

Linn County Public Health prioritized communicable disease follow-up and infrastructure during this biennium. One set of critical hires included our first data analyst/investigator and community health worker capacity added to our communicable disease program. We are now able to keep up with labs, investigations, and contact tracing for reportable diseases in the allotted times. We have also begun analysis of unique challenges for our county in the areas of syphilis spread and suicide rates. This will help steer the activities of partner departments and organizations to tailor our interventions and prioritize impacted populations. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to shift from counting and tracking to actually pushing back on some of these health outcomes to reduce their prevalence here. Without modernization funds, this would not be possible.

Another major area of investment was in health administration for contract management. We have been able to significantly shorten the turnaround time for getting pass through funds out the door and increase our total community investments at the same time. This additional capacity has allowed us to see programming and intervention strategies go beyond health department activities. In a community like ours, it is difficult to reach all people through governmental action. We rely on partners to promote better health outcomes and this was an administrative challenge modernization funds helped us overcome.

The final area of investment was in our department and our community's organizational health. These investments including strategic planning, workforce capacity to address access to care challenges, and school health coordination.