

COVID-19 VACCINE

Office of Community Services (OCS) Vaccination Guidance

On April 2, 2021, OCS issued **CSBG Information Memorandum (IM) 161**, addressing the use of CSBG funding to support COVID-19 vaccinations. IM 161 highlights how state Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) lead agencies & CAAs can participate in community COVID-19 vaccination efforts and increase community vaccine awareness.

The IM states that CSBG CARES and regularly appropriated CSBG funding may be used to support fair and equitable COVID-19 vaccination efforts and related activities, and it actively encourages CAAs and state CSBG officials to engage in these efforts. CAAs may implement CSBG-funded public health activities, including the promotion of COVID-19 vaccinations, based on the results of local community needs assessments, which may include a review of health outcomes and available health care resources. In addition, CAAs may partner with other organizations serving low-income residents, including public health departments, religious organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations.

The IM provides the following examples of allowable COVID-19 vaccination-related activities:

- Hosting vaccination clinics;
- Providing transportation to vaccination sites;
- Signing up to join the national volunteer COVID-19 Community Corps (for additional information visit [wecandothis.hhs.gov](https://www.wecandothis.hhs.gov) and [hhs.gov/CovidCommunityCorps](https://www.hhs.gov/CovidCommunityCorps));
- Reaching out to local public health departments and other related entities to partner in COVID-19 vaccination outreach, including supporting efforts to reduce vaccine hesitancy;
- Incorporating information on COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, safety practices, and other related resources into intake processes, whether conducted online, by mail, in person, or over the phone, while ensuring accessibility for those with limited English proficiency;
- Providing information to ensure staff are well-versed on COVID-19 vaccination outreach, including to limited English proficiency populations;
- Ensuring Head Start staff and other early childhood educators are aware they have priority access to COVID-19 vaccination (See Office of Head Start for additional information); and
- Displaying and disseminating materials and information in different languages that explain the basics of COVID-19 vaccination, testing, safety practices and other related resources.

To assist CAAs and state CSBG officials in implementing these activities, OCS also references an **appendix** to the IM listing a number of COVID-19 vaccination outreach resources compiled from several legal and government agency sources.