



Public Health Infrastructure Grant Year 1 in Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant (PHI Grant) to the Division of Public Health (DPH) in late 2022. The PHI Grant Leadership Team is now taking a moment to reflect and celebrate its accomplishments during Year 1 of the five-year performance period. This first page provides a high-level summary of the vision and priorities for PHI Grant implementation, while more detailed subject-specific accomplishments are listed on the second.

Public Health Infrastructure Grant Funding Summary <i>as of 1/10/24</i>		
Strategy Area A1 Workforce		
BP1* (12/1/22-11/30/27)	\$43,018,968	
<i>39.2% Pass-through to LHDs</i>	<i>\$16,863,435</i>	5-year allocation
<i>0.8% Pass-through to Tribes</i>	<i>\$344,152</i>	
Strategy Area A2 Foundational Capabilities		
BP1 (12/1/22-11/30/23)	\$1,929,331	Annual allocations dependent
BP2 (12/1/23-11/30/24)	\$3,376,295	upon availability of federal funds
Strategy Area A3 Data Modernization		
Core Data Modernization Initiative (DMI)		
BP1 (12/1/22-11/30/23)	\$648,515	Annual allocations dependent
BP2 (12/1/23-11/30/24)	\$1,300,975	upon availability of federal funds
DMI Acceleration		
BP1 (12/1/22-11/30/27)	\$4,634,704	5-year allocation
Laboratory Data Exchange (LDX)		
BP1 (12/1/22-11/30/27)	\$3,275,238	5-year allocation
GRAND TOTAL		\$58,184,026
* BP1 = Budget Period 1		

Grant vision

Wisconsin’s governmental public health system has consistently ranked at the bottom or near bottom of all states in public health funding for many years¹, which contributes to gaps in our system’s infrastructure. DPH’s vision for the PHI Grant focuses on identifying, quantifying, and addressing these gaps.

Year 1 priorities

- Passing through funding to local and Tribal public health (40% of Strategy Area A1 Workforce funds)
- Conducting baseline assessment of Costing and Capacity and Workforce (two of three components of the baseline overall)
- Recruiting for DPH staff

What comes next: Year 2 priorities

- Supporting local and Tribal health departments in pursuing work plans, providing targeted training and technical assistance based on selected objectives
- Actioning the Costing and Capacity and Workforce Assessment Data, to include determining allocation of Foundational Capabilities innovations dollars within Strategy Area A2 Foundational Capabilities budget
- Conducting the Impact Assessment (third of three components of the baseline overall)

¹ America’s Health Rankings. “Public Health Funding by State.” https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PH_funding

Overview of PHI Grant Year 1 accomplishments

Staffing

- Currently expecting to fund two or more positions in each of DPH's eight Bureaus and Offices
- Total DPH positions to be PHI Grant-funded (new and existing): 42
 - New positions already filled: 16
 - New positions to be filled: 8

Contracting

- University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (\$505,000/year): Public health partner coordination, training support
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) (\$349,205): Costing and Capacity Assessment of local health departments (LHDs)
- Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (\$20,000): Support and coordination of the Public Health and Health Care Coordinating Group
- WALHDAB (\$200,000/year): Support and coordination of Wisconsin Public Health Forward's mission and priority areas

Data modernization

- The DPH Office of Health Informatics (OHI) leads the implementation of Wisconsin's Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) portfolio and that of PHI Grant Strategy Area A3.
- The DMI portfolio is not solely funded by the PHI Grant, thus the following is not a comprehensive depiction of all DMI efforts and accomplishments.
- A3 Core DMI was initially approved but unfunded, then became funded along with two new sub-strategies (DMI Acceleration and Laboratory Data Exchange [LDX], both 5-year allocations) mid-way through Year 1.
- Within A3 Core DMI, OHI kicked off projects related to modernizing the metadata documentation and data request tools and processes.

- Within A3 LDX, OHI designated 100% of the funding to Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene to support their data and information system modernization efforts.
- Within A3 Acceleration, OHI designated funding to efforts surrounding Data Interoperability, Health Equity, and Advanced Analytics projects initiated under other federal grants and in need of sustainability.
- OHI began to recruit for the DMI Program Director with the goal to hire in early 2024.

Assessment and evaluation

- Seventy-seven of 85 LHDs completed a Costing and Capacity Assessment.
- DPH completed phases 1 and 2 of the DPH Costing and Capacity Assessment (identifying staff time and financial resources allocated to Foundational Public Health Services).
- DPH launched the first Wisconsin Public Health Workforce Assessment to explore and quantify the background, strengths, skills, and needs of the Wisconsin governmental public health workforce.

Workforce development

- Workforce development staff leads successfully onboarded six new workforce-focused positions within DPH; this hiring constitutes the formation of an entirely new DPH work unit, the Workforce Development Section.
- Workforce development staff prioritized effective onboarding and orientation of public health employees by overhauling the frameworks, content, and delivery of DPH 101, Public Health 101, and local health officer orientation.
- The Workforce Development Section collaborated across the division to support DPH's strategic planning process and select workforce strategies and focus areas based on staff input.