

**Department New Request Form
Fiscal Year 2026**

Program	Central Services	Title of New Request:	Rank: 4
Department	City-County Health Dept.	New funding to continue two Community Health Worker positions	
Request Category	New		
Request Rating	Maintain Level of Service		
Department Goal	To build conditions that support the health of people, pets, environments and communities.		# of FTE's in this request
			0.00

1. How will request assist in achieving Department Goal and benefit the customer

Community Health Workers (CHWs) have been an integral part of the Home Visiting Staff at Missoula Public Health for the past three years. Partnership Health Center (PHC) received a grant from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in August of 2021 to strengthen Missoula's capacity to address health disparities by improving access to COVID 19 services and other health and social support services. Four primary populations were identified: economically marginalized families with children, people experiencing homelessness, people with underlying health conditions that increase risk of COVID 19 and Missoula area Indigenous people. PHC partnered with Missoula Public Health (MPH) and All Nations Center (ANC) to carry out the grant objectives. The three-year grant received a one-year extension due to carry-over funding, and was originally set to conclude on 8/30/2025. This funding was abruptly and unexpectedly terminated in March 2025. Missoula County agreed to cover these personnel and program costs through the end of FY25.

The CHWs at MPH have assisted families in accessing housing, Medicaid, SNAP and in navigating health services like primary care and doctor appointments. CHWs have provided crucial support, making it easier for clients to navigate complex social services systems. Due to the wide scope of community health, CHWs can address many of the Social Determinants of Health (SODH) by providing holistic and individualized services unlike other programs which have narrower focuses. CHWs have filled gaps in services within MPH Home Visiting Programs and in the Missoula Community. Advocating and empowering people when they need extra support finding new employment, housing, medical providers or navigating bills and copious amount of paperwork are just some of the services CHWs provide. CHWs serve as an essential intermediary between resources and families trying to access those resources, especially when English is not the family's first language. CHWs provide one-on-one support to families that community organizations and our MPH home visiting programs are unable to provide. The time it takes to navigate public assistance programs to access housing and other community resources can be daunting for trained staff let alone extremely stressed families. Losing CHWs would severely limit our ability to serve these vulnerable populations effectively.

In FY 24 the CHWs made 288 referrals and conducted 471 visits. Over the grant cycle 8/21-8/24 CHWs made 400 referrals and conducted 851 visits. For the first quarter of this year 9/1/24-11/30/24 CHWs made 52 referrals and conducted 97 visits with families. For the first 1.5 months of this quarter there was a CHW vacancy which was filled on 10/15/24. Without this funding the most vulnerable population that the CHWs have been working with will have no one to help them navigate the lengthy housing, SNAP, and Medicaid applications or access primary care and other community resources. The current home visiting staff does not have the capacity to take on these clients as their programs are full. We intend to apply for the CAF as well as Montana Healthcare Foundation Grant but these will be one-time funding sources if we are approved. We also will not know if we will receive any of these other funds until after our budgeting process is complete.

2. What specifically is needed to achieve this goal?

The salaries to continue to fund the 2 FTE CHW positions are \$135,746. We are also requesting \$6,000.00 in operational supplies for a total request of \$141,746.
Total \$141,746
After One-Time Grant \$80,792
County (40%): \$32,317
City (60%):\$48,475

3. Cost Impact of New Program:

Account #	Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Requested One-Time	Requested Ongoing	2026 Unfunded	2026 Funded	Proposed 2027 Ongoing
Ongoing Expenses								
1000.390.440190.700	Community Health Workers	1	48475		48,475	48,475	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
One-time Expenses								
				—		—	—	
				—		—	—	
				—		—	—	
				—		—	—	
				—		—	—	
Expense Sub-Total				—	48,475	48,475	—	—

Revenue Offset:

Account #	Revenue Description	Proposed Onetime Revenue	Proposed Ongoing Revenue
1000.000.311000.00	T Tax funded		48,475
Revenue Sub-Total		-	48,475

4. What sort of data will be used to report results and outcomes of request?

Missoula Public Health, with oversight of the Missoula City-County Health Board, uses quantitative performance indicators and strategic plan objectives for monitoring performance.

Requested/Proposed Funding Source

	One-time	Ongoing
Tax or Assessment	-	48,475
Non-tax	-	-
Fund Balance	-	-
Total	-	48,475