



DATE: July 9, 2021

TO: Sharon Block, Acting Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Diana Espinosa, Acting Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Expedited Review – Reporting Data Elements for Community-Based Workforce for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach Program

ISSUE

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is requesting an expedited review of the data collection tool for use in the Community-Based Workforce for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach Programs (CBO Programs), which include:

- Community-Based Workforce for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach (HRSA-21-136)
- Local Community-Based Workforce to Increase COVID-19 Vaccine Access (HRSA-21-140)

This new data collection tool was developed by HRSA to support a requirement to monitor and report on funds distributed under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and is in alignment with Office of Management and Budget Memo 21-20 (Promoting Public Trust in the Federal Government through Effective Implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act and Stewardship of the Taxpayer Resources). Among other grant Terms and Conditions, each recipient is required to submit reports to the Department of Health and Human Services.

BACKGROUND

As part of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), HHS through HRSA will award \$250 million to develop and support a community-based workforce that will engage in locally tailored efforts to build vaccine confidence and bolster COVID-19 vaccinations in underserved communities. In July 2021, under the Community-Based Workforce for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach Programs (CBO Programs), HRSA expects to award funding to over 100 organizations, including those comprising community health workers, patient navigators, and social support specialists. These organizations are responsible for educating and assisting individuals in accessing and receiving COVID-19 vaccinations. This includes activities such as conducting face-to-face and other forms of direct outreach to community members to educate them about the vaccine, assisting individuals in making a vaccine appointment, providing resources to find convenient vaccine locations, assisting individuals with transportation or other needs to get to a vaccination site. The program will address persistent health disparities by offering support and resources to vulnerable and medically underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minority groups and individuals

living in areas of high levels of social vulnerability. As the ARPA was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and no existing data collection system currently captures the information contained in the proposed CBO Program data collection effort, HRSA needs to move expeditiously to establish a mechanism to monitor the outcomes of this investment.

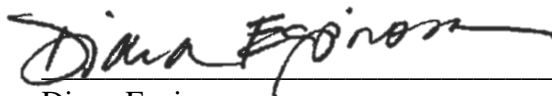
DISCUSSION

HRSA is proposing a new data reporting tool – the Community Based Vaccine Outreach Program Reporting Module – to collect information on CBO Program-funded activities. The CBO Program will collect monthly progress report data from funded organizations. This data will be related to the public health workforce developed, the vaccine outreach performed by this workforce, and the vaccination rate by this workforce in a manner that assesses equitable access to vaccine services and that the most vulnerable populations and communities are reached. This data will allow HRSA to clearly identify how the funds are being used and monitored throughout the period of performance and to ensure that high-need populations are being reached and vaccinated. Responses to some data requirements are only reported during the initial reporting cycle (e.g., the name, location, affiliation, etc. of the individual supporting community outreach), though respondents may update the data should any of that change during the duration of the reporting period. To make data reporting as straightforward and efficient as possible for awardees, HRSA has developed a Survey Monkey data collection tool that can be completed quickly and easily by the public health workers supported by these programs.

HRSA aims to open the CBO Program Reporting Module for reporting on the first of each month (beginning on August 1, 2021). Information provided via the CBO Program will be compiled in a summary report to include information related to program funding recipients and outreach participants, including vaccination status following engagement with program funding recipients.

Approval of the CBO Program data collection request is urgent and time-sensitive to meet federal reporting requirements as outlined in the ARPA and to allow HRSA to address opportunities for program improvements. Because of the urgent nature of the COVID-19 pandemic response, combined with the quick disbursement of and the short-term duration of this funding (one-time disbursement in July 2021 of 6-month funds for HRSA-21-136 and 12-month funds for HRSA-21-140), it is important for HRSA to obtain data as quickly as possible. The data will allow HRSA to ensure CBO Program recipients are meeting the terms and conditions of their grant award, while providing HRSA with information on the effectiveness of funds distributed through this program.

Thank you for considering this expedited approval.


Diana Espinosa

Attachments:
PRA Emergency Clearance Package