

Benton County's overarching goal for Public Health Modernization is to meet and exceed foundational capabilities through implementation of sustainable foundational public health activities and programs.

Thanks to continued investment from the Oregon legislature, Benton County continues to make exciting progress toward Public Health Modernization. This funding cycle has allowed a much-needed expansion of capacity in our communicable disease and environmental health programs, as well as funding for our health equity coordinator position. One-time American Rescue Plan Act funds are serving our community by extending the limited duration positions of our Spanish Communications Coordinator and COVID-19 Response Specialist.

While we find incredible value in all Modernization work, we are particularly excited this year about the first expansion of our environmental health program beyond the traditional regulatory functions. The climate and health coordinator will serve at the intersection of climate change and health, with major functional areas in outreach, community mobilization, and coalition building, as well as climate and health planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Public Health Modernization provides the support for all counties to move forward in being data-driven, prepared, equity-focused, present and responsive to meet community needs. Continued investment toward these goals is necessary to grow and sustain this essential work.