



Regional Data Models Funding Overview

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The Regional Data Model Story

2021: Minnesota Public Health Infrastructure Fund is established to support locally-led projects that improve, pilot, or strengthen approaches to building foundational capacity, and that can share implications and lessons for the entire state public health system.

2023-2025: Evidence grows, showing local, regional, and statewide benefits of working together regionally to build public health data capacity. The Minnesota Infrastructure Fund continues to invest in and learn from innovation projects supporting regional data collaboration.

March 2026: First round of Regional Data Models Funding RFAs open for funding to begin July 1, 2026

2022: Locally-led innovation projects start to explore regional data models in Southeast Minnesota and Northwest Minnesota.

Summer 2025: SCHSAC amends recommendations for the Minnesota Infrastructure Fund, to dedicate up to \$1.6 million annually for up to eight regional data models (\$200,000 per region per year), on an ongoing basis.

What is a Regional Data Model?

- A regional data model creates a structure that organizes and shares staffing, knowledge, skills, and resources across jurisdictions **to create or increase capacity to meet Assessment and Surveillance Foundational Public Health Responsibilities** among participating partners.
- The participating CHBs and the jurisdictions they serve are the **“region”**
- **Staffing:** Staff or staff time dedicated to providing foundation public health data capabilities.
- **Knowledge and skills:** Expertise and ability to access, collect, analyze, interpret, manage, share/communicate data and use data to inform decision-making and public health practice.
- **Infrastructure:** Structure, systems, and processes to deliver increased data capacity across the region and translate data into public health action; may include the development of tools like dashboards.



Collaboration and relationships are foundational elements of Regional Data Models

- Creates infrastructure for shared decision-making and collaboration where each partner benefits and has a voice.
- Builds or complements ongoing, successful partnerships, while leveraging regional strengths and assets to eliminate differences in regional data capacity.

Why Regional Data Models?

- Shown to increase an LPH's ability to access, collect, use, manage, use, and share population health and address the differences in data capacity among participating partners.
- Successfully bridges the gap between localized and centralized service delivery.
- Can be replicated and adapted to meet the unique needs, context, and relationships of LPH agencies in other parts of the state.
- Shared service delivery maximizes limited resources by reducing duplication of efforts, while creating the conditions that build regional expertise, collaboration, problem solving, and innovation.
- Compliments state partners and TA support like District Epis & DSI DTA with the potential to streamline and reduce the volume of data & TA requests, which benefits state and local partners.

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- Up to \$1.6 million of State Infrastructure Funds set aside for the developing and sustaining Regional Data Models per year.
- Up to 8 models to achieve statewide coverage
- Up to \$200,000 per model per year
- Funding is on-going

Statewide Coverage

- Every CHB that wants to be part of Regional Data Model has the opportunity.
- Not a competitive or “first come, first serve” process
- Not limited to pre-defined regions such as SCHSAC or LPHA regions.
- LPH will need to work collaboratively to identify their partners and define their regions.
- Must include 2 or more CHBs.
- Regions/partnerships can change over time.

Funding Process Overview

- Application is a Redcap RFA: [Regional Data Models Funding](#)
- The Regional Data Model application will stay open, and applications will be reviewed quarterly until 8 models or statewide coverage is achieved.
- Applications submitted by June 30, September 30, and December 31 will be considered in subsequent reviews for start dates around October 1, January 1, and April 1, respectively.
- Due dates and RFA in place so MDH staff can review applications and follow internal contracting timelines and be compliant with applicable rules/guidance.
- The first deadline to apply is April 10th, 2026, for funding start date of July 1, 2026.

Key Reminders & Considerations

- Regions/CHB partnerships are all in different places and it will take time, support, collaboration, and conversation to “fill in the map”.
 - Move at the pace of your partnership. Apply when you are ready.
- Start by assessing your data capacity strengths, assets, needs, gaps, and opportunities.
- Each Regional Data Model will be unique to needs, context, and relationships of participating partners
- Regional Data Models are State Infrastructure Funds
 - Still focused identifying, testing, and expanding new ways of building FPHR capacity (specific to assessment & surveillance)
 - They are supported by coaching

Thank You!

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