



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES**

Show-Me Public Health Careers

K-12 Pipeline Project

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What is this project?

What it is

Initiative to give young people opportunities to explore public health so we can build a strong, caring workforce for the future.

Project components:

- Career exploration toolkit
- Virtual career fair (VCF)

What it includes

- Plain-language talking points on what public health is
- Real-world scenarios and classroom discussion prompts
- Career-focused activities for all grade levels
- Guidance for building school partnerships
- A plan for a virtual K-12 career fair

Why are we doing this?

1

The pipeline starts early

- Early exposure increases likelihood school-aged youth consider a public health career.
- Most have never thought about public health as a career path.

2

Missouri LPHAs are well-positioned

- Already in the community.
- Have the expertise, the trust.
- Connection to health needs that no outside organization can replicate.

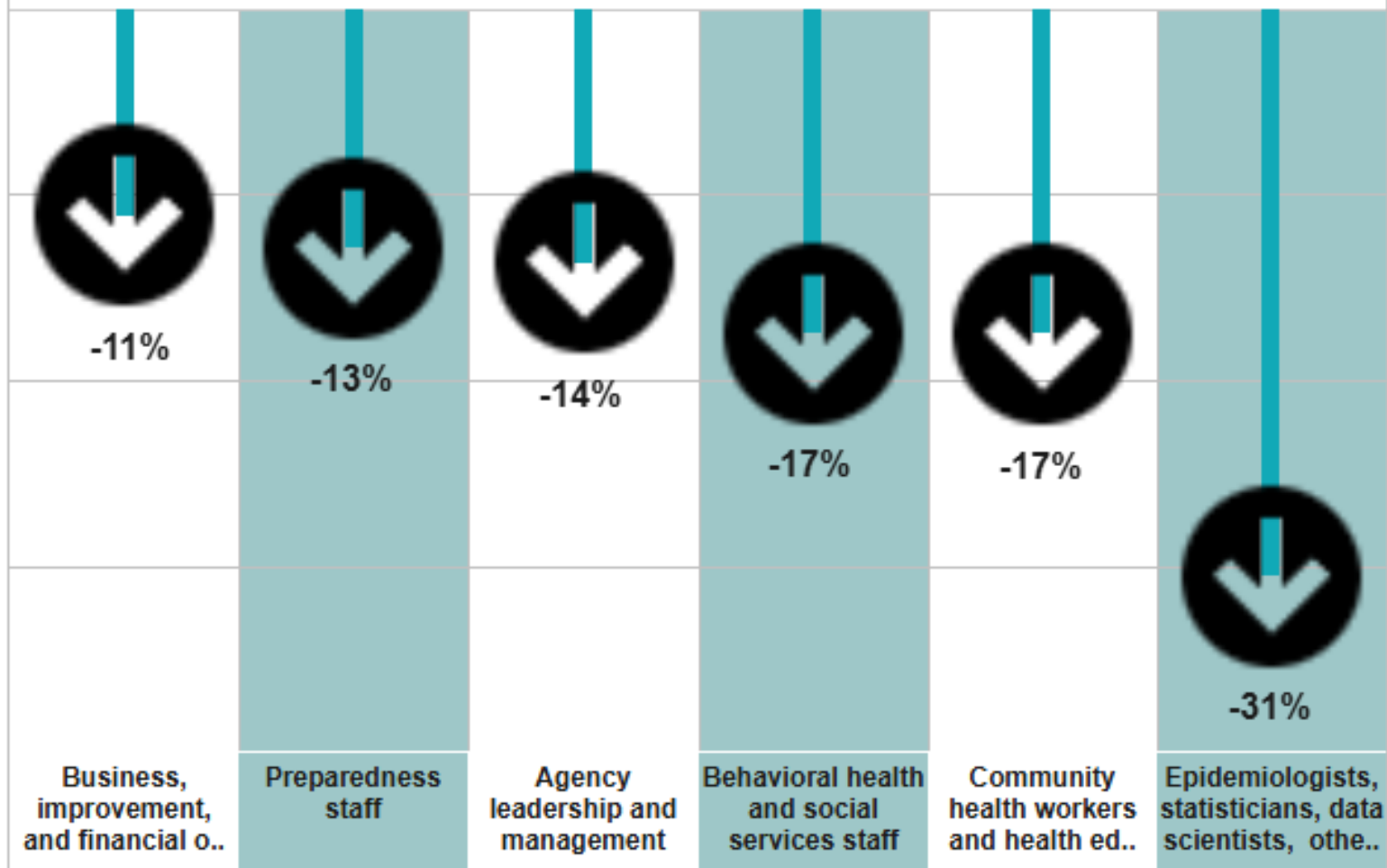
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Supports LPHA accreditation

- Accreditation requirement to engage in pipeline activities (8.1).

Where are we seeing a decrease in the overall LPHA workforce?

LPHA Staff Percent Decreases Across Job Categories from RP3-RP6



Source:
PHIG
Reporting

Dec 2023 to
Nov 2025

How are we doing it?

Step 1

Develop the toolkit — Adapting from *Montana's Public Health Where We Live and Learn* toolkit and tailoring for Missouri.

Step 2

Ask for feedback/support — We are coming to you to make sure this toolkit is useful, practical and reflects what is actually happening in Missouri communities with your support along the way.

How are we doing it?

Step 3

Virtual career fair — A two-hour virtual event connecting Missouri K-12 students with real public health professionals across the state. Spring 2027?

How can LPHAs get paid for this work?

These activities align with existing LPHA funding streams and foundational public health capabilities.

PHIG A.1

K-12 pipeline activities are allowable use of PHIG workforce funds.

CHIP Grant

Early pipeline activities are eligible for CHIP education funding.

Question

What other funding sources do you use for this work?

Please leave your responses or contact information in chat.

What we ask from you today

Two quick questions for the group — no survey, just your voice:

Q1

Which public health roles should we feature in virtual career fair?

Examples: environmental health, epidemiology, maternal and child health, health education, public health nursing, health policy

Q2

Do you do any activities to help youth learn about public health careers?

Q3

**Would you be willing to share more?
If yes, what is the best way to contact you?**

Contact information in chat (Email, Ph.)

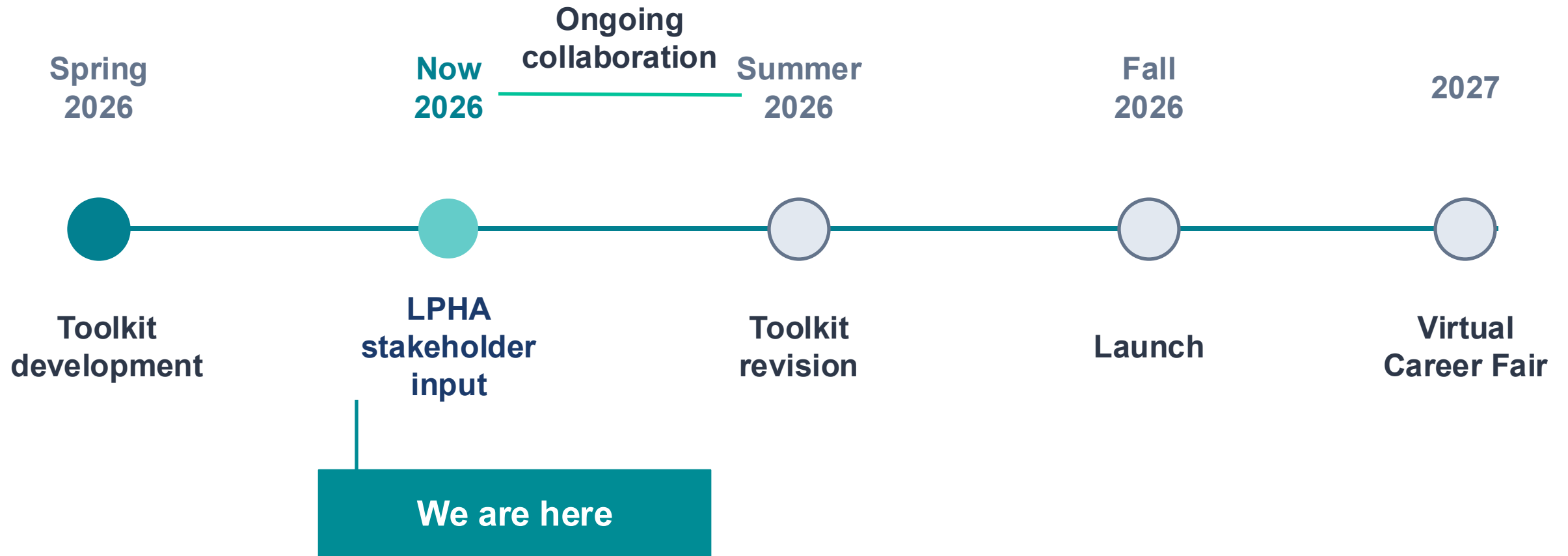
We are coming to you.

This toolkit only works if it works for you.

- Does this project reflect what your LPHA can realistically do?
- What support would make this easier to use?

Your feedback today shapes the final version of this toolkit.

Where are we in this process?



Next steps

- 1 DHSS incorporates your feedback into the final toolkit draft.
- 2 Full toolkit launch and statewide rollout.
- 3 Virtual K-12 career fair. LPHAs help recruit student attendees and public health speakers.

Questions or follow-up: contact Pat.Simmons@health.mo.gov