

# COVID-19 Vaccination Supplemental Funding Frequently Asked Questions

(5-17-2021)

## General Questions

### Q1: Who qualifies and what is this funding for?

**A1:** This funding is to pay for uncovered costs related to COVID-19 vaccination incurred by for Patient Centered Primary Care Home (PCPCH), Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC) and OHA-recognized Public Access Clinics.

This program contains two tracks:

- **Comprehensive Services:** this supports PCPCH clinics and CCBHCs providing comprehensive services such as costs involved in conducting important outreach, education, scheduling, follow up, tracking, reporting, management and ordering of vaccines. Vaccination services provided on or after January 1, 2021 will be funded through the Comprehensive Services program even if registration occurs at a later date.
- **Direct Cost Reimbursement:** Provides direct cost reimbursement for clinics not participating in the Comprehensive Services Track, and covers expenses related to vaccination activities, supplies and equipment. PCPCH, CCBHC and Public Access Clinics may choose to participate in the Direct Cost Reimbursement Track if they do not choose the Comprehensive Services Track. Expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2021 are eligible for reimbursement through the Direct Cost Reimbursement Track.

### Q2. Who qualifies for the Comprehensive Services Track?

**A2:** Patient Centered Primary Care Clinics (PHPCH), tier 3, 4 or 5 and Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC) qualify for **Comprehensive Services Track**.

### Q3. Who qualifies for the Direct Cost Reimbursement and what does that cover?

**A3.** Clinics providing COVID-19 vaccination services such as PCPCH, CCBHC, and Public Access Clinics can apply for the Direct Cost Reimbursement if they have purchases specific to COVID-19 Vaccination activities and they are **NOT** participating in the Comprehensive Services Track. Most often, these funds support the cost associated with a vaccination event rather than embedded vaccination services within the clinic.

- The funds used to support the Direct Cost Reimbursement program are stipulated as “funds of last resort,” therefore, clinics **MUST** exhaust other sources first.
- For expenses related to vaccine storage and handling equipment specifically:
  1. Clinics should first apply for reimbursement from the Oregon Immunization Program (OIP), up to \$1,000 per vaccination facility. Click [HERE](#) for allowable expenses and to access the reimbursement request form.
  2. Expenses not covered by OIP’s program (i.e., costs exceeding \$1,000 per facility) should be handled as follows:
    - a. LPHAs and Tribes should then use their CARES/COVID supplemental funding to cover any remaining expenses (reported to OHA on quarterly Revenue and Expense Reports).
    - b. All other PCPCH, CCBHC, and Public Access clinics should apply for the Direct Cost Reimbursement program.

<p><b>Q4:</b></p>	<p><b>We are billing for vaccine administration; do we qualify for the comprehensive funding program?</b></p> <p><b>A4:</b> Yes. Clinics should seek appropriate reimbursement from the recipient’s plan or program (e.g., private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid) for a vaccine administration fee. However, providers <b>cannot</b> charge the vaccine recipient the balance of the bill, co-pay or co-insurance. Clinics should seek vaccine administration reimbursement for uninsured patients from the Health Resources and Services Administration’s COVID-19 Uninsured Program.</p>
<p><b>Q5:</b></p>	<p><b>Which program track should we apply for?</b></p> <p><b>A5:</b> Apply for the <b>Comprehensive Care Track</b> if your clinic offers COVID-19 Vaccination to your patients and typically provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comprehensive or wraparound services</li> <li>• care management</li> <li>• outreach, scheduling and follow up</li> <li>• education and motivational interviewing</li> </ul> <p>Apply for the <b>Direct Cost Reimbursement Track</b> if your clinic has conducted vaccination events and has incurred expenses such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment (PPE, Freezers, other Storage Equipment)</li> <li>• Additional Staffing for the event</li> </ul> <p>Rental of space to conduct COVID-19 vaccinations.</p>
<p><b>Q6:</b></p>	<p><b>Can we change tracks mid-program?</b></p> <p><b>A6:</b> A clinic can switch tracks once during the program. Limitation may apply based on reimbursements made through the initial track selected.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility Questions</b></p>	
<p><b>Q7:</b></p>	<p><b>We are a Rural Health Clinic or an FQHC. Do we qualify?</b></p> <p><b>A7:</b> Yes. Rural Health Clinics and FQHCs who are PCPCH clinics should register for the Comprehensive Services Track. Rural Health Clinics can bill for vaccination services and will receive their PPS rate for their Medicaid Patients. RHCs will need to reconcile and attest the total reimbursements from all payer sources did not exceed \$75 per vaccine administered or be subject to reimbursement of funds to the OHA for overpayment.</p>
<p><b>Q8:</b></p>	<p><b>What is a Public Access Clinic?</b></p> <p><b>A8:</b> Public Access Clinics (sometime referred to as “vaccine access sites”) are OHA recognized vaccination sites that include Local Public Health Authorities, Tribal partners, some Federally Qualified Health Centers and other providers who help us create access for specific communities they serve with immunization services.</p>

<p><b>Q9:</b></p>	<p><b>The application addresses outreach and engagement around equity. What does that mean?</b></p> <p><b>A9:</b> Participating clinics should attest to some effort around ensuring all people coming to their clinic for care can receive COVID-19 vaccine. Outreach activities may include assisting with transportation to the clinic, ensuring appropriate language and translation services. Other suggestions to address health equity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using standardized protocols and quality improvement initiatives, especially in facilities that serve large minority populations.</li> <li>• Developing processes to identify and address implicit bias that could hinder patient-provider interactions and communication.</li> <li>• Providing medical interpretation services for patients who need them.</li> <li>• Working with communities and health care professional organizations to reduce cultural <u>barriers</u> to care.</li> <li>• Connecting patients with community resources that can help older adults and people with underlying conditions adhere to their <u>care plans</u>, including help getting extra supplies and medications they need and reminders for them to take their medicines.</li> <li>• Serving communities in high COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) areas.</li> <li>• Promoting a trusting relationship by encouraging patients to call and ask questions.</li> </ul>
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## Process Questions

<p><b>Q10:</b></p>	<p><b>How does the Comprehensive Services Program Work?</b></p> <p><b>A10:</b> First, apply for the program, choosing one of the two tracks. Once registered, the OHA ALERT IIS will send the total number of COVID-19 vaccinations your clinic administered and reported on a daily basis to PH TECH, who will record the amount and pay \$35 per vaccination administered on a weekly basis beginning around the second week of June.</p>
<p><b>Q11.</b></p>	<p><b>How does the Direct Cost Reimbursement work?</b></p> <p><b>A11:</b> This track reimburses direct expenses incurred and not otherwise reimbursed related to COVID-19 vaccination activities. These costs should not be more than a single purchase of \$15,000 or on average greater than \$50/vaccination administered.</p>
<p><b>Q12:</b></p>	<p><b>How will I receive communication about the status of my application?</b></p> <p><b>A12:</b> PH TECH will communicate with applicants through the PH TECH Help Center. The PH TECH Help Center can be easily accessed anytime at <a href="http://help.phtech.com">help.phtech.com</a>. To sign up for a new user account, click the Sign In link at the top of the page and follow the prompts to sign up for access. After you create an account, you will be able to check the status of an existing request by clicking your profile icon in the upper-right of any page and then clicking My Activities.</p>

## Reconciliation Questions

<p><b>Q13:</b></p>	<p><b>How does reconciliation work?</b></p> <p><b>A13:</b> At the end of the program (after December 2021), participants will be asked to attest to non-duplication of reimbursement for services, based on a best effort to bill and apply for other sources of funding.</p>
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**Q14:** What happens if we have been overpaid?

**A14:** If at the end of the program, you find that you were paid more than \$75/vaccination (in total) over the program period, you will need to pay back the duplicated funding received from the OHA.