

EXPLORING PHARMACY PARTICIPATION IN THE VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

Project Overview



The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, launched in 1994 in response to a deadly measles epidemic, makes childhood vaccinations more accessible for low-income, un- and underinsured children by removing cost barriers, providing free vaccines to enrolled providers, and allowing providers to recoup some administrative costs. There is more interest in the unique factors that affect pharmacist and pharmacy potential participation in the VFC program. What are the implications of pharmacy participation in VFC for pharmacies, public health agencies, VFC program recipients, and immunization systems?

What is the purpose of this project?

The purpose of this project is to assess the key considerations related to pharmacies and the VFC program from the perspectives of various stakeholders, including state immunization program VFC staff and pharmacy representatives.

The project will explore the following topic areas:

- Pharmacy participation opportunities and challenges
- Current models of state-wide VFC programs with pharmacy participation
- Current statutes and legislative modifications required to include pharmacies in VFC

Who is sponsoring the project?

The project is a joint effort of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

Questions?

Please contact **Nicole Lezin**, Lead Consultant for Cole Communications, at 831-479-1786 or lezin@mindspring.com or **Ericka McGowan**, Director of Infectious Disease Preparedness at ASTHO, at 571-527-3141 or emcGowan@astho.org.

What is the project timeline?

Data collection will take place between September and November 2014, with a report completed by March 2015.

What are the project's key features?

Under contract to ASTHO, a consultant team from Cole Communications, Inc. will **review existing reports** and materials and **interview stakeholders**.

Information from the materials review, interviews, and online questionnaire will be compiled and presented to ASTHO and CDC to help formulate guidance for state and local public health officials.