

ORAL HEALTH PANDEMIC RESPONSE WORKGROUP

Federal Update
March 17, 2021

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Today's Updates

1 COVID-19 Health Equity Taskforce

2 American Rescue Plan Act

COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force

- Created by Presidential Executive Order on January 21, 2021
- Part of a government-wide effort to identify and eliminate health and social disparities that result in higher rates of exposure, illness, hospitalization and death related to COVID-19
- 12 individuals serve as non-federal members; chaired by Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS
- An additional six federal agencies are represented (USDA, DoE, HHS, HUD, DOJ, DOL)
- First meeting – February 26, 2021; welcoming remarks, swearing in, presentations

COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force (cont.)

Data Challenges and Opportunities

- **Nancy Krieger, Ph.D.**, Professor of Social Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health - **COVID-19, Health Inequities, Data Gaps +Solutions**
 - COVID inequities in 1) exposure due to working and living conditions, 2) risk of dying, if infected, due to pre-existing social, economic and health inequities, 3) vaccine roll-outs and access and institutional mistrust, 4) data for action to change these terrible facts.
 - Need better data to inform actions; recommendations for use of ZIP code data, educational and occupational data, US Census Household Pulse survey data, create real-time public roster of new social data CDC is adding for COVID-19.
- **Daniel Dawes, JD**, Associate Professor, Executive Director, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine – **Health Data Transformation**
 - Recommendations – 1) provide resources to the CDC to assemble and publish comprehensive COVID outcomes and vaccine data, 2) compile a registry in primary care practice to identify and track patients with detailed demographic, social and medical history, 3) create metrics for success and/or failure in vaccination efforts, 4) mandate requirements for granular race and ethnicity data fields, 5) establish a national standardization of categories of race/ethnicity data fields and other identifying information.

Follow the Taskforce's Work

HHS.gov Office of
Minority Health

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh>

Next meeting:

March 26, 2021

12:00-3:00 PM Eastern

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Key Public Health Appropriations and Provisions (ASTHO, 3/11/21)

- Vaccines and Therapeutics
- Testing, Tracing and Mitigation
- **Public Health Workforce**
- **Public Health Investments**
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
- State and Local Recovery Funds
- Unemployment Insurance
- Medicaid Provisions

Overview: Public Health Workforce

Public Health Workforce

- **Local and State Health Departments** have lost 23% of their workforce since 2008; a quarter of the workforce is eligible for retirement.
- **\$7.66 billion**, to remain available until expended, to **establish, expand, and sustain a public health workforce**, including by making awards to state, local, and territorial public health departments. Specifically, funds can be used for:
 - Costs related to recruiting, hiring, and training individuals to serve as case investigators, contact tracers, social support specialists, community health workers, public health nurses, disease intervention specialists, epidemiologists, program managers, laboratory personnel, informaticians, communication and policy experts, and other related positions.
- **\$100 million**, to remain available until expended, for the **Medical Reserve Corps**.

Overview: Public Health Investments

Public Health Investments

- **\$7.6 billion**, to remain available until expended, for **community health centers** for vaccine related activities, COVID-19 mitigation activities, establishing and sustaining the necessary workforce to perform COVID-19 related activities, and conducting community outreach and education related activities.
 - Support for HRSA and CDC to 950 health centers serving high proportions of low-income and minority patients, provide services to rural/frontier populations, operate Tribal/Urban Indian Health Programs, and/or utilize vans to deliver services.
- **\$800 million**, to remain available until expended, for the **National Health Service Corps**.
- **\$200 million**, to remain available until expended, for the **Nurse Corps**.
- **\$330 million**, to remain available until Sept. 30, 2023, for **Teaching Health Centers that operate Graduate Medical Education**.