
MPHTC newsletter April 2026

From Montana Public Health Training Center <mphtc@sphchs.ccsend.com>

Date Wed 2026-04-01 8:00 AM

To Kiley, Anna <anna.kiley@mso.umt.edu>

April 2026



Welcome from the MPHTC!

The MPHTC newsletter will provide timely updates, information on upcoming trainings, events, resources, and more!

Visit our Website

Trainings & Learning Opportunities

TOMORROW!

[Recruitment Strategies for Montana Public Health Departments](#)

This interactive webinar brings together Montana public health professionals and University of Montana students for a candid, practice-informed conversation about recruiting the next generation of the public health workforce. Centered on real-world hiring needs and student perspectives, the session will explore effective recruitment strategies, common barriers to hiring, and how tools like the Montana Public Health Training Center job board can support connections between health departments and emerging talent. By elevating both employer and student voices, this training is designed to strengthen recruitment pathways and align workforce opportunities with the skills and interests of future public health professionals.

Date: 4/2/26

Time: 9:00AM-11:00AM MT

Location: Zoom

Register: [MPHTC Portal](#)

[Public Health Grant Management 101: Foundations for Local and Tribal Subrecipients](#)

This interactive, instructor-led virtual training introduces the fundamentals of public health grant management for subrecipients of federal pass-through funds administered by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The session focuses on grant terminology, award documents, task orders, and 2 CFR 200 requirements, emphasizing practical, real-world application without unnecessary technical complexity. It is recommended that participants also register and attend the second session of this training.

Trainers: Sara E. Miller and Montelle M. Tamez, Otowi Group

Date: 5/7/26

Time: 10:00AM-12:00PM

Location: Zoom

Register: [MPHTC Portal](#)

[Public Health Grant Management 101: Implementation, Monitoring, and Compliance](#)

This second session of the Public Health Grant Management 101 series focuses on practical implementation and compliance, including monitoring expenditures, tracking deliverables, maintaining documentation, and preparing for audits. Grounded in 2 CFR 200, the training emphasizes internal controls, records retention, and proactive risk management tailored to local and tribal public health practice. It is recommended that participants have attended the Foundations session or view the training recording prior to attending this session.

Trainers: Sara E. Miller and Montelle M. Tamez, Otowi Group

Date: 5/28/26

Time: 10:00AM-12:00PM

Location: Zoom

Register: [MPHTC Portal](#)

[Mental Health Crisis Response Series](#)

In recognition of May's Mental Health Awareness Month, the Center for Children, Families, and Workforce Development has teamed up with the Montana Public Health Training Center to bring a two-part learning series on mental health crisis response to our audiences.

May 14: Trauma-Informed Approaches to Supporting Youth at Risk of Suicide

Speaker: Kelly Holmes, PhD

4:00-5:30pm MT

May 28: Prevention and Assessment of Suicide in Pediatric Populations

Speakers: Kara Belfer, PsyD and Lauren Stone PsyD

4:00-5:30pm MT

[Register Online](#)

*Please note: this training registration is available at the link above, not through the MPHTC portal.

Coming Soon!

Budgeting with Excel - a series of asynchronous learning modules that will guide participants through building and managing budgets and leveraging Excel functionality for structure and consistency.

Recordings of past trainings can be found on our website!

Public Health in Schools Initiative

Confluence Conference Student Event

We are excited to host our third student event in conjunction with the Confluence Conference on April 15th at 6:30pm!

We would love help spreading the word to students in the Billings area. If you know teachers, school leaders, coaches, or students in Billings, [please share this flyer](#).

Students will have the opportunity to learn from public health professionals while interacting with public health activities. And free food!

[Second Annual Public Health in Schools Teacher Workshop](#)

We are excited to invite teachers to our **Second Annual Public Health in Schools Teacher Workshop** on May 21st from 4:00-5:00pm (via Zoom).

During this interactive session, teachers will:

- Explore our free, comprehensive public health curriculum designed for Montana classrooms
- Learn about our new initiative connecting health departments with schools
- Begin brainstorming ideas for *Made in Montana: Our Stories Told Our Way*, a student-driven public health storytelling and rebranding campaign

Please help us promote this workshop to teachers in your communities. The registration link is available [here](#).

NEW: Engaging Health Departments in the Public Health in Schools Initiative

We are thrilled to launch a new project - **Engaging Health Departments in the Public Health in Schools Initiative** - with support from the Montana Healthcare Foundation. This effort is designed to strengthen connections between local health departments and schools, creating meaningful opportunities for students to explore public health careers and real-world impact.

Through this project, we are expanding student engagement opportunities such as job shadowing, classroom partnerships, and hands-on learning experiences, while also launching a new student-led storytelling effort: ***Made in Montana: Our Stories Told Our***

Way. This campaign will empower students to share authentic, locally rooted public health stories that reflect the unique strengths and challenges of their communities.

We are proud to pilot this work in partnership with RiverStone Health, Missoula Public Health, and Richland County Public Health.

As part of the project, we have developed a draft **Toolkit for Health Departments** to support engagement with schools - including outreach strategies, activity ideas, and practical guidance for getting started. We invite health department staff to review the draft and share feedback to help ensure the toolkit is useful, relevant, and grounded in real-world practice.

[Check it out here](#) and send any feedback to mphtc@mso.umt.edu.



Pathways in Health Science Event

We are excited to reflect on the recent *Pathways in Health Science* event in Helena, organized by Public Health in Schools alumni Charles Snellman. Many of you may remember Charles from his leadership in last year's Confluence "Super Fusion" student health fair, an experience that helped inspire the creation of his nonprofit, Helena Health Science Alliance.

Through both the event and his organization, Charles is advancing a powerful vision for strengthening health science education in Helena's public schools by connecting students and teachers with meaningful resources, real-world insights, and career pathways. We are truly honored to have played a small role in inspiring this work and continue to be energized by Charles' enthusiasm, leadership, and passion for public health and health science.

UM-TAC (Technical Assistance Center)

Prevention Specialist Spotlight



Montana Prevention and Wellness' Prevention Specialist, Anita Wotkyns, based in Hamilton, Montana is creating hands on fun for Bitterroot families. During the month of March, Anita hosted the '[Emotions in Action](#)' exhibit through the Bitterroot Discovery Children's Center which invited children and caregivers to learn side-by-side through play-based activities that build emotional awareness, communication skills and health coping strategies.

Through movement, storytelling, sensory exploration, and creative expression, families discovered practical research-informed tools to navigate big feelings in positive ways. Every element was intentionally designed to strengthen protective factors and build resilience in young children. These skills developed early in life are closely linked to long-term academic success, strong relationships, and overall well-being, which are building blocks to preventing risky behaviors throughout life.

UMTAC at Confluence Public Health Conference

UMTAC will be facilitating a panel of Prevention Specialists at the Confluence Public Health Conference on Thursday, April 16th (The Power of Montana's Prevention Specialists: Leading the Fight Against Substance Misuse) Panelists will share about their work in substance use prevention, share about resources they can provide their communities, and identify areas for potential collaboration with others in the public health field. Come join us if you are at the conference!

Workforce Program

Let us help you fill open positions!

Our new [Public Health Jobs Board](#) is attracting job seekers from across the state, and beyond! The jobs board has been visited over 12,000 times!

Do you have a position you would like posted on our board? It's easy (and free!) to submit a job using our [Create a Job Posting Form](#).

Notes from our Partners in Public Health



MONTANA PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

Capacity Enhancing Grants

MTPHI's [Capacity Enhancing grant opportunity](#) has re-opened for the spring 2026 application period! This funding is intended to help health departments enhance organizational capacity related to the Foundational Public Health Services or other community-identified needs.

- **Application Deadline: applications are accepted on a quarterly basis. For this quarter, applications will be accepted April 1-22, 2026.**
- **Funding Amount: up to \$15,000 per award (health departments are only eligible for one project in the year).**

For more information and to apply, please visit: [Capacity Enhancing Grants | MTPHI](#).

If you have any questions, please contact grants@mtphi.org



FPHS Surveys

Last spring, local and tribal health leaders emphasized the need for a Montana-specific Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) model. This year, partners of the **Montana 21C: Strengthening Public Health Together** initiative are helping develop that model.

Broad participation in this process is essential- and if you're reading this, that means you! The FPHS model defines the core public health services that should be available to all Montanans through our state, local, and tribal public health system. Your feedback will help shape these definitions for Montana.

To take part in the surveys, please watch [the recording from one of our informational sessions](#). After viewing it, you'll receive a link to complete the surveys.

If you've already received the session information, you should also have access to the surveys. If not, please reach out to info@montanapublichealth21C.org.



Confluence 2026 Conference

Plains to Peaks: Uniting for a Healthier Montana

April 14-16 | Billings Hotel & Convention Center

If you're already registered for the Confluence Conference, now's a great time to download the Whova app to explore the agenda and start planning your sessions and conference experience. Registration is still open for those who haven't signed up yet!

Additional information, including a detailed agenda and session descriptions are available on the conference website: <https://www.confluencepha.org/confluence-conference>



Facilitation Foundations

Registration is open for the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center's **Spring run of [Facilitation Foundations](#)** – a highly interactive, deep-dive course designed for those new to facilitation.

[Register here.](#)

Course Dates: Every other Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 AM MT, April 29-June 24

Cost: \$385

Limited scholarships are available. Applications accepted until March 27, 2026.

Communicating Across Differences in Community Collaboration

Practicing Dialogue in Community Collaboration: This one-hour webinar will offer participants a framework for communicating across differences in collaborative contexts. The session will include key concepts, practices, and tools for cultivating cultures of curiosity and innovative problem solving in local community organizing efforts.

Webinar: May 6 at 1pm MT

[Register here.](#)

Financial Management Workshop Series

Join us for a workshop series made up of four monthly webinars themed around Financial Management. This series will explore how financial systems support mission and impact and will include discussions focused on decision-making with financial statements, effective processes for invoicing and tracking revenue, practical strategies for braiding funding sources, and building trust through financial compliance. Participants will engage in practical discussions and scenarios focused on real world decision making and sustainability.

One workshop per month between March and May 2026.

[Register here.](#)

Grants Budgeting Workshop

In this interactive workshop, participants will walk through the process of building a grant budget that is directly linked to a project scope of work. The workshop will cover details of common budget categories and specific line items to include with each category, along with appropriate calculations and justification to include in budget narratives. Participants will have an opportunity to practice often-used (and yet somewhat complicated!) budget calculations for personnel, per-FTE direct costs, and indirect rates.

Session: April 7 from 9:00-11:00am

[Register here.](#)

We welcome the opportunity to share announcements on behalf of your organization. Please email mphtc@mso.umt.edu if you have an announcement you would like us to include in future newsletters.

Seeking Subject Matter Experts

We are looking for new voices to share their knowledge and expertise! If you are interested in providing a training, please [reach out to us](#).

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