



Dear Awardee,

First, thank you for your commitment to public health and service to your communities. You have improved equitable access to and availability of COVID-19 vaccines and other recommended vaccinations in your states, jurisdictions, and communities.

When COVID-19 vaccines became commercialized last fall, CDC's Bridge Access Program was quickly launched to help fill any gaps in coverage, providing updated COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured and underinsured adults. The program was designed to streamline the transition of COVID-19 vaccines to the commercial market and fill a temporary – yet critical – need.

Without your commitment to improving vaccine accessibility, this program would not have been successful. We are truly grateful for your contributions and work to help achieve vaccine equity and prevent serious illness.

Recently, we learned that the Bridge Access Program would be impacted by the Congressional rescissions in the FY 2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act. Due to the rescission of the unobligated COVID supplemental balances, the program will sunset four months earlier than originally intended. The Bridge Access Program will now end in August 2024.

While the Bridge Access Program was always intended to be temporary, we understand this is disappointing news. It is important to note the many accomplishments of the Bridge Access Program and the work we can still do in the last four months of the program:

- Approximately 1.5 million free COVID-19 vaccines have been provided through the Bridge Access Program. These adults would have otherwise lost access to free COVID-19 vaccines when they were commercialized— the same time updated COVID-19 vaccines became available to provide the best protection against circulating variants.
- We are incredibly proud of our federal, manufacturing, pharmacy, and public health partners whose efforts made the Bridge Access Program so successful. These partnerships demonstrate the value and significance of equitable access to free vaccines for those who are uninsured and underinsured.

The program will continue to provide free COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured and underinsured adults over the next few months. Until the program ends in August, people can continue to locate a free COVID-19 Bridge vaccine at [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

For the long term, we know that adult immunization needs the same platform that we provide for children and adolescents. The Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program proposal has been included in the last three years of the President's Budget, including the FY 2025 President's Budget. If enacted by Congress, a VFA program would expand access to routine and outbreak vaccines for uninsured individuals, at no cost to eligible recipients. Ultimately, the program would reduce vaccination coverage disparities, improve outbreak control of vaccine-preventable diseases, and enhance and maintain the infrastructure needed for responding to future pandemics.

CDC is tremendously grateful for your continuous commitment and service. Without the collective support of immunization managers, states and jurisdictions, community-based organizations, and other partners, this work would not have been possible. Even with the many challenges, your creative solutions have been a guiding reason for the Bridge Program's successes. Thank you again for your work to implement the Bridge Access Program and provide free COVID-19 vaccinations to uninsured and underinsured adults across the U.S.

We know that you may have questions about what this will mean for operations during the last few months of the Bridge program. You may also have questions about unspent funding that will be available for periods past August. While we won't be able to answer every operational question right away, ISD leadership and staff are quickly working to develop additional guidance, materials, and communications that will provide more specifics at the operational level. We appreciate your patience and support as we navigate these waters together.

CDC remains committed to improving vaccine equity and ensuring Americans are protected against serious illness.

Sincerely,



Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Director, Immunization Services Division (ISD)  
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Demetre C. Daskalakis, MD, MPH  
Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)