

# CDC In Action: Accelerating and Supporting COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is playing an essential role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, working 24/7 to protect the nation's health and ensure public health partners have the resources, guidance, and scientific expertise to respond. Drawing on decades of experience combating vaccine preventable diseases such as measles, flu, and polio, CDC is providing urgent, science-based assistance to the COVID-19 response for ongoing prevention measures and national vaccination campaign efforts.

## Providing Essential Vaccine Distribution Funding

The U.S. government is harnessing its full power to deliver Americans safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines as fast as possible, including providing \$8.75 billion in funding to support the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) enacted December 27, 2020. Of that, CDC distributed [\\$3 billion by January 18, 2021, to states, territories, and localities](#) (STL) to plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track coronavirus vaccines to ensure broad-based distribution, access, and vaccine coverage. CDC will distribute an additional \$1.29 billion to STL to support those efforts. This funding--\$210 million to the Indian Health Service (IHS) for tribal support and \$4.25 billion for additional vaccine distribution activities--will help protect the American people from COVID-19 by providing access to safe and effective vaccination.

### Background and Objectives

The goal of the U.S. government is to have enough COVID-19 vaccine for all people in the United States who wish to be vaccinated. CDC has published the [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations](#) and its companion the [Playbook Annex](#) with new guidance and considerations regarding when and how to transition from vaccinating initial populations of focus to reaching and increasing uptake in additional priority populations. With ongoing, evidence-based updates as the COVID-19 response and the nature of the epidemic evolve, these publications provide resources, guidance, and recommendations to plan and operationalize vaccination programs for state, tribal, local, and territorial public health programs and partners.

### Funding Focus and Activities

#### Grants to States, Territories and Localities (\$4.29 billion)

**More than \$3 billion made available in an [initial award in January 2021 to jurisdictions through the existing CDC Immunization and Vaccines for Children cooperative agreement](#).** These awards will support a range of COVID-19 vaccination activities across jurisdictions to increase the number of vaccine provider sites, expand operations, and safely increase vaccine throughput. Support will include at least \$300 million focused on high-risk and underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities. Award recipients include 64 jurisdictions, including all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five major cities, and U.S. territories. Consistent with Congressional intent, funds will be allocated through a population-based formula.

Through an **additional \$1.29 billion in grants**, CDC will continue to support vaccine preparedness and response activities. Activities will include monitoring and improving access to vaccination, working with health providers from rural communities, communities of color, and/or communities of high social vulnerability, and amplifying messaging to promote COVID-19 vaccination, especially among underserved populations.

### CRRSA Funding Overview

Grants to States, Localities and Territories	\$4.29 billion
Grants to Tribes through IHS	\$0.21 billion
Vaccine Distribution and Related Activities	\$4.25 billion
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8.75 billion</b>



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## Other Vaccine Distribution and Related Activities (\$4.25 billion)

Through contracts, grants, and other funding mechanisms, CDC will further increase its technical assistance for ongoing, national efforts to **plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track** coronavirus vaccines to ensure broad and effective distribution and vaccine coverage, including:

### Distribution

- Ensure the **increased capacity for rapid distribution of vaccines** as they become available. The FDA approved emergency use agreements (EUAs) for two products in December 2020. Additional products are expected in the coming months, with additional requirements for storage and handling and different guidelines for administration.

### Systems and Tracking

- Full implementation and use of tracking systems for the COVID-19 vaccine program are critical. These funds will accelerate the work that has been done to date to strengthen the nation's immunization data systems and applications that are tracking vaccine supply, monitoring vaccine administration and coverage, and providing data for vaccine effectiveness and safety analyses.

### Safety and Effectiveness

- Increased capacity to assess the safety and effectiveness of any COVID-19 vaccine will be crucial to vaccination efforts. This funding will support studies to evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccines in targeted populations, reducing symptomatic COVID-19 infections, and improving our understanding of how these vaccines work. These studies will provide critical data to inform any necessary changes in how the vaccines are more widely distributed and administered to the general public. This funding will ensure the increased capacity required for monitoring vaccine safety. As is routine for new vaccines, safety monitoring will be necessary for at least 2-3 years after approval and use of the COVID-19 vaccines.

### Communications

- Development of **COVID-19 vaccine resources** for the provider community and the general public is essential to ensuring national coverage. These communications resources are supported by CDC's national [Vaccinate with Confidence](#) strategy and include **evidence-based information** about vaccine development, safety monitoring, approval processes, recommendation criteria, what to expect before, during and after vaccination, and technical aspects of the COVID-19 vaccine program, including storage and handling, vaccine administration, and the use of the new and expanded vaccine tracking and monitoring systems.

### Focused Support to Jurisdictions

- Funds will support enhanced efforts to **engage with and improve the reach to disproportionately affected communities** at the local and regional levels. Key activities include working with partners to recruit, train, and support community leaders with appropriate vaccine messaging, directly engaging with affected communities to respond to concerns and build support, and disseminating culturally appropriate messages and materials to vaccine champions and providers.
- Funds will support operations and **deploying CDC emergency response field staff** to address response needs, including **operational readiness, response, and recovery**, with public health and other critical partners.

As the nation's first line of defense against public health threats, CDC will continue to move quickly – **working 24/7 from laboratories to the front lines** – to ensure the U.S. is protected and investments in the COVID-19 response help strengthen the public health system to better respond to future threats.



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