

OPPORTUNITIES TO BOOST COVID-19 VACCINATION RATES

CMS wishes to highlight the following federal updates for State Medicaid agency staff related to boost COVID-19 vaccination rates:

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy Among Direct Service Workers

On **Thursday, July 1, 2021 from 3:00-4:30 pm ET**, please join the Administration on Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for a webinar on **Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy Among Direct Service Workers**.

Vaccine uptake among direct service workers (DSWs) is particularly important for personal health and safety and to the many individuals that DSWs support, due to the high contact, personal nature of home care. However, DSWs experience many barriers to vaccination including culturally competent and accessible information, paid sick leave and/or time off, and transportation.

In this webinar, experts in the field will discuss demographics of the DSW workforce, barriers to vaccination, strategies to increase vaccine confidence and uptake, and promising practices.

Panelists:

- **Cory Nourie**, Director of Community Services, Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
- **Ramu Iyer**, National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals Advisory Council Member
- **Robert Espinoza**, Vice President of Policy, PHI
- **Trudy Rebert**, Federal Policy Counsel, National Domestic Workers Alliance

For more information or questions, please contact Meredith Raymond (Meredith.Raymond@acl.hhs.gov).

[Webinar Registration](#)

CMS Bolsters Payments for At-Home COVID-19 Vaccinations for Medicare Beneficiaries

As part of President Biden's commitment to increasing access to vaccinations, CMS has announced an additional payment amount for administering in-home COVID-19 vaccinations to Medicare beneficiaries who have difficulty leaving their homes or are otherwise hard-to-reach. There are approximately [1.6 million adults 65](#) or older who may have trouble accessing COVID-19 vaccinations because they have difficulty leaving home. To better serve this group, Medicare is incentivizing providers and will pay an additional \$35 per dose for COVID-19 vaccine administration in a beneficiary's home, increasing the total payment amount for at-home vaccination from approximately \$40 to approximately \$75 per vaccine dose. For a

two-dose vaccine, this results in a total payment of approximately \$150 for the administration of both doses, or approximately \$70 more than the current rate.

More information on Medicare payment for COVID-19 vaccine administration – including a list of billing codes, payment allowances and effective dates – is available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/medicare-covid-19-vaccine-shot-payment>.

More information regarding the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and how the COVID-19 vaccine is provided through that program at no cost to recipients is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html>.

Upcoming Webinars from the *We Can Do This* Campaign

The [We Can Do This](#) campaign is a national initiative working hand in hand with trusted leaders and community organizations to continue to build confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and get more people vaccinated. This campaign offers tailored resources and toolkits for stakeholders to use to provide COVID-19 vaccine information to at-risk populations.

CMS is partnering with the campaign to offer several webinars to walk through each toolkit and its resources and train community organizations, local voices and trusted leaders to use the campaign tools for vaccine outreach efforts to diverse communities.

Webinar dates and registration links are below:

- Tuesday, June 15, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: General Populations Toolkit – [Recording coming soon](#)
- Thursday, June 17, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Rural Communities Toolkit – [Recording coming soon](#)
- Tuesday, June 22, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Spanish Language Toolkits – [Recording coming soon](#)*
- Thursday June 24, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Healthcare workers Toolkit – [Recording coming soon](#)
- **Tuesday, June 29, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Faith-Based Toolkit – [Register](#)**
- Thursday, July 1, 1:00-2:00 pm ET: Toolkits for Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities - [Register](#)
- Thursday, July 8, 1:00-1:30 pm ET: Older Adults Toolkit – [Register](#)

*This webinar will be offered in Spanish.

More information about the *We Can Do This* campaign is available at: <https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/>

Join the Community Corps to get tips, tools and resources to share with friends, family and your community to help encourage them to get vaccinated: <https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/covidcommunitycorps>

If you have questions regarding the webinars, please contact: Partnership@cms.hhs.gov

ABOUT THE INTEGRATED CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The Integrated Care Resource Center is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to help states improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The state technical assistance activities

are coordinated by Mathematica and the Center for Health Care Strategies. For more information, visit www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com.

[Subscribe](#) for updates from the Integrated Care Resource Center.

Send queries to: ICRC@chcs.org

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail with "Unsubscribe ICRC" in the subject line to ICRC@chcs.org