

Vaccine Access for People with Disabilities

Project Funded by the Administration for
Community Living, in Collaboration with
Colorado Developmental Disabilities
Council and JFK Partners



“The Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced a new funding opportunity of \$4 million to support P&As increase vaccine access for people with disabilities. With funding and partnership support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ACL is providing grants to P&As to provide critical services to help communities combat COVID-19. A leading priority of this joint effort is to ensure vaccines are equally accessible to the disability population”

The Purpose of the funding is to improve access to COVID-19 vaccines to include one or more of the following activities:

- ▶ Education about the importance of receiving a vaccine;
- ▶ Identifying people unable to independently travel to a site;
- ▶ Helping with scheduling a vaccine appointment;
- ▶ Arranging or providing accessible transportation;
- ▶ Providing companion/personal support;
- ▶ Reminding people of their second vaccination appointment if needed; and/or
- ▶ Providing technical assistance to local health departments or other entities on vaccine accessibility.



“The agency will do outreach to Aging and Disability Resource Centers, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Centers for Independent Living Offices, to maximize state coordination wherever possible.”

“3 Sisters” COVID-19 Coalition



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Challenges to getting the work done:

Rural and Frontier communities are often tight-knit, making inroads and partnerships within the communities can be tough.

Accessing data specific to vaccination for people with disabilities

Vaccine hesitancy in general is often more prevalent in rural areas

Keeping up with the pace of the virus

Ensuring we aren't duplicating efforts already being made by other agencies or community organizations.



We partnered with CDPHE to host a vaccine clinic at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in La Junta this past October.

129 people were vaccinated at the event.



COVID-19 Access Website

- ▶ Partnering with Xcite Denver to create a website to serve as an accessible hub of information and resources for people with disabilities regarding COVID-19 and Vaccinations.
- ▶ Site will link state and local resources, as well as have informational guides geared towards adults and families who have children with disabilities



COVID-19 Vaccine Access Video



Looking Ahead:



Looking at more rural or frontier communities with low vaccination rates and how best to assist vaccination efforts.



Partnering with other agencies to assist with the vaccination rollout for children with disabilities and their families



Ideas include:

- ▶ Scheduling more mobile clinics in the metro area as well as our rural and frontier communities to increase access for children ages 5-11.
- ▶ Finding creative solutions to barriers children with disabilities and their families may face when trying to access the vaccine



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Thank you!