



## AMCHP COVID-19 UPDATES

### New Research, Upcoming Webinars, and Resource Page Updates

- [Getting the COVID-19 vaccine: Progress, and equity questions for the next phase](#) by Brookings Institute
- Public Health Communications Collaborative:
  - The emergency use authorization of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine is great news for vaccine access across the country. With three vaccines now available, many people have questions about the differences. It's critical to communicate that all three vaccines are safe and effective and that the best vaccine is whichever one is available to you.
  - Download and share our [one-pager and social media content](#) with FAQs about the three vaccines and visit our [tough Q&A](#), recently updated to address the latest pandemic news, to support your COVID-19 vaccine communication efforts. The one-pager and social assets will soon be available in Spanish.
  - You can also download one-pagers and social media content addressing [questions about getting vaccinated](#) in English and Spanish.
- **RECORDING:** [A Conversation with Dr. Anthony Fauci and Professor Paul Kelly](#)
- **WEBINAR:** [Prioritizing Women and Girls in the COVID-19 Response: A Discussion of U.S. Gender Priorities](#) by the White House Gender Policy Council, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3-4pm EST.
- **WEBINAR:** [COVID-19 Conversations: Variants and Vaccines](#) by APHA, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5-6:30 PM EST.
- **WEBINAR:** [How the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted higher education](#) by Brookings Institute March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT.

### Policy Statements and Updates

#### **Congress Passes COVID-19 Relief Bill with MCH Priorities, Sends Bill to President for Signature**

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the final version of the latest COVID-19 relief bill, the *American Rescue Plan Act* ([H.R. 1319](#)), which has a top-line funding level of \$1.9 trillion and includes several priorities for maternal and child health and public health infrastructure. The Senate passed the bill

last weekend, which means the *American Rescue Plan Act* now heads to President Biden for his signature to become law.

Major provisions to support maternal and child health and public health infrastructure more broadly include:

- **\$150 million** in emergency supplemental funding for the **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)** program. For details, see pages 44-45 of [this summary](#).
- A provision to support state efforts to **extend Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum** by creating a new Medicaid state option to pursue this policy. For a good summary of this provision, see this recent [blog post](#) from Edwin Park at Georgetown's Center for Children and Families. Note: The final bill makes the option available to state for 5 years.
- **\$7.66 billion** to establish, expand, and sustain a **public health workforce**. For details, see page 14 of [this summary](#).

## Funding Opportunities

### FY 2021 Funding Opportunity Announcement

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administers grant programs to support projects that implement innovative models to improve minority health and reduce health disparities.

OMH has released a new funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for which applications are now being accepted.

**Announcement Number: MP-CPI-21-006**

**Opportunity Title: Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19**

**Award Amount: up to \$4,000,000 for urban communities; up to \$3,000,000 for rural communities**

**Estimated Total: \$250,000,000**

**Application Due Date: April 20, 2021, 6:00 PM ET**

This notice solicits applications for projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of local government implementation of evidence-based health literacy strategies that are culturally appropriate to enhance COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and/or other mitigation measures (e.g., public health prevention practices and vaccination) in racial and ethnic minority populations and other socially vulnerable populations, including racial and ethnic minority rural communities. Applicant eligibility is limited to localities (e.g., cities, counties, parishes, or other similar subdivisions). OMH encourages applicants to partner with a Minority Serving Institution for quality improvement activities and program evaluation.

[Learn more about this FOA and how to apply.](#)

## **Technical Assistance Webinar**

A technical assistance webinar for interested applicants will be held on Wednesday, **March 17** at **5:00 PM ET**. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar. A recording of the webinar will be made available.