



MONTANA
PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE



Montana Pathways Learning Collaborative Technical Assistance and Funding Opportunity

Overview

The Public Health System Improvement Office (PHSIO) and the Montana Public Health Institute (MTPHI) are offering a second iteration of the Montana Pathways Learning Collaborative, a technical assistance and funding opportunity, to help Montana health departments prepare for [Pathways Recognition](#) through the [Public Health Accreditation Board \(PHAB\)](#). The PHSIO is offering funding (from the CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Grant [PHIG]) to participating health departments (details below) and comprehensive technical assistance from the PHSIO and the MTPHI. Health departments that participate in the Montana Pathways Learning Collaborative are not required / obligated to submit for PHAB Pathways or initial accreditation.

[If you are interested in applying for the Learning Collaborative, please click here.](#)

Details

Who is the Learning Collaborative for?

The Learning Collaborative is designed specifically for Montana local and tribal health departments that are interested in PHAB's Pathways Recognition and would like funding and technical assistance on this topic.

What do I need to have in place to qualify for this opportunity?

Ideally, your health department should have the following documents completed and current (dated within 5 years):

- Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Strategic Plan

What if I don't have these plans but I am still interested?

If your health department has not yet completed a CHA, CHIP, and / or Strategic Plan, please contact [Kerry Pride](#) to learn more about the grants and technical assistance that are available through the PHSIO to help with these processes. Not having these plans does not disqualify your health department, but it is recommended that they are at least in progress by the time the program officially starts (January 2025).



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How much funding do the participating health departments receive?

Participating health departments receive a total of \$60,000 (\$30,000 per year). The funding is administered via a deliverable-based contract and task order reports are submitted quarterly. Sample deliverables include: confirming participation in the monthly virtual calls, attendance at the in-person workshops, submitting draft documentation, etc.

Funding can be used to support staff time and travel costs, as well as things like purchasing PDF-editing software and paying for PHAB fees should your health department decide to formally submit a Pathways application. Please contact [Kerry Pride](#) if you have specific questions about the task orders for this program.

How will the Learning Collaborative be structured?

The PHSIO and MTPHI provide leadership, technical assistance, and facilitation for this program. The goal is to systematically review the Pathways standards and measures and have group discussion on documentation ideas and options. Health departments will receive tools and templates, group and individual technical assistance, and facilitated time to partner with other health departments. The Learning Collaborative will run for two years with the same group of health departments.

Are there required meetings for participation?

Yes, the Learning Collaborative will meet monthly via Zoom and will also meet in-person 2-3 times per year.

When will the application open?

The application for the second iteration of the Learning Collaborative is currently open (as of April 2024): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RBZVRBG>

The application will remain open until September 2024. Please contact [Stefanie Tassarò](#) or [Richard Knecht](#) if you have any questions about the application process.

When will the Learning Collaborative begin?

Health departments selected to participate in the Learning Collaborative will be notified by the end of October 2024 and task orders will start December 2024. The PHSIO and MTPHI will arrange for an in-person site visit to each participating health department in November / December 2024 and the kick-off call with all participating health departments will occur in January 2025.