

[National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities](#)

Disparities Grant Funding FAQs

Recipients may use the funds only for reasonable program purposes, including personnel, travel, supplies, and services. Generally, recipients may not use funds to purchase furniture or equipment. Any such proposed spending must be clearly identified in the budget. All proposed costs should be allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. **Can funds be used for clinical care?**

Clinical care is not allowable. Clinical care is defined as direct treatment of an individual.

2. **Is testing considered clinical care?**

No, testing is not considered clinical care.

3. **To what extent can these funds be used for vaccination efforts?**

Funds **cannot** be used for purchasing or providing vaccines. Funding may be used for coordination and administration of vaccine services, including planning, and coordinating COVID-19 vaccine programs, storage, and education; media campaigns aimed at increasing vaccine uptake; and wraparound services that support access to vaccines.

4. **Can funds be spent on test kits?**

Yes, funding can be used for test kits including in-home test kits.

5. **Can we use funds to provide incentives for community participants?**

Incentives are an allowable cost if they are reasonable and meet the goals and objectives of the project and the strategies you wrote into your work plan to address.

6. **Are public service announcements (PSAs) considered publicity?**

PSAs are not considered publicity and are allowable under this opportunity as they are used as a tool for educating the community and can be part of your health education or health communications activities.

7. **Are mass-reach and targeted communication campaigns an allowable use of funds?**

Yes, in general, communications campaigns are allowable.

8. **Are computers/laptops considered allowable equipment?**

Yes, computers and laptops are considered allowable equipment *as long as those items are clearly identified in the budget*. This would also include other reasonable technological equipment necessary to administer the program (monitors, docking stations, projectors, tablets, etc.).

9. **Can we purchase canopies or tents to set up mobile testing or information booths?**

Yes, canopies or tents are considered allowable equipment *as long as those items are clearly identified in the budget*.

10. **Can the funds be used to provide telemedicine services?**

Awarded funds cannot be used for the actual execution of services but can be used to support the infrastructure and administration to support telemedicine.

11. **What are some examples of “wrap around services?”**

Wrap-around and supportive services costs may include, but are not limited to, transportation assistance (including incentives such as transportation vouchers) to encourage participation in testing and/or vaccination and quarantine and isolations support necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (including hoteling, laundry, mental health services, etc.).

12. **Are there any limits on monetary amounts for vaccine incentives?**

Incentives should be monetarily reasonable, and recipients should follow their respective guidance and limitations.

13. **Can we use the funds for food or beverages at community meetings?**

The purchase of food would be allowable in certain circumstances when it is clear that the expenditure is being used to further the intent of the grant.

Ask the following questions when considering purchasing food:

- What is the purpose of the community meeting? Does it support the activities in the OT21-2103 approved workplan?
- Are refreshments necessary? (possible examples - inducement for community members to attend; lengthy meeting)
- Who will be attending the meeting? (are the majority of the attendee’s community members not local, state, or federal employees)
- Is the expenditure allowable under local/state policy?
- Is the expenditure amount per person reasonable based on applicable per diem amounts?

Expenditures must also meet applicable local and state purchasing requirements (See ODH No. 1216). Also, reference the NOFO which lists funding restrictions on page 31. Please email OPAHD@health.ok.gov for further discussion.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

1. **Can funding be spent on staff administering vaccines?**

Funding should not be used for administering vaccines but can be used for administrative support of vaccination and reporting.

2. **Can we hire part-time or temporary staff?**

Yes, funds can be used to hire part-time or temporary staff to fulfill the obligations of the grant strategies you are addressing.

3. **How will we send the invoices? Will this be attached to services provided and then we just bill for the services on what schedule?**

Invoices are required monthly and performance activities will be required quarterly.

4. **Will invoices be sent electronically or do we need to mail it to PO ship to address?**

Invoices will be sent via email: OPAHD@health.ok.gov

5. **How do we send the data collection? Will we get instructions on sharing the data or will there be a specific form that we use to report?**

A form will be provided for reporting and data collection. An informational webinar will be scheduled.

6. **Can we purchase property for office space?**

No, funding cannot be used to acquire office space.