



# Community Capacity Building

August 2022

Vaccines remain the best way to prevent severe illness and death from COVID-19. Large portions of the population of people experiencing homelessness are not vaccinated or are not [up-to-date with their vaccinations](#). This newsletter focuses on expanding capacity within your Continuums of Care (CoCs) for vaccine engagement through vaccine events and vaccine ambassadors.

## Review of Steps You Can Take NOW

- Review the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC's\) page for Homeless Providers](#).
- Engage public health partners to plan for ongoing responses to shifting COVID-19 community/facility levels.
- Review the resources available on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Page](#) on the HUD Exchange.

## Utilizing and Training Vaccine Ambassadors

Vaccines remain the best way to prevent severe illness and death from COVID-19. As CoCs continue to utilize their toolkits to **educate**, **engage**, and **inform** people experiencing homelessness about the vaccine, they may want to consider identifying and training Vaccine Ambassadors. A Vaccine Ambassador is a volunteer or employee who helps build trust and support among community members to help them make informed decisions. You may use HUD's [comprehensive trainings](#) for your Vaccine Ambassadors as well as the following resources:

- [Vaccine Ambassador Program and Job Description](#)
- [Benioff Community Health Outreach Worker Model: Considerations for Vaccine Ambassador Programs](#)
- [A Response Guide for Staff and Vaccine Ambassadors to Address Questions and Build Confidence About the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Vaccine Messaging Toolkit](#)



## Case Study: Louisiana Balance of State Vaccine Engagement

To expand COVID-19 vaccination opportunities for people experiencing homelessness statewide, the Louisiana Balance of State identified a gap in vaccine engagement opportunities in rural and suburban areas. As a response, they used their Emergency Solutions Grants program Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (ESG-CV) grant to fund the START Corporation, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), to develop a statewide vaccination strategy, implement a Vaccine Ambassador program, and run several health fair events throughout the fall of 2021, which centered a vaccine-first approach, education, and outreach. Read more about their [strategies, staffing considerations, and lessons learned](#).

## Communications Tools

It is important that CoCs and providers continue to focus on providing information and conducting outreach to people experiencing homelessness and staff about vaccination. The below documents are flyers that you can print and post within your programs and share with people individually.

- [Information about Vaccinating Your Child](#) [English] (PDF)
- [Información sobre vacunar a su hijo\(a\)](#) [Spanish] (PDF)
- [Addressing Your Concerns About the COVID-19 Booster Shot](#) [English] (PDF)
- [Respuestas a sus inquietudes sobre la vacuna de refuerzo contra el COVID-19](#) [Spanish] (PDF)

## Monkeypox

CoCs and providers must keep up to date on information concerning Monkeypox. The links below contain information we currently know about the prevention, mitigation, and treatment of Monkeypox. As with COVID-19, proper use of [personal protective equipment](#) and [hand hygiene](#) can prevent the spread of Monkeypox.

- [Monkeypox Signs and Symptoms](#)
- [Monkeypox Prevention](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control of Monkeypox in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Considerations for Reducing Monkeypox Transmission in Congregate Living Settings](#)

## Helpful Resources

- [HUD Office Hours June 24, 2022](#)
- [HUD Office Hours June 10, 2022](#)
- [HUD Office House June 3, 2022](#)

## Please Remember:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for everyone, including staff. The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) has provided an excellent toolkit to assist you in caring for homeless services staff during the pandemic and vaccination rollout.

- [NAEH Caring for Homeless Services Staff During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)