



JOINT LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

## Innovation Projects Currently Supported by the Minnesota Public Health Infrastructure Fund

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026 (JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026)

**Innovation that challenges the status quo is needed to develop novel, creative approaches to improving the public health system by fulfilling foundational public health responsibilities.**

Minnesota's local health departments and Tribal Nations are testing local innovations across the state, through grants from the Minnesota Infrastructure Fund.

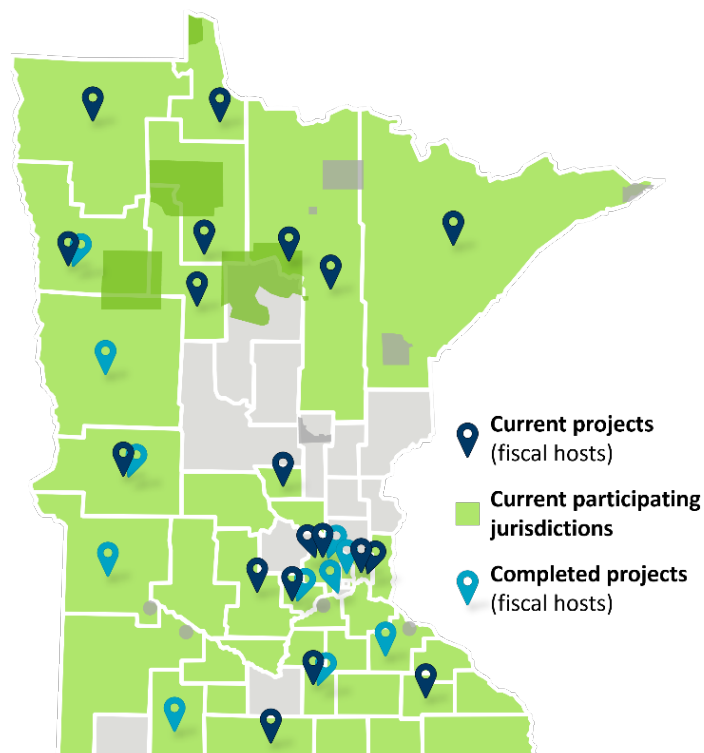
Local communities are often best positioned to implement novel approaches to public health because they are on the front lines, identifying the gaps and problems in the current public health system. They are also able to adapt and scale innovative approaches quickly for maximum impact.

In its 2021 session, the Minnesota Legislature recognized the important role of public health. In addition to other investments, the legislature provided a \$6 million annual appropriation for community health boards and Tribal governments to build public health capacity; in its 2025 session, the Minnesota Legislature amended the funding to a \$4 million annual appropriation. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) convened a group of State Community Health Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) Executive Committee members and public health leaders to determine the best use of these funds.

New projects are funded for two years with a two-year renewal option. Award amounts range from \$100,000/year to \$400,000/year. Minnesota community health boards and Tribal Nations are eligible to apply.

The Minnesota Infrastructure Fund is administered by the MDH Center for Public Health Practice ([health.ophp@state.mn.us](mailto:health.ophp@state.mn.us)). For more information, visit [Minnesota Infrastructure Fund Projects](https://www.health.mn.us/infrastructurefund) (<https://www.health.mn.us/infrastructurefund>).

**Local innovation projects supported by the Minnesota Public Health Infrastructure Fund**



## Innovation projects currently supported by the Minnesota Infrastructure Fund

For a list of innovation projects that have concluded and are no longer active, see p. 5.

Goal	Participating community health boards and Tribal Nations	Region(s)	Funding period
Explore ways for rural areas to collect and use population health data more effectively, so they can make smart decisions to keep their communities healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching*</li> <li>Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis</li> </ul>	Northeast	July 2025 through June 2027 (state fiscal years 2026-2027)
Cooperate across local and Tribal health teams to create health messages that resonate with different cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beltrami*</li> <li>Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe</li> <li>Red Lake Nation</li> <li>White Earth Nation</li> </ul>	Northwest, Central, Northeast, West Central	July 2025 through June 2027 (state fiscal years 2026-2027)
Bring together public health, community organizations, and medical care systems, to share data and ideas so communities can better collaborate on improving community health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benton*</li> <li>Sherburne</li> <li>Stearns</li> </ul>	Central	July 2025 through June 2027 (state fiscal years 2026-2027)
Explore the pros and cons of different ways to join work (organization, structure, governance) across health departments, to serve people more effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Le Sueur-Waseca*</li> </ul>	South Central	July 2025 through June 2027 (state fiscal years 2026-2027)
Test a new system where Tribal and local public health experts track and respond to diseases across communities more effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Itasca (county only)</li> <li>Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe* (via Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching)</li> </ul>	Northeast, Central, Northwest	July 2025 through June 2027 (state fiscal years 2026-2027)
Explore the pros and cons of different ways to join work (organization, structure, governance) across health departments, to serve people more effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeker-McLeod-Sibley*</li> </ul>	South Central	July 2025 through June 2027 (state fiscal years 2026-2027)
Discover a more effective method to track and help prevent the spread of infectious diseases in jails and correctional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dakota</li> <li>St. Paul-Ramsey*</li> <li>Washington</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2025 through June 2027 (state fiscal years 2026-2027)

# INNOVATION PROJECTS CURRENTLY SUPPORTED BY THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Goal	Participating community health boards and Tribal Nations	Region(s)	Funding period
Grow a regional team that helps local public health departments better understand, share, and talk about data, to prevent health issues across the entire community before they start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching</li> <li>Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis*</li> </ul>	Northeast	July 2022 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2023-2026)
Make it easier to share population health trends between hospitals and public health departments so they can respond quickly and effectively (also called Health Trends Across Communities in Minnesota)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hennepin*</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2022 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2023-2026)
Explore new and effective ways to cooperate on communications and public health education across rural local public health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beltrami</li> <li>North Country* (Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods)</li> </ul>	Northwest	July 2022 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2023-2026)
Expand a shared system to collect and study population health trends across Southeast Minnesota, helping communities more effectively share and use population health data to solve community health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dodge-Steele</li> <li>Fillmore-Houston</li> <li>Freeborn</li> <li>Goodhue</li> <li>Mower</li> <li>Olmsted*</li> <li>Rice</li> <li>Wabasha</li> <li>Winona</li> </ul>	Southeast	July 2022 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2023-2026)
Join forces to more effectively track and use population health data regionally, across rural local public health departments, using shared tools and knowledge (also called the North West 8 Collective Consortium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polk-Norman-Mahnomen</li> <li>Quin County* (Marshall, Red Lake, Pennington, Kittson, Roseau)</li> </ul>	Northwest	July 2022 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2023-2026)
In partnership with trusted community organizations, develop strategies to help the Latine community care for mental health in ways that prevent serious issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carver*</li> <li>Scott</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2024 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2025-2026)

INNOVATION PROJECTS CURRENTLY SUPPORTED BY THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Goal	Participating community health boards and Tribal Nations	Region(s)	Funding period
Increase ways to partner with cultural communities, to more effectively co-create and share important and accurate health information in many languages and cultural styles, so that all people have the information they need to be their healthiest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dakota</li> <li>St. Paul-Ramsey*</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2022 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2023-2026)
Cooperate as a region with a university, and build a regional partnership, to train future public health workers who will help prevent population health problems across many communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brown</li> <li>Countryside (Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine)</li> <li>Des Moines Valley (Cottonwood, Jackson)</li> <li>Faribault-Martin*</li> <li>Kandiyohi-Renville</li> <li>Le Sueur-Waseca</li> <li>Meeker-McLeod-Sibley</li> <li>Nicollet</li> <li>Southwest (Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Rock, Redwood)</li> <li>Watonwan</li> </ul>	South Central, Southwest	July 2024 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2025-2026)
Create and support an evidence-based plan to make pregnancy and birth safer for all parents and babies, by partnering with, listening to, and following the lead of African American and American Indian communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hennepin*</li> <li>Minneapolis</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2024 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2025-2026)
Create a hub that combines population health stories, data, and maps to help communities understand and prevent population health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countryside (Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine)</li> <li>Horizon* (Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Traverse)</li> </ul>	West Central, Southwest	July 2024 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2025-2026)
Explore new and effective ways to collaborate on communications across rural local public health departments, regional public health communications and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership4Health (Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Wilkin)</li> <li>Polk-Norman-Mahnomen*</li> </ul>	Northwest, West Central	July 2024 through June 2026 (state fiscal years 2025-2026)

## Past innovation projects supported by the Minnesota Infrastructure Fund

For a list of innovation projects that have concluded and are no longer active, see p. 3.

Goal	Participating community health boards	Region(s)	Funding period
Help people to recover from addiction and prevent community harm by studying the impacts of safe recovery sites and working in partnership with neighboring communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minneapolis*</li> <li>St. Paul-Ramsey</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2024 through June 2025 (state fiscal year 2025)
Grow local public health departments' ability to serve all residents more effectively, by integrating trauma-informed methods and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bloomington</li> <li>Edina</li> <li>Hennepin*</li> <li>Minneapolis</li> <li>Richfield</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2022 through June 2025 (state fiscal years 2023-2025)
Team up with the city and community groups to make sure everyone has what they need to be their healthiest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bloomington*</li> <li>Edina</li> <li>Richfield</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)
Fund and support community work in new ways, to make sure everyone's voice is heard in finding and sustaining ways to keep their community its healthiest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carver*</li> </ul>	Metro	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)
Build better ways to share population health data in rural areas, working with local leaders to prevent health problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countryside* (Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine)</li> </ul>	Southwest	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)
Grow support for mental health in the community by working together across sectors and developing new partnerships, and help communities understand and use population health data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Des Moines Valley* (Cottonwood, Jackson)</li> </ul>	Southwest	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)
Explore ways for different jurisdictions to work together on mutually beneficial projects, while growing all participants' ability to use and share population health data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goodhue*</li> </ul>	Southeast	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)

# INNOVATION PROJECTS CURRENTLY SUPPORTED BY THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Goal	Participating community health boards	Region(s)	Funding period
Design more responsive and effective ways to share public health information using modern tools and trusted voices in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horizon* (Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Traverse)</li> </ul>	West Central	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)
Explore ways for community health workers to help share population health information and education, to build departments' capacity for communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Le Sueur-Waseca*</li> </ul>	South Central	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)
Grow the knowledge, skills, and abilities of local public health experts to share disease and population health data, while building organizational and community relationships to maintain similar work across county and state lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership4Health* (Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Wilkin)</li> </ul>	West Central	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)
Grow local public health departments' ability to cooperate across a region on environmental public health work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marshall</li> <li>Pennington-Red Lake</li> <li>Polk-Norman-Mahnomen*</li> </ul>	Northwest	July 2022 through June 2024 (state fiscal years 2023-2024)

Joint Leadership Team for Public Health System Transformation in Minnesota:  
 Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA)  
 Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)  
 State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC)  
 651-201-3880 | [health.ophp@state.mn.us](mailto:health.ophp@state.mn.us) | [www.health.state.mn.us/systemtransformation](http://www.health.state.mn.us/systemtransformation)

July 2025. To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-3880.

*A note on time frames: Infrastructure Fund projects operate according to State of Minnesota fiscal years, though some projects may finish spending down funds after their project's fiscal year has ended. For more information on state fiscal years, visit: [State of Minnesota Budget Basics](https://www.senate.mn/departments/fiscalpol/reports/2005/budgetbasics.pdf) (<https://www.senate.mn/departments/fiscalpol/reports/2005/budgetbasics.pdf>).*