

## Public health system transformation and SCHSAC

We envision a public health system in which state, local, and tribal public health agencies work together as a system to share information and make timely strategic decisions through shared power.

**This system will help Minnesotans be healthy regardless of where they live.**

Perhaps most importantly, the work to transform the public health system is co-created by SCHSAC, LPHA, MDH, and community members, to ensure that our forward movement in public health reflects and amplifies strong partnerships, shared power, local needs, and equity across boundaries.

### What does it mean to transform the public health system?

Minnesota's public health system is highly regarded for its vision, quality, and partnership, but faces a number of challenges that it can't address in the way it currently works. We need a public health system that is ready to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> century head-on.

A core leadership team from MDH, the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA), and SCHSAC is working to make system and policy changes at the state and local level so that we can make greater impact more efficiently within a set of key foundational public health responsibilities.

We are stronger together.

### What's happening right now?

Sixteen innovation projects around the state are exploring new ways of doing work across urban and rural geographies and within different agency structures.

These projects do not supplant existing work, but help us learn how to do the work of public health in new and effective ways, generating valuable insights into how to best fund and structure Minnesota's public health system for the 21st century.

### Where are we headed?

While we fill basic needs due to decades of disinvestment in the public health system, we're also looking forward to considering how we do our work in a new paradigm.

We're measuring our current work to answer: To what extent is our system currently doing work in key foundational public health responsibilities? How much does this work currently cost? How much more do we need to fully meet foundational responsibilities?

## What does it mean to “transform the public health system”?

### STRONGER TOGETHER

Minnesota’s public health system is renowned for being forward-thinking and high quality, and for working in partnership across different levels of government and community. Minnesota is seen as a standard-bearer for public health in the United States.

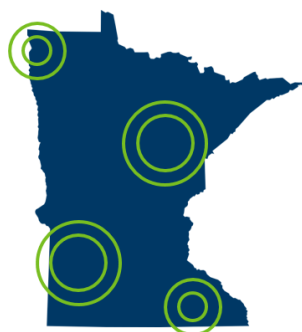
Our state’s public health workforce is also highly capable, and also has new things to learn. Public health workers are taking on new responsibilities as public health faces of new threats like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and its impact on rural and urban communities, racism and disparities based on geography, and more.

SCHSAC, the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA), and MDH have formed a core leadership team to make sure every public health agency in Minnesota is equipped to **diagnose**, **cooperate** on, and **prevent** public health challenges.

This core leadership team will work to make system and policy changes at the state and local level so that we can make greater impact more efficiently within a set of **key foundational public health responsibilities**. We envision a public health system in which state, local, and tribal public health agencies work together as a system to share information and make timely strategic decisions through shared power. This system will help Minnesotans be healthy regardless of where they live.

**Learn more and view the key foundational responsibilities:**  
[Transforming the public health system in Minnesota](#)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/systemtransformation>)



### Diagnose

Public health experts diagnose the health of each community by listening to people who live there—and then use data, evidence, and research to offer solutions.

### Cooperate

Different organizations work together—schools, businesses, government agencies, and more. Public health brings them together to make decisions and take action.



### Prevent

We often end up in the doctor’s office after we’re sick or injured. Public health experts investigate everything that affects our health—food, water, air and more—to prevent health problems before they start.



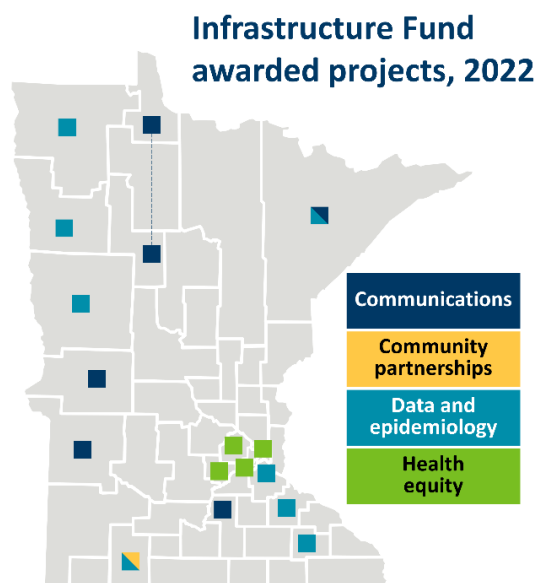
## What's happening right now?

### INNOVATION AND LEARNING VIA THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

In 2021, the Minnesota Legislature recognized the importance of strengthening the public health system, and provided a \$6 million annual appropriation for community health boards and tribal governments to build public health capacity.

The **Infrastructure Fund** supports 16 projects that:

- Focus on approaches that improve, pilot, or strengthen work in four key areas to start: communications, community partnerships, data/epidemiology, and health equity
- Do not supplant existing work, but help us learn how to do the work of public health in new and effective ways, generating valuable insights into how to best fund and structure Minnesota's public health system for the 21st century
- Provide lessons learned that translate into new ways to do this work statewide, across urban and rural geographies, within different agency structures



**View each jurisdiction's project and scope of work:** [Infrastructure Fund](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/systemtransformation/infrastructurefund.html)

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## Where are we headed?

### FILLING CURRENT NEEDS • COST AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

The Minnesota Legislature has added \$7 million to the Local Public Health Grant and \$500,000 to tribal health department grants, to **fill basic needs** due to decades of disinvestment in the state's public health system. This will help public health agencies provide basic needs like data analysis, preparing for the next emergency, providing staff development, helping prevent and control infectious diseases in schools and long-term care facilities, and hiring community health workers to better reach community members (among many other things).

The University of Minnesota is currently conducting a **cost and capacity assessment**, funded by the annual appropriation noted above and guided by a cross-jurisdictional group consisting of local and state representatives, to answer the questions:

- To what extent is our system currently doing work in the foundational responsibilities?
- How much does this work currently cost?
- How much more do we need to fully meet the foundational responsibilities (i.e., to complete this work)?

**View the assessment timeline and plan:** [Public health system transformation in Minnesota](https://z.umn.edu/MN21C)

(<https://z.umn.edu/MN21C>)

Minnesota Department of Health & State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC)

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[www.health.state.mn.us/schsac](http://www.health.state.mn.us/schsac)

October 2022. To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3880.

# Foundational public health responsibilities

## TRANSFORMING THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM IN MINNESOTA

**Where you live should not determine your level of public health protection.** This framework of foundational public health responsibilities represents the work governmental public health must do to meet communities' unique needs statewide, grounded by this shared core value of equity.

- **Foundational responsibilities:** Governmental public health must carry out the foundational public health responsibilities, and the foundational responsibilities must be present in every community across the state to efficiently and effectively promote and protect the health of all people in Minnesota.
- **Foundational capabilities** represent the foundation: All houses need a strong foundation for the rest of the house to function properly.
- **Foundational areas** represent the rooms: We expect a house will have a kitchen, bathroom, bedrooms, etc.
- **Protections and services unique to a community's needs** represent the unique needs and decisions of each homeowner, like furniture, paint color, fixtures, etc. They are still very important, but are not the same in every house.

