



# #HealthierMO 2021 Progress Report

Moving forward with the grassroots initiative to transform the future of public health in Missouri, building a strong foundation for health that helps assure we can all live our healthiest lives.

## 2017

Missouri Foundation for Health and Health Forward Foundation fund Phase 1 of the #HealthierMO initiative. The goal is **long-term transformation** of Missouri's public health system into a stronger, more culturally relevant and responsive health system that offers every Missourian the fair opportunity for health.

October -- Phase 1 Launch



## 2018

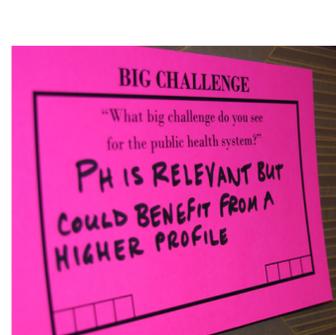
Missouri's six professional organizations focused on public health **commit to align** to create a unified voice for public health. They identify four focus areas: advocacy, collaboration, communication, and workforce development.

More than 120 public health professionals and stakeholders meet to **identify top priorities** for public health transformation.

Public health communications professionals form a Communication Advisory Council to provide input on communication strategies.

A diverse 35-member Advisory Council guides development of a Phase 2 workplan.

The initiative offers learning tools to universities to solicit student engagement.

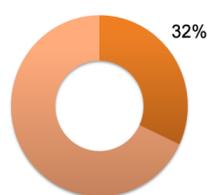


- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021

## 2019

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) **demonstrates support** for the initiative by providing gap funding between Phase 1 and 2.

Approximately 1 in 3 (32%) local public health agencies identify themselves as initiative partners.



The initiative creates an overview of Missouri's public health system financial structure.

A values-based survey finds Missouri's public health professionals are **passionate about their work** and seek opportunities to be more involved in planning, decision-making and transformation efforts.

#HealthierMO joins the Public Health National Center for Innovation's **21st Century Learning Community** (PHNCI 21C) with other states involved in public health system transformation.

The Professional Organizations form four workgroups around their focus areas and define charters for each.

The initiative gains **national attention** through participation in the 21C learning community, internet exposure, and presentations at state and multi-state level conferences.

Public health stakeholders contribute to **development of a foundational public health services model specific to Missouri**. The FPHS model receives final approval from the Executive Committee in December.



February -- Phase 2 Launch

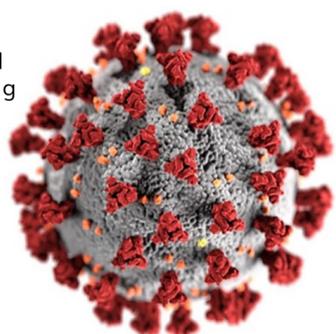
## 2020

Nearly all (112 of 114) of Missouri's local public health agencies complete an Infrastructure and **Capacity Assessment**, self-evaluating their capacity to assure the foundational public health capabilities and areas of expertise defined in Missouri's FPHS model.

The COVID pandemic response consumes public health professionals, reducing participation in the initiative. #HealthierMO leadership flex to ensure continued alignment with transformation goals during the shifting climate.

#HealthierMO supports strained public health agencies, compiling COVID response resources and offering advocacy tools and encouragement.

The initiative's funders allow a four-month extension for Phase 2 due to COVID-19.



March -- COVID-19 Pandemic

## 2021

#HealthierMO completes a thorough analysis of Capacity Assessment data, revealing key findings.

- The level of per capita funding drives local public health capacity more than any other indicator.
- LPHAs are more likely to lack capacity in the capabilities when their administrator has less than two years of experience in the role.
- Capacity in capabilities relies on leadership skills and training and is a strong predictor of capacity in the areas of expertise.
- Public health accreditation predicts, but does not guarantee capacity.
- Communicable disease control stands out as the area of expertise with highest capacity across the state - a finding illustrated by the dynamic public health response to COVID-19.

#HealthierMO shares individual capacity assessment reports with LPHAs to facilitate transformation planning.

Personal stories from public health professionals demonstrate their continued passion and describe their work addressing health inequities.

Experts from Concilience Group, LLC share strategies on evidence-based practices for public health agencies to improve health equity across Missouri.

#HealthierMO and Heartland Center launch a training portal for FPHS model implementation.

April -- Capacity Assessment

September -- Public Health Conference

## Future

Although the ongoing COVID pandemic makes planning with firm timelines a challenge, #HealthierMO leaders remain committed to pursuing public health system transformation guided by grassroots level input and engagement.

Tentative next steps include:

- conducting a cost assessment to determine the level of funding needed to assure every local public health agency has the capacity to assure the FPHS model,
- utilizing national research on recommended staffing models for public health systems,
- integrating new message framing to change the public discourse on the role, reach, and value of public health agencies in building strong foundations for community health, and
- continuing to improve coordination, communication, and unity across Missouri's public health system.

Join the initiative.  
Find your role.  
Share your story.

