

# Tips for Providing Operational Support to Help Pediatric Health Care Providers Vaccinate Children Against COVID-19



When implementing programs that support providers, jurisdictions can consider different types of support strategies, such as offering operational assistance, equipment, hands-on assistance, or other technical assistance.



## Provide provider support

- Develop relationships with partners who can provide resources to support providers.
- Offer funding to providers to allow them to use the resources to best meet their practices' unique needs.



## Provide equipment

- Purchase equipment or partner with organizations to provide equipment for providers to help them comply with storage and handling requirements.



## Provide hands-on assistance during periods of high vaccine demand

- Coordinate additional staff to assist providers.
- Organize vaccination events to help providers meet high demand in their communities.
- Provide staff to assist with data entry.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), government funding was available that offered a large number of allowances and flexibilities for spending. In the post-PHE environment, jurisdictions will have less of this type of government funding and will likely need to find new ways to fund practice implementation. For example, a jurisdiction that implemented a practice during the public health emergency only using government funding might, moving forward, implement the practice with a mix of government funding, philanthropic funding, and in-kind donations.



### Provide technical assistance as needed

- Synthesize and disseminate guidance to keep providers up to date on vaccine storage and handling requirements and formulations, especially when official guidance is frequently updated.
- Train providers, especially those who are new to vaccinating or vaccinating children, on proper storage, handling, administration, and workflows.



### Consider the cost and feasibility to start up, scale, and sustain the practice

- Understand expenses will vary widely based on jurisdiction specifics and use of existing staff, infrastructure, funding support, and partnerships.
- Mitigate costs by forming partnerships with organizations, such as community-based organizations, foundations, and universities, to help support the provision of resources or free or reduced cost supplies.

## About Association of Immunization Managers:

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is a nonprofit membership association comprised of the directors of the 64 federally funded state, territorial, and local public health immunization programs. AIM is dedicated to working with its partners nationwide to reduce, eliminate, or eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases. AIM also works to ensure the success of its members by providing support in their programming interests. Since 1999, AIM has enabled collaboration among immunization managers to effectively control vaccine-preventable diseases and improve immunization coverage in the United States. For more information on AIM, please visit [www.immunizationmanagers.org/](http://www.immunizationmanagers.org/).

*This publication was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Immunization Services Division (ISD)/Immunization Operations Services Branch (IOSB) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$3 million, with 100 percent funded by Immunization Services Division (ISD)/Immunization Operations Services Branch (IOSB). The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, the CDC/ISD/IOSB or the U.S. Government.*