

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases



Bridge Access Program

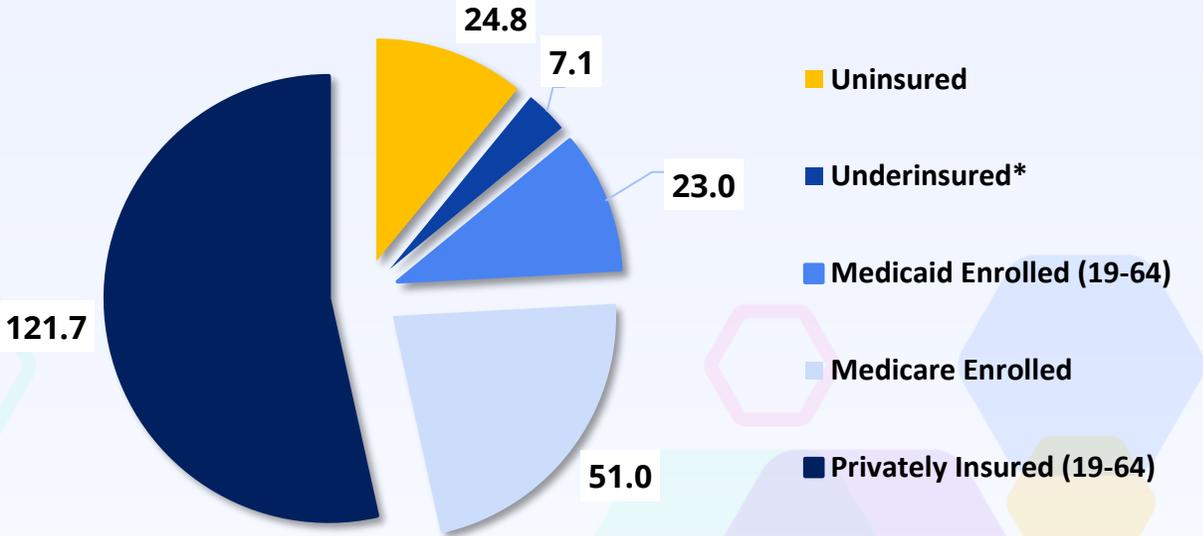
Ensuring no-cost, timely access to the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines for adults

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Why Do We Need the Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines?

There are **25-30 million adults (ages 18-64) without insurance**, and additional adults whose insurance will not provide no-cost coverage for COVID-19 vaccines after these products are commercialized

Adult Population by Coverage Status (millions)¹



This program will serve as **temporary bridge to the permanent and comprehensive Vaccines for Adults Program** proposed in the FY23 and FY24 President’s Budgets

*Underinsured is defined here as related to vaccination coverage.
1. Data are internal CDC estimates.

Ensuring no-cost, timely access to COVID-19 vaccines

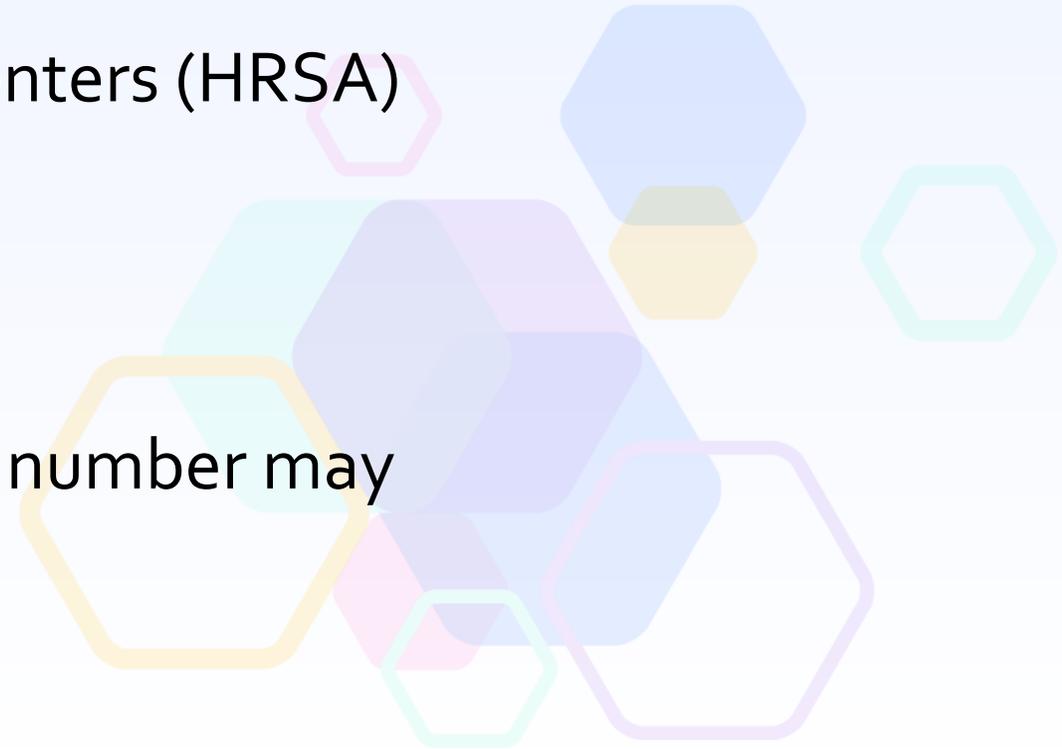
- Established access for those with insurance
- Established access for children
- Ensuring no-cost access for adults
- **Program design to maximize proximity**
- Program design to maximize equity
- Timely access for all



Providers

The analysis on which estimates of proximity are based considers a variety of provider types and locations that will participate in the Bridge Access Program. Access may increase if additional providers participate.

- **~8,000** 317-enrolled providers
- **~4,500** State-funded vaccine providers
- **~1,400** HRSA-supported health centers (HRSA)
- **~21k** Pharmacies
 - ~10k CVS locations
 - ~9k Walgreens locations
 - ~2,000 eTrue North locations – number may increase



Where Will Vaccines Be Available Through the Bridge Access Program?



Local Healthcare Providers

Existing partnerships with state and local health departments (S/LHDs) will facilitate distribution of COVID-19 vaccines through providers in networks

CDC will manage purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and provide oversight and technical assistance. **State immunization programs** will design distribution of vaccines.



Local Health Centers

Health Centers will partner with state immunization programs to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured adults*

HRSA will provide funding to participating HRSA-supported health centers to support services that will help ensure equitable access. **State immunization programs** will design distribution of vaccines.



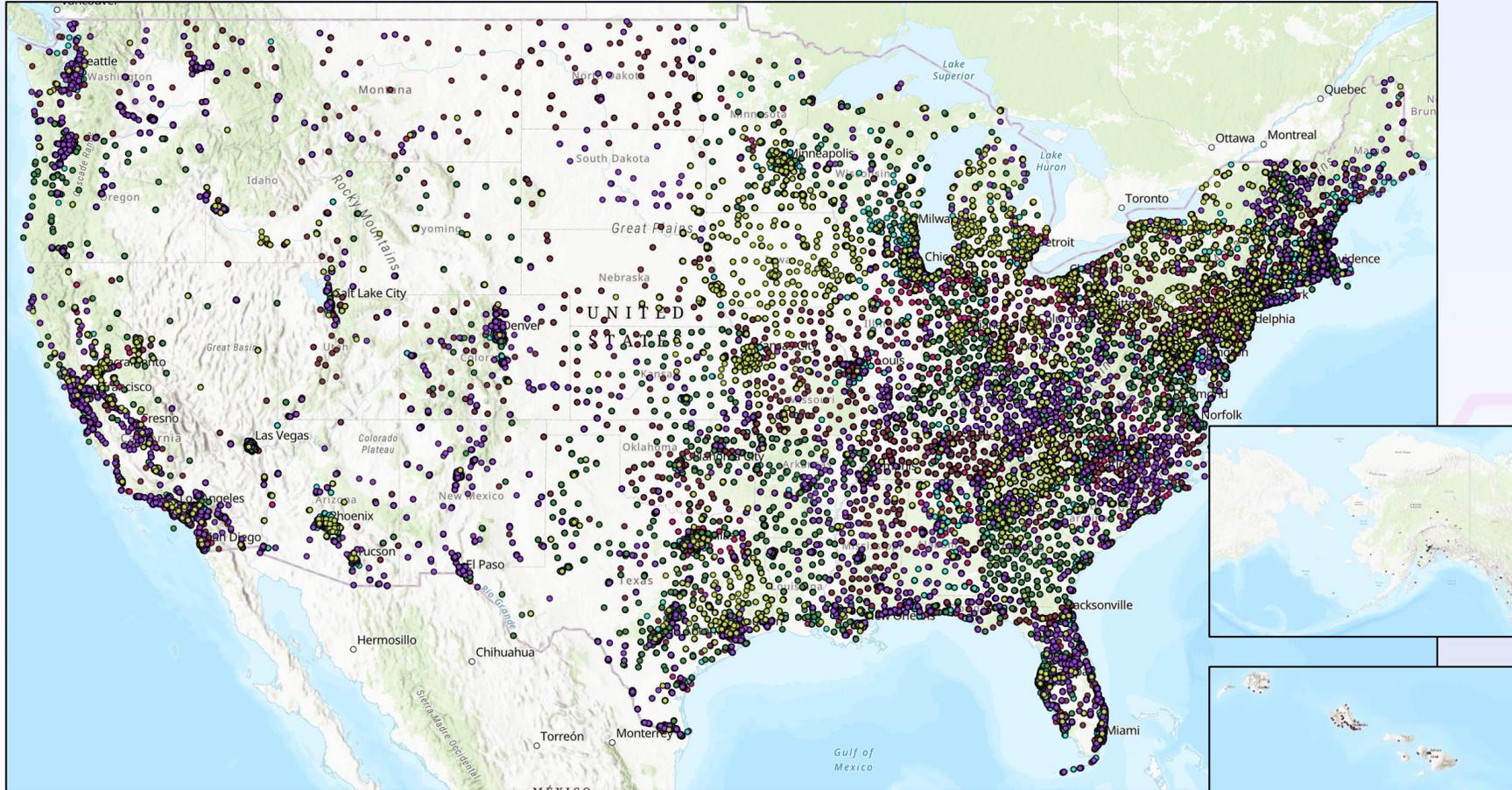
Pharmacies

Pharmacies will ensure access to no-cost COVID-19 vaccines using their extensive footprints and community partnerships

Vaccines will be donated by manufacturers to pharmacies, and **administration costs will be covered by CDC.**

*HRSA-funded health centers and Health Center Program look-alike organizations

National Proposed Bridge Access Program Site Locations



Overall, **85%** of uninsured populations live <5 miles from Bridge Access Program site:

- Urban: 97%
- Suburban: 59%
- Rural: 39%

Overall, 5% of uninsured populations estimated to be >10 miles from Bridge Access Program site

- Walgreens locations sourced from Walgreens Store Locator website early August 2023.
- CVS locations sourced from CVS Store Locator website early August 2023.
- eTN Pharmacy vaccination locations from ICATT/eTN early September 2023.
- HRSA Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program Participants (FQHCs) from HRSA early September 2023.
- Providers who received shipment of **317-funded routine adult vaccine** CY21-23 from VTrckS late July 2023.
- Providers who received shipment of **State-funded routine adult vaccine** CY21-23 from VTrckS late July 2023.

Note: Some points may not be visible due to point overlap. Points are displayed in order of site count from least to most: top - eTN, HRSA, State, 317, Walgreens, CVS - bottom)

Bridge Access Program Retail Pharmacy Approaches

- ■ **CVS** plans to administer doses within both their storefronts and Minute clinics
- ■ **Walgreens** plans to administer doses in both their storefronts and at off-site events targeting areas of low access & low uptake
- ■ **eTrueNorth** is a pharmacy aggregator that subcontracts with smaller pharmacies
 - Intended to reach lower-access areas without other coverage within the Bridge Access Program
 - Additional subcontract negotiations between eTrueNorth and possible additional participating pharmacies are ongoing



Ensuring no-cost, timely access to COVID-19 vaccines

- Timely access for all
- Established access for those with insurance
- Established access for children
- Ensuring no-cost access for adults
- Program design to maximize proximity
- **Program design to maximize equity**



Program design to maximize equity

The *Bridge Program* would address leading barriers to COVID-19 vaccination:

Accessibility

- Lack of health insurance or a regular provider
- Lack of proximity or transportation to place of care

- Designing for optimized proximity (variety of provider/site types, low-access and low-coverage lists and payments)

Availability

- Inconsistent coverage across health insurance policies
- Inconsistent outreach and engagement from health systems

- Providing access to COVID-19 vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults at no cost

Confidence

- History of disparities, discriminatory patterns and racism
- Rise in inaccurate information about vaccines

- Supporting and growing vaccine confidence through partnerships with trusted and welcome messengers

Lessons learned from 2022-2023 COVID-19 bivalent booster uptake

Priority Populations



Older adults



People who are immunocompromised



People who need community-level outreach



Trusted and Welcome Messengers Pairing Messaging with Access

- Healthcare providers
- Caregivers
- Family members
- Community-level advocates



Barriers to Vaccination

- COVID-19 message fatigue
- Misinformation
- Access challenges



COVID-19 Booster Uptake



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Community-based partnerships are key

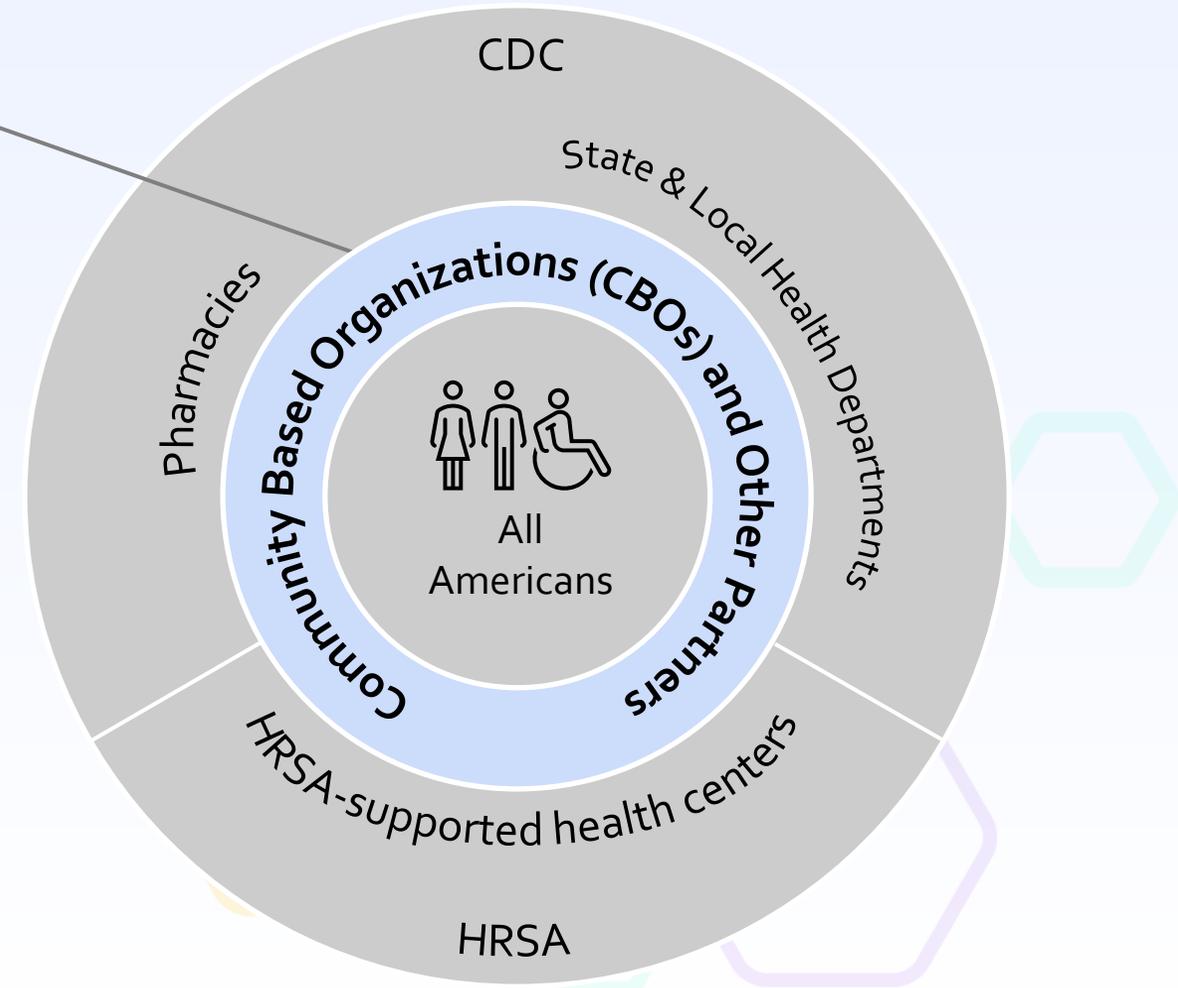
Community-based organizations and other partners work with CDC, pharmacies, jurisdictions, and HRSA-supported health centers to reduce barriers to COVID-19 vaccine access and promote uptake. These partners are particularly critical to reaching people who are uninsured or underinsured.



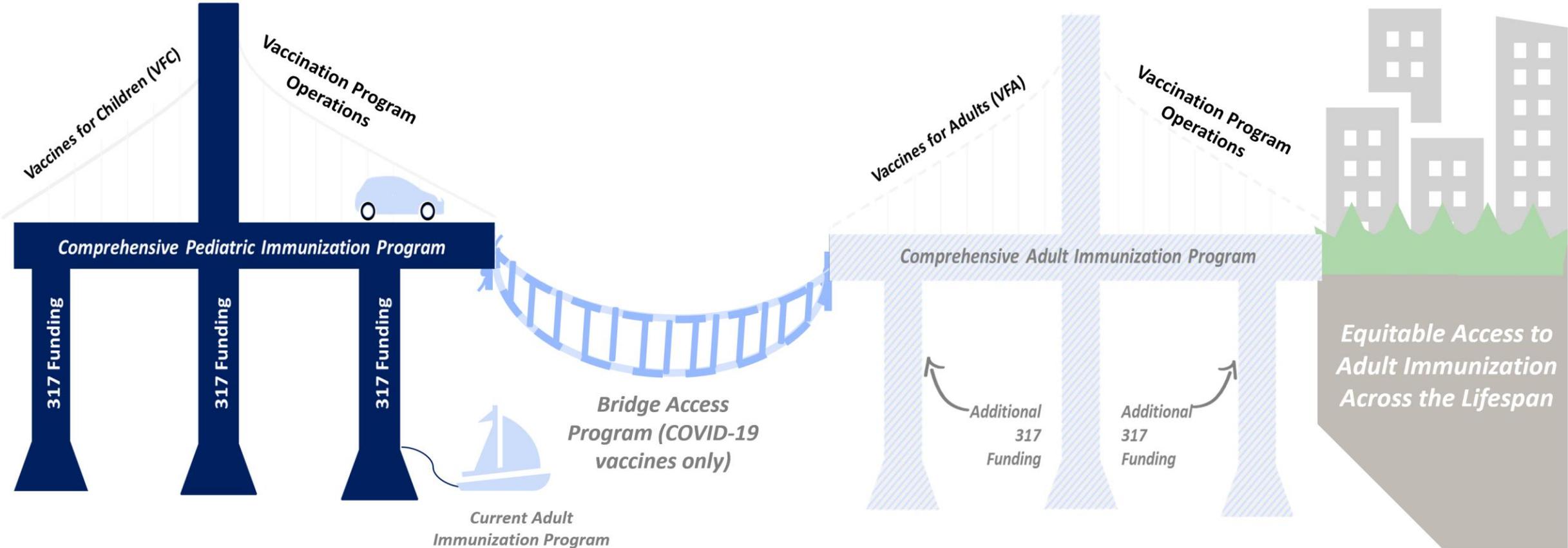
FUNDED PARTNERS

CBOs and other funded partners will:

- Host **community outreach events** to spread awareness of the Bridge Program
- Work within their communities as **trusted and welcome messengers**
- Partner with providers to hold **vaccine clinics** to provide greater access to vaccination
- Develop **educational materials** to promote COVID-19 vaccination and the Bridge Program



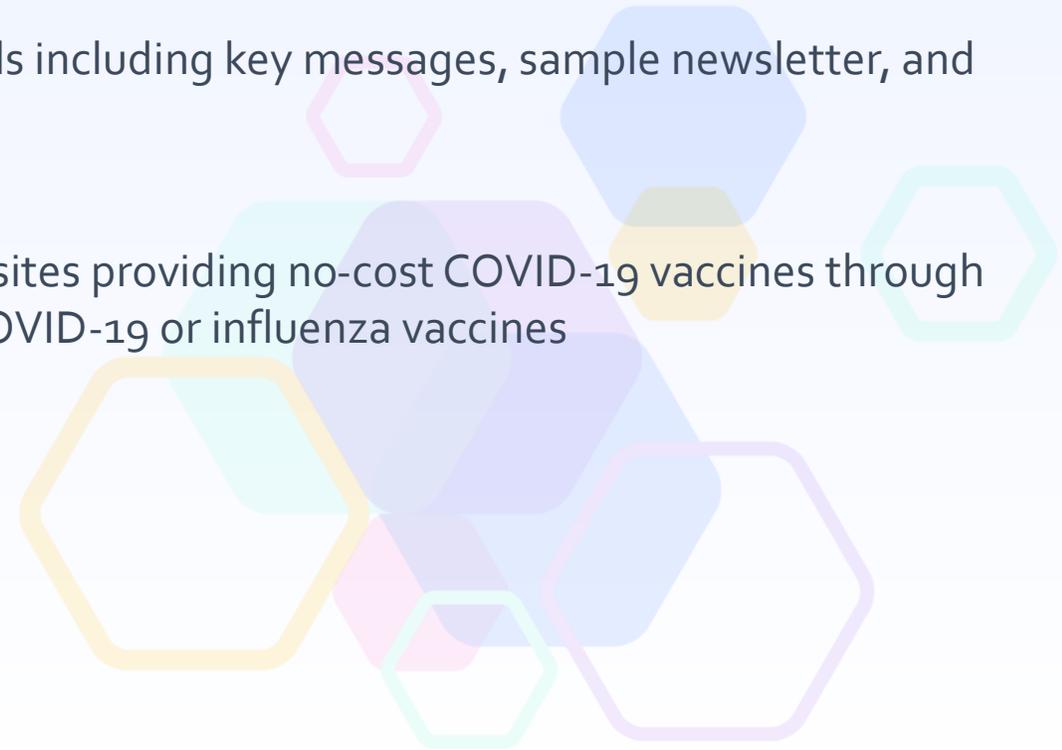
The Bridge Access Program is a temporary “bridge” to a permanent Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Program



The Bridge Access Program serves as a temporary solution for access to COVID-19 vaccines for adults. VFA and additional 317 funding are needed to **bridge the gap in equitable access to immunization across the lifespan.**

Resources for partners

- [CDC's Bridge Website](#)
 - A central location for information and communications assets
- Program guides for specific implementing partners
- Clinician-facing calls and materials for vaccine providers
- Communications toolkit for partners
 - Digital toolkit for program resources and promotional materials including key messages, sample newsletter, and communications assets
- [vaccines.gov](#)
 - Where patients and care providers can go this week to find all sites providing no-cost COVID-19 vaccines through the Bridge Access Program, as well as all other providers for COVID-19 or influenza vaccines
- Bridge Access Program Call Center
 - Available this week through 1-800-CDC-INFO
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/index.html>



Thank you

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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