

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing funding to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) through the [Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement](#) to establish, expand, and sustain a public health and school health workforce. Funding can be utilized by county and tribal health departments and K-12 schools to recruit, hire, and train a broad range of workers (e.g., public health nurses, epidemiologists, disease investigation staff, school health personnel, and others) to increase the current capacity to address COVID-19 and future preparedness activities. This initial funding will be available from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 and CDC is working to sustain this funding after the initial two-year time period.

Available Funding

A total of \$7,250,870 has been allocated to Montana. CDC requires that at least 25% of the funding will support school-based health programs, including nurses or other personnel. Of the remaining 75%, CDC requires that at least 40% of the remaining funding will support work force in local and tribal health departments.

Allowable Uses:

- Funding can be used to hire personnel for roles that may range from senior leadership positions to early career or entry-level positions and may include, but is not limited to:
 - Permanent full-time and part-time staff (which may include converting part-time positions to full-time positions during the performance period)
 - Temporary or term-limited staff
 - Fellows
 - Interns
 - Contractors or contracted employees
- Funding may also be used to purchase equipment and supplies necessary to support the expanded workforce including personal protective equipment, equipment needed to perform the duties of the position, computers, cell phones, internet costs, cybersecurity software, and other costs associated with support of the expanded workforce.
- Administrative support services necessary to implement activities funded under this section, including travel and training are allowed.

What DPHHS Will Provide

- Funding to local and tribal public health departments and school districts to the hiring of staff
- Technical assistance with communicable disease prevention and emergency response
- Training to support the new and existing local and tribal public health and school health work force

What's Happening Now and What to Expect

DPHHS will be working with education partners and health departments over the coming weeks to conduct an assessment to determine the workforce and training needs of school districts and local and tribal health departments staff. The Department will be hiring a full time School Health Coordinator, who will serve as resource and liaison to school districts related to this funding opportunity. School districts interested in receiving these funds will be asked to complete and submit a brief application to receive funding.