

IMMUNIZE NOW!



Take Your Best Shot: HPV, MenB, Flu and COVID-19 Adolescent Immunization Project

Request for Applications

Grant Cycle: 2021/2022

Overview

The “Take Your Best Shot: WV Adolescent Immunization Project” (TYBS) was developed to address the problems associated with low vaccination rates among adolescents (11-21 years of age) West Virginia. TYBS will be strategically implemented statewide through the use of evidence-based strategies by health care providers, local health departments, and other partners throughout the state.

Adolescent immunization rates for Tdap and meningococcal vaccines have reached approximately 90%; however, influenza, HPV, and COVID-19 vaccination rates are still lagging far behind. The **TYBS projects is solely focused on improving HPV, meningococcal B, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccination rates among adolescents.** This grant cycle will provide an opportunity for up to 4 lead agencies in West Virginia, with a maximum of \$3,000 for each funded project, to be included in TYBS in their effort to improve HPV, meningococcal B, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccination rates among adolescents.

Evidence-Based Strategies for Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates

Research has shown that there are several strategies that have been effective in improving immunization rates. These include:

1. **A strong recommendation from the healthcare provider for vaccination**, which is one of the greatest indicators of vaccine acceptance among patients/parents;
2. **Client reminder & recall systems;**
3. **Standing orders** (standing order templates available through the Immunization Action Coalition’s website: immunize.org)
4. **Provider alert;**
5. **Provider education** (training opportunities available through WIN and online opportunities available on the CDC’s and WIN’s websites);
6. **Vaccination in schools, childcare centers, and other off-site locations;**
7. **Community-wide education** (including media outreach, when implemented with other evidenced-based strategies).

TYBS lead agencies are expected to implement at least two of these strategies as part of their project to improve HPV, meningococcal B, influenza, and COVID-19 vaccination rates among adolescents.

Eligible Applicants and Total Awards

- Eligible lead agency applicants include public and private entities, such as public health, community health centers, hospitals, community colleges, school-based health clinics, healthcare clinics or other organizations who could effectively lead this effort in their community/region.
- Matching grants up to approximately \$3,000 per each lead agency will be awarded. (PENDING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING)

Selection Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate:

- A bold vision of innovations to increase influenza, HPV, Men B, and COVID-19 immunization rates among adolescents in the applicant's community;
- How the funds will be used to institutionalize evidence-based practices focused on the target population (11–21-year-olds) within the lead agency or community and how the interventions will be sustainable once the project ends;
- A clear focus on the target population and use of evidence-based strategies that will lead to sustainable increases in adolescent influenza, HPV, Men B, and COVID-19 immunization rates;
- Willingness to work as part of a collaborative network and contribute to an overall effort to protect adolescents from vaccine-preventable diseases;
- An innovative and feasible plan of work; and
- A strong, interdisciplinary team.

Role of Applicant/Lead Agency

Schedule of Deliverables & Contracting. Each lead agency will be required to develop a work plan as part of the grant application stating how it will improve HPV, influenza, Men B, and COVID-19 vaccination rates and how funds will be expended to accomplish the objectives and tasks stated in the work plan. The work plan will be incorporated into a contract with the lead agency as a “schedule of deliverables” and form the basis for payment to each lead agency. The use of contracts provides the basis for accountability for use of funds.

Role of the WV Immunization Network (WIN)

WIN will provide posters, banners and other printed materials that can be used by TYBS lead agencies. Other resource materials are available on WIN's website at www.immunizenow.org. WIN also conducts quarterly training events which provide an opportunity for TYBS lead agencies and other WIN members to keep up-to-date on current issues and obtain tools to implement best practices. Lead agencies are strongly encouraged to attend WIN training opportunities.

Evaluation

Each applicant will be responsible for the following evaluation tasks:

- Collecting baseline and final immunization data to evaluate the impact of TYBS on adolescent immunization rates in their patients;
- Submission of mid-year and final report stating progress in achieving the activities identified in the lead agency's workplan;
- Assisting with data collection for evaluation purposes as requested by the WVBPH Division of Immunization Services;
- Immunization data entry into West Virginia Statewide Immunization Information System (WVSIIS);
- Providing input to WIN and the WVBPH Division of Immunization Services as to how TYBS could be improved.

Contact Information, Key Dates and Deadlines

If you have questions about the Take Your Best Shot: WV Adolescent Immunization Project, please contact Michelle Chappell, WIN Program Manager at michelle.chappell@wvruralhealth.org.

Important Dates

- September 30, 2021 Applications due by 5pm
- November 1, 2021 Grant start date
- October 31, 2022 Grant period ends

How to apply

Electronic applications are available at [Take Your Best Shot - The Center for Rural Health Development \(wvruralhealth.org\)](https://www.wvruralhealth.org).

Applications must be e-mailed to: michelle.chappell@wvruralhealth.org by **5pm on September 30, 2021**.