

CDC-RFA-OT21-2103 Overview:

National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities

In 2021, CDC launched the National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities to address COVID-19-related health disparities and advance health equity by expanding state, local, and US territorial and freely associated state health department capacity and services. The grant's 108 recipients are health departments in 50 states, 50 localities, 5 territories, and 3 freely associated states. This \$2.25 billion grant represents CDC's largest investment to date to support communities affected by COVID-19-related health disparities. This grant is funded through the US Department of Health and Human Services under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021.

Program Outcomes

The program's intended outcomes are to:

- Reduce COVID-19-related health disparities
- Improve and increase testing and contact tracing among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities
- Improve state, local, and US territorial and freely associated state health department capacity and services to prevent and control COVID-19 infection (or transmission) among populations at higher risk and that are underserved, including racial and ethnic minority groups and people living in rural communities

Program Strategies

- Expand existing and/or develop new mitigation and prevention resources and services to reduce COVID-19-related disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved
- Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved
- Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved

Funding and Key Dates

- Funding and period of performance: \$2.25 billion – 2 years
- Award date: June 1, 2021
- Project start date: June 1, 2021
- Project end date: May 31, 2023*

*A No Cost Extension for up to 12 additional months, where needed, was approved for jurisdictions to accomplish proposed activities through May 31, 2024.

For More Information

Email OT21-2103Support@cdc.gov or visit [National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities](#) and the [COVID-19 Health Equity Technical Assistance website](#).