

Electronic Laboratory Reporting Interface Development, Promoting Laboratory Data Exchange Mini Grant Application

The Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) Mini Grant program provides grants up to \$10,000 to eligible healthcare facilities that can work with their Electronic Medical Records vendor to implement an ELR interface. The 2024-2025 application period opens October 14 and closes November 22, 2024, or until funding is no longer available. Applicants will be notified by December 2 if application has been approved or denied. No awards will be given after July 31, 2025. To receive the final payment, Production data exchange must be approved by DPHHS prior to end of day July 31, 2026. An extension may be approved for unforeseen circumstances but only if a request is submitted 90-days in advance.

OPPORTUNITY AND ELIGIBILITY:

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will award mini grants of up to \$10,000 to establish or upgrade an electronic interface between the healthcare professional's electronic health record and DPHHS. The interface must employ the current HL7 version 2.5.1 electronic laboratory reporting data messaging standard for electronic data exchange.

Eligible applicants include healthcare professional offices, clinics, and critical access hospitals located in Montana. Montana DPHHS will fund mini-grant recipients for full or partial costs as an incentive and partnership with healthcare facilities to offset some of the cost of interface development. Once in place the interface will provide for more timely exchange of, and increased completeness of, laboratory data reported to the Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS). Upon approval, awards are given in the following increments:

- 50% of award after completion of a kick-off meeting with DPHHS.
- 25% of award after satisfactory testing is completed with DPHHS.
- Final 25% of award after production is approved by DPHHS.

HOW TO APPLY:

Step 1: Confirm eligibility

- Healthcare facilities located in Montana and performing clinical/diagnostic tests for [diseases reportable in the State of Montana](#)
- Healthcare facilities which do not currently have an ELR Interface or that are looking to add more reportable conditions to a current ELR connection
- Have an Electronic Health Records system that can implement an ELR interface

Step 2: Complete and submit application

Please complete the online application, [ELR Mini Grant Application](#), which will require the following attachments:

- Signed W-9 form (2023)
- Letter of Support from the EHR vendor attesting that they can implement the ELR interface

What you will need for the application:

Primary contact for communication



- Name
- Address
- Email
- Phone number

Proposed timeline for work

- Start date
- Estimated completion date – estimated completion date must be prior to July 31, 2025. If a working interface is not established prior to this date, no final award will be given.

Budget amount requested

- Attach a detailed budget describing how the funds will be used
- Funding is allowed for costs incurred for interface development and implementation, technology upgrades related to the ELR interface, and EHR vendor costs related to ELR interface.
- Budget request may not exceed \$10,000.

Work Plan

- Complete a work plan of no more than 3 pages that describes planned activities and timelines.
- The plan must establish or improve a HL7 interface with DPHHS as described in the [Montana ELR Onboarding Guide](#)
- **The use of LOINC and SNOMED codes are required**

If you have any questions regarding this opportunity, please email MIDIS@mt.gov.