Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Disparities Grant

**Grant Program:**
National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities.

**Funded Through:**

**Awarded By:**
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS).

**Goals:**
- Reduce COVID-19-related health disparities.
- Increase COVID-19 vaccination rates among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities.
- Improve and increase testing and contact tracing among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities.
- Improve capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities.

**Grant Period:**
June 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023

**Grant Amount:**
$31,011,053.00
1. **Develop local capacity to improve community health and resiliency.**

- Invest in strengthening local health coalitions, fund development opportunities, and facilitate mentoring opportunities for grassroots organizations. Engage and activate community influencers as ambassadors of positive and accurate health messaging, including messages about COVID-19 prevention and mitigation.
- Support the creation of health improvement zones in Ohio’s most vulnerable neighborhoods by evaluating community assets, engaging community members in conversation, and developing community-driven interventions to address social determinants of health.
- Expand school-based health network investments in Ohio’s most vulnerable districts and those serving communities with limited healthcare access by offsetting one-time, up-front costs of creating or expanding health centers. Participating schools will benefit from the Ohio School-based HealthCare Network. In addition to supporting preventive care, sick care, COVID-19 rapid testing, quarantine support, contract tracing opportunities, and vaccine navigation, rural school-based health centers will have the opportunity to invest in tele-health opportunities and strengthen community broadband access.
- Pilot a regional transportation hub in rural Ohio. The Mobility Ohio Transportation Project will create a one-stop hub where customers can conveniently schedule multiple trips by phone or online. This effort will also align transportation regulations and standards to support increased customer safety and system reliability.
- Expand the use of community health workers to support personalized and non-threatening contact tracing, rapid testing, provision of supplies for self-quarantine, vaccine navigation, and general services. Organizations can apply for grants to support expansion or implementation of community health worker programs and incentivize credentialing of community health worker staff.
- Develop continuing education credit opportunities focused on providing culturally competent care, addressing implicit bias, and implementing strategies for meaningful interaction and trust building for medical professionals and public health workers serving Ohio’s minority and rural populations.
- Expand access to mental health and substance use disorder supports for individuals with a COVID-19 diagnosis.
- Provide hospitals serving a high percentage of Medicaid patients with flexible funding to use toward recruitment and retention strategies for minority and experienced rural-serving healthcare workers.
- Invest in enhancing data collection standards, expand reporting and analytical capabilities, and promote best practices for culturally competent approaches to collecting race and ethnicity data.

2. **Support development of a diverse and effective healthcare workforce.**

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- Develop continuing education credit opportunities focused on providing culturally competent care, addressing implicit bias, and implementing strategies for meaningful interaction and trust building for medical professionals and public health workers serving Ohio’s minority and rural populations.
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- Provide hospitals serving a high percentage of Medicaid patients with flexible funding to use toward recruitment and retention strategies for minority and experienced rural-serving healthcare workers.

3. **Improve data quality, transparency, and usefulness to support data-driven strategies and accountability.**

- Invest in enhancing data collection standards, expand reporting and analytical capabilities, and promote best practices for culturally competent approaches to collecting race and ethnicity data.

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**Ohio Department of Health Approach:**

The Ohio Department of Health seeks to improve resiliency to COVID-19 and other health emergencies and reduce health disparities in Ohio’s most vulnerable communities. Funds will be used in these areas.

For more information about the federal grant program, visit the CDC’s webpage on the National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities.