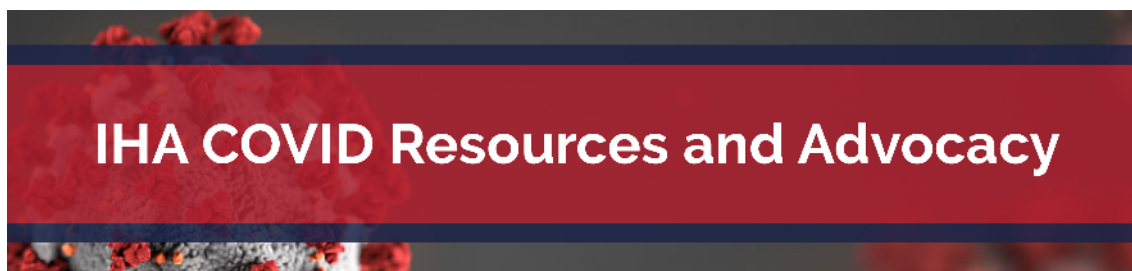


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Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021

IDPH announces COVID-19 and health equity grants

IDPH recently announced [two funding opportunities](#) for strategies to ensure increased equity and access to COVID-19 vaccines and related services. Eligible applicants include nonprofit and for-profit organizations and governmental entities registered or incorporated to do business in the US. For both grants, an applicant may apply for any amount up to \$250,000.

The grants are:

- [Equity and Prioritizing COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Populations Disproportionately Affected by COVID-19](#) – Funding is to support COVID-19 vaccination education, outreach and administration for populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Allowable activities include:
 - Developing messaging.
 - Engaging trusted messengers.
 - Implementing vaccination clinics.
 - Increasing cultural competence.
 - Maintaining transportation.
 - Promoting vaccine confidence.
 - Simplifying vaccination operations.
 - Supporting grassroots-style outreach.
- [Iowa Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities](#) – Funding is to implement strategies to address social determinants of health needs by working with social service providers and related organizations. Carve-out dollars targeting rural communities must be tracked separately. Allowable activities include:
 - Coordinating transportation.
 - Developing education promotion and social determinants of health impacts of COVID-19.
 - Engaging faith-based organizations and nontraditional partners to employ strategies to reach disproportionately affected populations.
 - Exploring strategies to coordinate with local public health to serve Iowa's vulnerable populations.
 - Helping people experiencing poverty and those who are homebound.
 - Supporting testing, vaccine appointments and health-equity information.

Staff members at the UI Prevention Research Center for Rural Health are available to discuss ideas for strategies or provide support for submitting applications. Contact Elizabeth Faber, MPH, director, Iowa Immunizes Coalition, at elizabeth@iowapha.org or 641-425-7339.

FEMA grant extended for COVID Recovery Iowa site through year-end

The Iowa Department of Human Services announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has extended its grant for the agency to administer the [COVID Recovery Iowa](#) virtual counseling website through December. The grant was last set to expire at the end of May. Operated by five providers across the state, COVID Recovery Iowa offers free virtual counseling, support groups and assistance to all Iowans. It also provides information on resources such as housing, utilities and food security, plus access to groups and activities on their dedicated social media platforms, including the [COVID Recovery Iowa Facebook page](#). The initiative was launched when the pandemic emergency was declared on March 13, 2020.

Philips Respironics recalls some V60 and V60 Plus ventilators

Philips Respironics is recalling the V60 and V60 Plus ventilators that provide high-flow therapy (software versions 3.00 and 3.10) because of the risk to patients who rely on the ventilators to provide high-flow oxygen therapy if the system pressure reaches a default maximum pressure limit. This can occur if the oxygen flow is partially blocked. If the issue causing maximum system pressure is not resolved by the health care provider, the ventilator will continue to provide the patient with a lower oxygen flow rate and issue a low-priority alarm.

The Food and Drug Administration has identified this as a Class I recall, the most-serious type of recall. Use of these devices may cause serious injuries or death.

Moderna says its COVID-19 shot is 93% effective six months after second dose

Moderna has said its COVID-19 shot is about 93% effective through six months after the second dose, showing little change from the 94% efficacy reported in its original clinical trial. But it still expects booster shots to be necessary ahead of the winter season as antibody levels wane. Moderna, Pfizer and BioNTech SE have been advocating a third shot to maintain a high level of protection against COVID-19.

CDC reports on COVID-19 vaccine safety for adolescents

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a new report indicating mild local and systemic reactions are common among adolescents, 12-17 years old, after receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine – especially after the second dose – but serious adverse events are rare. A small proportion of the reactions are consistent with myocarditis. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices conducted a risk-benefit assessment and continues to recommend the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 12 years or older.

Only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for adolescents aged 12–17 years. Approximately 9 million US adolescents aged 12–17 years have received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System received 9,246 reports after Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination in this age group; 90.7% of these were for nonserious adverse events and 9.3% were for serious adverse events, including myocarditis (4.3%).

Educational opportunities

Educational opportunities

- [A Path Forward: Thriving in Rural Health Care After COVID-19](#), 11 am-Noon, Thursday, Aug. 19. Tying community engagement to diversity and health equity, this webinar explores true stories of the amazing resiliency of rural communities amid the formidable challenges of a pandemic.
- [COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund: Reporting Requirements and Strategies](#), Noon-1 pm, Tuesday, Aug. 24. This presentation will provide a brief recap of the provider relief fund and a detailed review of the new reporting guidance. It also will discuss common reporting questions and strategies in preparation for the reporting deadline.

A banner with a background of colorful, abstract shapes. On the left, the text "Click here for the latest COVID-19 Resources" is displayed in large, bold, black font. To the right is the Iowa Hospital Association logo, which consists of a stylized 'H' with three horizontal red stripes, followed by the text "IOWA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION" and the tagline "We care about Iowa's health" in a smaller, italicized font.

Click here for the latest
COVID-19
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