A Healthier Montana: The State Health Improvement Plan

What is the State Health Improvement Plan, or SHIP?
The SHIP identifies and tracks progress on the state’s top public health priorities, as defined through a collaborative process with stakeholders throughout Montana. It aims to protect and improve the health of every Montanan through evidence-based action and community engagement.

How was the SHIP developed?
The State Health Improvement Coalition used the State Health Assessment to identify priority areas, strategies, and objectives to improve the health of every Montanan. Prior to publication, the SHIP was presented to multiple stakeholders and partner groups for feedback and was shared for public comment.

How is the SHIP structured?
The SHIP identifies five priority areas to improve the health of Montanans. Each priority area identifies goals, objectives, evidence-based strategies, and key partners to help us achieve a healthier Montana. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) affect all priority areas; strategies to address ACEs are incorporated throughout the SHIP.
Why is the SHIP important?

- The SHIP gathers partners from different sectors to improve shared priorities.
- The SHIP addresses the fact that health starts in our homes, schools, and communities. The environments in which we live, learn, work, and play affect everyone’s health and wellbeing.
- Each SHIP priority area includes objectives and strategies to make sure all Montanans have equal opportunity to make choices that lead to good health for them and their families.
- The SHIP is evaluated every year, which includes updated data on objectives or metrics that monitor the health of Montanans over time.

## A Healthier Montana Network

### Working Groups

- Working groups focus on action items that address SHIP priority areas.
- Working group members attend regular meetings to achieve their goal
- Working groups have tackled topics like obesity prevention, car seat safety, data analysis, and resource sharing.

### Communities of Practice

- Communities of Practice are open to all stakeholders in Montana that work to address a priority area.
- Quarterly meetings provide updates from other stakeholders, networking, data and other resources, and create new working groups.

### Coalition Members

- Coalition members are leaders in their organizations who focus on aligning efforts and collaborating with the SHIP.
- Members meet annually to evaluate and provide guidance for the SHIP and play a key role in the development of the next cycle of planning.

### Public Health System Improvement Task Force

- Task Force members are appointed by the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services to monitor, advise on, and assess progress towards statewide system improvement efforts.
- Members serve as the core of the State Health Improvement Coalition and are ultimately responsible for the completion of annual reviews and 5-year updates to the SHIP.
How do I use the SHIP?

- Join the email list at A Healthier Montana to receive regular updates, resources, and information, as well as invitations to get involved.

- Engage with your local or tribal health department in the Community Health Improvement Plan process. Many local and tribal health departments, hospitals, and other organizations lead efforts to identify health issues, make plans, and take action steps to improve the health in their communities.

- Conduct a crosswalk analysis comparing your organization’s strategic plan or other community plan to the SHIP. Invite the State Health Improvement Coordinator to talk about the SHIP with your group or organization to help identify areas of overlap.

- Find conversations that relate to the SHIP priority areas in your community. How can you team up with partners in your area to work on them?

- Design a plan, grant application, or activity with the SHIP in mind or use the SHIP in your current planning.

- Ask local government, businesses, schools, non-profits, and other groups to align their efforts with the priority areas in the SHIP and to include the SHIP in their planning documents and policies.

- Review action items in the SHIP and contact the State Health Improvement Coordinator to inquire about starting an ad hoc working group focused on a specific task.

- Create space for data analysis, sharing, and communication, such as through webinars and updates to the SHIP, as needed.

**Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
<td>A new SHA and SHIP are published.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>The SHIP is evaluated with a stakeholder participation. An annual report is published with evaluation findings, updated data, and action steps for the next year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>Communities of Practice meet for each priority area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bi-monthly</td>
<td>Newsletters with updates, resources, and upcoming events (like webinars and trainings) are sent via the email mailing list.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Ad hoc volunteer working groups take action on specific areas of interest.</td>
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## Logic Model

### Inputs
- State Health Improvement Coalition
- PHHS Block Grant Funding
- Community Members
- A Healthier Montana Website
- Healthy People 2030
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
- Local and Tribal Health Assessments and Improvement Plans
- Hospital Health Needs Assessments and Implementation Plans

### Activities
- Convene the State Health Improvement Coalition
- Publish a new SHA and SHIP every 5 years
- Evaluate and share an annual report
- Facilitate quarterly Community of Practice meetings
- Host working groups
- Help individuals and groups use the SHIP
- Serve as a resource about equal health opportunity for all Montanans and how where we live, work, and play impacts health
- Maintain A Healthier Montana website
- Present at partner and stakeholder conferences
- Support partner communications
- Convene stakeholders around Montana’s public health priorities and coordinate activities

### Outcomes
- A common agenda for change to address Montana’s public health priorities
- Collect and report data consistently on state’s shared public health priorities
- Achieve open and continuous dialogue about existence and utility of the SHIP
- Improve quality of partnerships across sectors, groups, communities, and organizations
- Improve awareness of the landscape of public health activities in Montana

### Short-Term Objectives
- Use the SHIP to drive improvements in health

### Long-Term Objectives
- Increase understanding of how to participate in SHIP
- Population health improvement tracked by SHIP