DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Good Afternoon Faith Partners,

Although the nation has met the administration's goal to provide 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the general population there is still work to be done to get the vaccine to all those that need it. It will take a whole-of-community approach to support the vaccination distribution effort, including volunteer organizations and houses of worship.

FEMA will work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies and coordinate with state, tribal and territorial authorities and private sector partners and others to assist, augment and expedite vaccinations in the United States. As part of the vaccine distribution effort, FEMA released a Community Vaccination Center Playbook. Although the vaccination distribution to individuals is state-led, FEMA is planning ahead to be able to respond to requests from states, tribes and territories for assistance. This plan will include a list of services volunteer organizations and Houses of Worship (HOWs) can offer to support a national vaccination effort.

This email is not a call to action in the field nor does responding to it indicate firm commitment of support. The National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) will match the needs with the offers from volunteer organizations and HOWs when requests for support are submitted. The idea is to create a catalog of where support can be found and who to contact in a given area for a specific requirement so that staff within the NRCC have an idea of where to start to augment government and medical personnel.

What kind of support is needed at vaccine distribution sites? Below are several examples of potential needs, but it may not be limited to this list:

- Health professionals – Personnel for the administration of vaccine, supporting staff
- Clerical work - Volunteers to support data input and general office work
- Facilities – vaccination facilities
- Logistics – traffic support in vaccination sites, assistance to people with access and functional needs, etc.

Also, organizations and HOWs might be able to provide wrap-around services to the community and vaccination sites:

- Meals for workers and volunteers
- Transportation for elderly/seniors to vaccination sites
- Emotional and spiritual care
- Vaccination messaging to congregations and community

- CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations: Getting Started
- Federal Trade Commission's Scammers cash in on COVID-19 vaccination confusion
- FEMA is working with the Ad Council to encourage hesitant or underrepresented Americans to get vaccinated. This research-driven public education campaign provides federal, non-profit, and medical stakeholders with insights and communications strategies to tailor communications to reach diverse audiences.

If you can help there are a few things to consider in addition to the who, what, when, where and how:

- Are you currently providing COVID-19 relief efforts to your community? Would they be impacted?
- What services your HOW might be able to provide to support the vaccination effort?
- What support you might need to be able to provide those services?
    - Each state has its own plan for deciding which groups of people will be vaccinated first. Contact your state health department for more information on its plan for COVID-19 vaccination.

Send your response to Partnerships@fema.dhs.gov to be added to the list as a possible resource for vaccine distribution.

DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Have a comment, question or looking for information? E-mail us at Partnerships@fema.dhs.gov