



Title: *Using ARRA Funds to Implement Strategies to Improve Immunization Coverage Rates*

Background: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided approximately \$97 million to support immunization program operations and infrastructure. The funding provided an opportunity for state, territorial and urban area grantees to implement new strategies to increase vaccinations in various populations. The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to document these strategies.

Methods: AIM and CDC reviewed progress reports and grant awards of state, territorial, and urban area immunization programs (64 federally-funded immunization grantees) receiving ARRA funds. Fact sheets were created to document the strategies implemented by grantees using ARRA funds. The fact sheets were verified by each grantee. Similar initiatives were quantified.

Results: Fifty-nine of sixty four grantees participated in the project. Immunization programs implemented a broad array of strategies, including providing free vaccine services for uninsured and underinsured adults (44%, n=26), increasing vaccination services at nontraditional providers (40%, n=24), conducting school-located vaccination clinics (39%, n=23), vaccinating the caregivers of infants against pertussis (to prevent the spread of the disease to the unprotected newborns and infants) (42%, n=25), conducting influenza vaccination and education campaigns for healthcare workers (10%, n=6), enhancing immunization information systems (68%, n=40), developing systems for public health clinics to bill insurance companies for immunization services provided to insured individuals (22%, n=13), and many other initiatives.

Conclusions: ARRA funds gave grantees the opportunity to start preparing for an environment where most people have health insurance: expand the population beyond the VFC-eligible population; expand access beyond the traditional provider's office; build an IT infrastructure that can grow with health care reform. In order to maintain grantees efforts there is a need for continuous operations and infrastructure funding. Funding is needed to maintain and build the IT infrastructure and maintain the staff that were hired and retained to implement ARRA programs.

