



**New Jersey Department of Health
Communicable Disease Service
Vaccine Preventable Disease Program**

Request for Application (RFA) Notice

Name of Grant Program: **Special Program to Increase Immunization Levels**

Grant Program Reference Number: **Immunization 2024**

Grant Project Period: **From July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

Phil D. Murphy
Governor

Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.
Commissioner

Sheila Y. Oliver
Lieutenant Governor

Important Dates:

Date On Which Application Will be Available: **April 3, 2023**

Deadline By Which Applications Must Be Submitted: **April 28, 2023**

Date By Which Applicant Shall Be Notified Whether They Will Receive Funds: **June 30, 2023**

Throughout the project period, the New Jersey Department of Health, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program will continue to award based on the availability of funds, the evidence of satisfactory progress by the awardee (as document in required reports), and the determination that continued funding is in the best interest of the program.

Primary Vaccine Preventable Disease Program Grant Contacts:

Lovely Randle, Program Specialist

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A. Funding Opportunity Description

i. Purpose and Background

Vaccines are among the most cost-effective clinical preventive services. Despite progress with vaccines, communities with pockets of unvaccinated and under-vaccinated populations still exist and New Jersey residents continue to be at risk from diseases that are vaccine preventable.

The New Jersey Department of Health, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP) announces the availability of **Fiscal Year 2024** funds in effort to continue to support local and state initiatives to increase immunization levels across the lifespan. The Department will provide financial assistance through a one-year award to a grantee(s) that provide immunization services in targeted areas of need.

Ideally, the grantee(s) will have experience with immunization-related community health and/or preventative care activities, primarily to identified at-risk and/or low socioeconomic populations in New Jersey and the ability to provide immunization services, which could include vaccine administration and/or education and outreach activities in traditional and/or non-traditional medical settings. Services provided through this grant should be dedicated to delivering high quality services that aim to increase the use of universally recommended vaccines and are based on strong evidence of effectiveness.

ii. The Vaccine Preventable Disease Program Goals and Objectives

The VPDP goals and objectives align with the Healthy People 2020 and 2030 targets for Immunization. Goals and objectives include, but are not limited to:

- Reduce, eliminate, or maintain elimination of cases of vaccine-preventable diseases;
- Reducing invasive pneumococcal infections;
- Achieve and maintain effective vaccination coverage levels for universally recommended vaccines among young children;
- Maintain vaccination coverage levels among preschool and school-aged children;
- Increase routine vaccination coverage levels for adolescents;
- Increase the percentage of children and adults who are vaccinated annually against seasonal influenza;
- Increase the percentage of adults who are vaccinated against pneumococcal disease;
- Increase hepatitis B vaccine coverage among high-risk populations;
- Increase the percentage of providers who have had vaccination coverage levels among children in the practice measured within the past year;
- Reduce hepatitis B;
- Promoting vaccination through key partnerships; and
- Reducing and eliminating coverage disparities by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status

For a more in depth overview of Healthy People 2020 immunization goals and objectives, please see <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/immunization-and-infectious-diseases/objectives>

For a more in depth overview of Healthy People 2030 immunization goals and objectives, please see <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/infectious-disease>

iii. Example Priority Areas, Evidence-Based Strategies, and Activities

Examples of strategies and/or activities to increase immunization coverage rates that are based on strong evidence of effectiveness include, but are not limited to: vaccination programs in schools or organized child care centers; provider assessment and feedback programs; vaccination programs in Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) settings; home visitation interventions; vaccination programs in community settings; interventions aimed at enhancing access to vaccinations; computer generated client reminder and recall interventions; use of New Jersey Immunization Information System, New Jersey’s immunization registry, to help increase vaccination rates.

iv. Evaluation and Performance Measurement

The evaluation and performance measurement allows the VPDP and grantees to track progress and measure outputs and outcomes. The evaluation and performance measurement will facilitate 1) assessing the extent to which the activities and strategies were successfully implemented; 2) demonstrating whether activities led to expected outputs and to the projected outcomes; and 3) informing program planning, decision making, and continuous program quality improvement.

Applicants must provide quarterly status reports on activities to identify progress in implementing strategies and achieving program outcomes.

v. Eligibility information

The awarding of grants is on a competitive basis and is contingent upon applications deemed fundable according to the RFA review process by NJDOH officials and compliance, per each year of the grant cycle with:

1. The NJDOH Terms and Conditions for Administrative Grants
2. General and specific grant compliance requirements from the NJODH.

Groups or entities which may apply for the grant program include:

Municipal Government	Hospital
County Government	Private Non-Profit (501(c)3)
Indian Tribal Gov’t (Federally Recognized)	

All applicants must submit a signed Letter of Intent to Apply on organization letterhead via email to Lovely.Randle@doh.nj.gov by March 31, 2023, which must include:

- A brief description of the applicant organization’s mission, history, and programs/services offered;
- Describe the experience of the applicant organization in providing immunization services in the proposed service areas;
- Identify the proposed target population and project service area;
- Describe the unmet needs related to immunization that the awardee proposes to address;
- Describe key challenges and barriers in the service area that would prohibit access to immunization services;

- Describe the immunization strategies and activities to be used with proposed outputs and outcomes;
- Describe how the awardee will monitor and evaluate project progress; and
- Budgeted line items that are reasonable and necessary to achieve programmatic objectives.

vi. Criteria that will be used to evaluate applications for funding include documentation of the following:

- Experience and ability to provide immunization education and outreach services, based on evidence-based strategies, to a variety of ages, populations, and settings.
- Proficiency in creating and maintaining relationships necessary to conduct immunization education and outreach programs.
- History of the development and implementation of providing immunization services, collecting data, and tracking and programmatic creation and monitoring.
- Staffing and financial capacity to provide the required services within areas of assigned responsibility.
- Availability of dedicated office space, equipment and technologies conducive to conducting immunization education and outreach programs.
- Experience and ability to provide on-site, satellite, community-based immunization clinics/services in accordance with ACIP vaccine recommendations.

vii. Funding Information

The award, and continuation of the award, is subject to the availability of funds to the VPDP and the identified needs of the program. The grantee(s) recognizes and agrees that continuation of funding under a grant is expressly dependent upon the availability of funds to the VPDP appropriated by the State Legislature from federal revenue or such other funding sources as may be applicable. The VPDP shall not be held liable for any breach of agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriation.

Grant applications must be submitted electronically through the Department’s System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) at www.SAGE.nj.gov

General SAGE Information

SAGE is a web-based system that can be accessed through our website. All applicable forms and schedules in the application must be completed. Never share User ID and password as that system utilizes electronic signatures that are associated with User IDs.

For first-time users – please go to the SAGE website where you find a Helpful Links for new users to Request Access to SAGE and Training Materials for Applicants and NJDOH Applicant User Manual.

More information is available at our website: <http://nj.gov/health/grants>

viii. Health Information and Privacy

The grantee shall abide by all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations governing the privacy, security, and confidentiality of each participant’s individual health information. The grantee agrees to

ensure that any staff member acting on behalf of the implementation of this grant that creates, receives, collects, and transmits, and/or maintains individual health information in any form, shall confirm to the same restrictions and conditions with respect to such information.

The laws and regulations include, but is not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) – Privacy and Security Rules; and the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 (PSQIA) – Patient Safety Rule.

ix. Reporting

1. Grantee will provide a **quarterly progress report** with all supporting statistical data and documentation in SAGE in accordance with the **Attachment A- Additional Grant Provisions** of the grant award.

A **FINAL progress report** shall be submitted in SAGE in accordance with the **Attachment A- Additional Grant Provisions** of the grant award.

2. Grantee will provide a **quarterly expenditure report** certified by the Grantee’s Chief Officer and shall be submitted in SAGE in accordance with the **Attachment A- Additional Grant Provisions** of the grant award.

A **FINAL expenditure report** shall be submitted in SAGE in accordance with the **Attachment A- Additional Grant Provisions** of the grant award. The 4th quarter expenditure report can serve as the FINAL.

****Please Note:** Due to upcoming single audit for Immunization and COVID-19 funds, Grantees will be required to submit invoices, payroll, payment vouchers etc...with their expenditure reports as proof of expenditures.

All financial reports shall be prepared in a manner that is consistent with the grantee’s normal accounting records.