

**Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Strategy A1– Overview**  
**\$29,122,015.00 Award for Strategy A1 for all 5 years**  
**from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

---

---

**Background**

Supported in part by the American Rescue Plan Act, the OE22-2203: Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems grant is a new investment that supports critical public health infrastructure. Funding from this grant aims to ensure that everywhere has the people, services, and systems needed to promote and protect health. Grant strategies included recruiting, retaining, and supporting the public health workforce; improving organizational systems and processes for public health; and modernization and increasing efficiency in data infrastructures. The CDC intends to make resources available for a first five-year period, and then a continued cooperative agreement after that. The grant is separated into three strategy areas: A1 Workforce, A2 Foundational Capabilities and A3 Data Modernization. Currently, ADH has received funding for A1 at \$29,122,015 for the total five years. The effective period of the initial award is December 1, 2022- November 30, 2027.

**Purpose**

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), as the centralized authority for public health in the state, must prioritize recruiting, properly training, supporting, and retaining a robust public health workforce. Additionally, improvements in several foundational infrastructure areas are expected to create a more efficient and effective public health system for Arkansas. Many of these improvements address modernizing ADH processes, positioning the department to be a better service provider and partner, and to be more responsive to changing circumstances brought on by a public health emergency.

**Goals**

The ADH will work to support programs in the department with the greatest need of additional staff like the Public Health Lab, the Arkansas Cancer Registry, Infectious Disease Hep C program, and Human Resources. Further, ADH has identified other programs that currently have staff supported by grants that are set to expire but that have critical work to continue, such as the Epidemiology Branch, Office of Performance Management, and the Informatics Branch. To continue to support and retain staff, there will be increased opportunities for training and professional development, along with support for earning applicable certificates. Additionally, providing needed contract staff the Arkansas Cancer Registry. Further, improved organization systems and processes like software for document routing for review and grant management and an online licensing system for all applicable entities. Additionally, the placement of blood pressure reading kiosks in every health unit for the public and staff to utilize. These projects aim to create stronger public health capabilities and increased availability/use of public health staff.