



July 11, 2024

Re: **"SDOH Clinical Training" Funding Opportunity (Aug 2024-Jan 2025)**

Dear Healthcare Partner,

1. As part of a grant funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services is announcing a training funding opportunity for health care systems, primary care, and community based organizations who serve individuals with or at risk for diabetes in selected areas of the state. The purpose of the training is to improve knowledge, comfort level and competence addressing issues encountered when administering and responding to SDOH screeners. Even if your clinic does not currently administer an SDOH screener, this training will benefit staff's general understanding of patient needs that could impact care. Additionally, clinics can schedule a learning session with CDPHP bureau staff to discuss options for continued grant work related to addressing patient social needs and work with staff to enhance your community connections and build referral partner networks.

Eligibility

This is a **one-time** sub-award for selected health care systems, primary care clinics and community-based organizations.

Award amount

The funding amount will range from \$500 - \$1,000 depending upon the size of the organization and number of staff to be trained.


- 3-10 employees = \$500
- 10 – 50 employees = \$750
- 50+ employees = \$1,000

Deadlines

Applications must be received (in-hand) by the Montana Diabetes Program by 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, JULY 29, 2024.

The project period will run approximately August 2024 to January 2025. We hope you consider applying. For more information, contact Melissa House, Program Manager, Diabetes Program, melissa.house@mt.gov, (406) 444-9154 OR Margaret Mullins, Determinants of Health Program Coordinator, margaret.mullins@mt.gov, (406)444-6968.

Sincerely,


Melissa House, MBA
Program Manager

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DIVISION
1400 BROADWAY • HELENA, MT 59620 | DPHHS.MT.GOV

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)/ Health Equity Clinical Training Funding Opportunity

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project Requirements – Funded clinics must address these action items:

1. *Train clinic staff over a six-month period who interact with patients in a clinic setting to address topics related to a patient's social determinants of health (i.e., housing, food insecurity, transportation). The purpose of the training is to improve knowledge, comfort level and competence addressing issues encountered when administering and responding to SDOH screeners. Even if your clinic does not currently administer an SDOH screener, this training will benefit staff's general understanding of patient needs that could impact care.*
2. *Trainings will be virtual and can be done at times that accommodate varied schedules. A list of trainings will be made available. Each staff person involved will listen to the SDOH basic/intro webinar, then will choose two other webinars from a list of six. An example of training topics will include: an introduction to terms and concepts, empathic inquiry, implicit bias, and cultural humility. The DPHHS Montana Diabetes program (MDP) staff will organize the training options. Any new clinic staff who begin during the 6-month project and meet the above-mentioned criteria must be trained.*
3. *Document the employees (name and job title) who complete trainings, which trainings are completed and when (date). Report any employees who leave employment during the six-month period and do not complete training. Report any employees hired during the grant period who will be added to the list of persons receiving training. The MDP staff will provide an Excel tracking spreadsheet where this information can be reported and submitted at the end of the project. Complete a one-page report (template will be provided) that allows for your feedback on the training options, their value, and any suggestions.*

OPTIONAL:

**Schedule a learning session with MDP staff to discuss options for continued grant work related to addressing patient social needs which can include: choosing an SDOH screener for clinic usage, implementing a workflow for distributing a screener, creating referral lists and finding community partners to assist with needs, recording and reporting on SDOH notes in your EHR and collecting population health data (age, sex, zip code, payer type, race and ethnicity) to determine if there are racial/gender/insurance coverage disparities in health outcomes.*

**Create a list of existing partners/CBOs in your community that could help provide services to address a patient's social needs. During the grant period, work with the CDPHP bureau staff to enhance your community connections and build referral partner networks. See the American Hospital Association's Community Partnership Toolkit at: https://ifdhe.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2021/08/ifdhe_community_partnership_toolkit.pdf*

Use of Funds:

- The funding provided by through this grant may **NOT** be used to buy food, equipment or pay for direct services.
- The grant funding can be used to offset staff time to complete trainings.

Project Updates:

Program staff will schedule one interim call to check on the progress of trainings. Additionally, staff will be available to work with your clinic to answer questions during the grant period.

Consideration:

This training grant may help clinics position themselves to apply for a longer-term Health Equity project.

Project Deliverables: Participating organizations will be asked to submit the following (we will provide report templates):

Due approximately January 2025: Final Report (invoice \$500-\$1,000, depending on # of staff trained :

- Number of staff who completed necessary training.
- The selected training courses completed by each staff member involved.
- Perceptions about the usefulness of the training
- Perceptions about the lack of usefulness of the training
- Comments on possible next steps

Clinical Training Subaward Funding Opportunity APPLICATION (due July 29, 2024)

NOTE: This project will run approximately August 2024 - January 2025.

1. For this project, clinics must identify all clinic staff who could potentially be interacting with patients to address topics related to a patients' social determinants of health (i.e., housing, food insecurity, transportation, etc.). Please indicate if you can identify and list these employees within your staff by name and job title:
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Can your clinic ensure that each employee who is listed to complete the training (Q#1) will view the SDOH introduction webinar/presentation and two other virtual training courses provided by the CDPHP Bureau within the six-month grant period?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Don't know
3. Will the clinic agree that as any new employees, with job responsibilities that include patient interactions, onboard during the six-month grant period, they will also complete the same level of training as stated in Q#2 above?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Don't know

Client Population

4. Please estimate the number of staff in your organization that will do the SDOH training during the grant period.
5. Please estimate out of those staff who will be trained the number who work directly with patients with or at risk for diabetes.
6. Please specify if your clinic is interested in pursuing Optional item (a) on page 1 of the Project Background.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
7. Please specify if your clinic is interested in pursuing Optional item (b) on page 1 of the Project Background.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Project Plan *Include responses to question #7 on a separate page.*

8. In at least one paragraph, explain the following to help us assess your needs:
- Has staff previously received any training related to SDOH and health equity?
 - If so, what training(s) have they received?
 - What, if anything, is your clinic currently doing related to addressing SDOH or health equity?
 - How would your clinic like to ENHANCE what your clinic already is doing related to health equity or SDOH?

Budget

9. Please describe how the funding will be used.

Project Leads/Communication/Staffing

10. List which staff will be involved with the training and what their role(s) will be during the grant period.
11. This project involves communication with DPHHS staff via e-mail, one virtual meeting at the three-month point and possible additional virtual calls if optional projects are of interest. Please confirm that the project lead agrees to respond in a timely manner to e-mails and will participate in these meetings.
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (sorry, you are not eligible for this funding)
12. If your organization receives a sub-award and the lead staff person on the project is unable to continue working on the project, do you have a transition plan to assign another person as the lead?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (If no, you will need a transition option by the time the project starts)

We require that each clinic provider review this funding opportunity and sign the attached agreement below acknowledging their participation.

Applicant Contact Information

Project lead at your organization:

Position:

e-mail address:

work telephone number:

Organization name:

Organization's mailing address (please include a street address, city, zip):

Organization's Tax ID:

Provider #1 Signature

Provider #2 Signature

Provider #3 Signature

* Add any additional provider signatures below as needed

Thank you for your time. Please return the completed application (one submission per organization) to Melissa House, Montana Diabetes Program, melissa.house@mt.gov, fax (406) 444-7465 BY 5:00 p.m. July 25, 2024 (must be in-hand). If you fax your application, please call Stephanie Hernandez at (406) 444-6677 to ensure we receive it.