

At Washington County Public Health, our top priority is to reduce health inequities in our community. We are using modernization funds to hire key staff in leadership, communications, community partnerships, emergency preparedness, communicable disease, and environmental health.

In all of these areas, we are working to reduce inequities and align our program work with public health modernization goals. For example, during the pandemic, we were able to analyze our own internal vaccination data to determine which age groups, ethnicities and races, and geographic locations were not up-to-date on vaccinations. This allowed us to improve our vaccination efforts and better craft communications and outreach strategies to reach these communities.

Modernization funding has given us the capacity to become more nimble and flexible in responding to COVID-19, monkeypox, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, climate and environmental threats, and priorities identified in our community health needs assessment.

We will know we are successful in creating a modernized public health system when we have a flexible, adaptive workforce to address emerging health issues and threats; strong collaboration between public health, community organizations and our health care partners; priorities and plans informed by data, and equitable community health outcomes.