provide funding to the awardee for the completion of a community health assessment, community health improvement plan, organizational strategic plan, quality improvement plan, workforce development plan, or performance management system;
2. A monetary grant that will provide funding for the implementation of a health improvement program (or expansion of an existing one), implementation of a health improvement priority as identified in the community health improvement plan, implementation of an organizational development objective as identified in the health department's strategic plan, or the initiation / implementation of another health department project (preferably a PHAB-required process, such as the creation of a brand strategy, etc.);
3. A non-monetary grant that will provide direct one-on-one mentoring and technical assistance to the awardee from a subject matter expert in projects such as building community collaboration, PHAB accreditation management, Board of Health development, and more.

If awarded, a workplan and budget will be required as part of your grant project. Regular progress reviews and a final report are required as part of the task order.

Who is funding these grant opportunities?

Funding for these opportunities is being provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant and a grant awarded by the Montana Healthcare Foundation (MTHCF).

What supporting documentation do I need & where do I apply?

A letter of support from your agency's leadership and a proposed budget (for monetary grants) are required as part of the application. The application and more information is available here.

When does the application open? How long is the grant opportunity?

Applications will be accepted starting in May 2021 and will be accepted on an on-going basis (or until funding for the project has been depleted). Most projects are awarded for a one-year period; however, these opportunities are intended to be flexible in order to meet the needs of local and Tribal health departments across the state. Please contact Kerry Pride if you would like to discuss your health department's situation and determine what the best option would be. All projects and final reports must be submitted by July 2023.

Can we apply with a neighboring jurisdiction(s)?

Applicants can include a single health department or multiple health departments. If more than one health department is applying, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must exist among the jurisdictions for this funding opportunity.

Who reviews my application?

Applications are reviewed by three independent persons at PHSD. The reviewers use a standardized grading rubric. If you would like to see the scoring rubric, please email Kerry Pride.

What are the benefits of participating in this grant?

There are many tangible benefits to completing the CHA, CHIP, and organizational strategic plan. Some of these benefits include:

- Creating lasting relationships with community members, healthcare providers, and stakeholders
- Identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Setting priorities for your health department
- Addressing long-standing community concerns
- Strengthening government transparency and accountability
- Improving the performance of your health department
- Developing quality improvement culture
- Develop the workforce development plan to improve the capabilities of staff
- Building a foundation to become a Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accredited health department

When will the grant awards be announced?

Successful applicants will be notified by email no later than two weeks after their application has been submitted.

What are the expectations if the grant is awarded?

Each grant opportunity has deliverables and an activity report due every three months (or based on the project's timeline). Each deliverable is outlined in detail in the task orders.