

VAX TO BUSINESS

PROGRAM INFORMATION & APPLICATION

FUNDING PERIOD

April 4, 2022 – December 31, 2022

FUNDING AVAILABLE

DHHS expects to award grants to eligible businesses \$1000 - \$2000.00 per entity. A total of \$300,000.00 of funding is available for the program.

CONTACT

dhhs.minorityhealth@nebraska.gov

WEBSITE

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Vax-to-Business.aspx>

BACKGROUND AND GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

The State of Nebraska's Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity (OHDHE) in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is requesting applications for the purposes of increasing COVID-19 vaccinations and vaccination education among populations at high risk in underserved and rural communities.

The overall goal of the initiative is to collaborate with small businesses that are trusted messengers in the community to address COVID-19 health disparities among populations at high-risk and underserved, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities. This program will allow local small businesses to act as COVID-19 advocates and help their community mitigate COVID-19 and prepare for possible future outbreaks. Small businesses rely on repeat business and trust from customers to survive. This trust puts small businesses in a unique position to promote the COVID-19 vaccine, counter misinformation, and provide resources to their clients.

Participants will assist their clients in 1) making informed COVID-19 related decisions, 2) dispelling misinformation and answering frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 mitigation and COVID-19 vaccinations, and 3) reducing barriers for COVID-19 vaccination by hosting a vaccination event, and/or referring clients to the closest vaccine location.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Selected businesses must complete all requirements in A-D listed below.

- A. Training:** Business staff will complete a 2-hour online training that will give them information and resources to have conversations with clients that may be hesitant about getting the vaccine to build vaccine confidence. This training will cover the basics of COVID-19, vaccination safety, effectiveness, side effects, and practical tools and resources.

- B. Provide clients with health information about COVID-19 and vaccination for at least 3 months:** Businesses will provide information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccination through their place of business, answer questions, and direct clients to resources where they can find more information to make the best decision for themselves, their family and their community.

- C. *If applying for a grant of \$1500 or \$2000* Host a COVID-19 vaccination event:** DHHS staff will help coordinate a partnership between each selected business and a vaccination provider (Local Health Department, Federally Qualified Health Center, or pharmacy) to host a vaccination event. Representation from the business is required at the event.

- D. Complete the required online reporting form:** The following information is required: photos of fliers or social media content regarding COVID-19 information posted, information about client vaccination hesitancy, and vaccination event information including photos of event if applicable.

ELIGIBLE BUSINESSES

Applicants must be a small business such as a barbershop, salon, local grocery store, local restaurant, etc. within the state of Nebraska serving any county with the exception of Douglas County to avoid duplicative funding. (If your business is in Douglas County and you are interested in hosting a vaccine clinic outside of this opportunity please contact the Douglas County Health Department).

For the purposes of this grant, a small business is one that has no more than 50 (fifty) employees and is not a franchise.

Priority will be given to businesses that serve at-risk populations in rural and under-served areas. These populations are those that have been hit hardest by COVID-19 including, but not limited to:

- 1 Racial and ethnic minority groups
- 1 Communities with high social vulnerability
- 1 Rural communities
- 1 People with disabilities
- 1 People that are homebound/isolated or lack transportation
- 1 Immigrants and/or refugees
- 1 People otherwise adversely affected by poverty or inequality

TO APPLY

Please fill out the attached application. Selected businesses will be notified of the award.

Completed applications can be emailed to dhhs.minorityhealth@nebraska.gov or may also be sent by mail to the following location:

ATTN: Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Health Disparities & Health Equity
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until funding runs out.

VAX TO BUSINESS APPLICATION

BUSINESS NAME & NUMBER EMPLOYEES: _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SSN / TAX ID #: _____

PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO: _____

AMOUNT APPLYING FOR (select only one):

_____ \$1000 (only COVID-19 education)

_____ \$1500 (COVID-19 education & 1 vaccine event)

_____ \$2000 (COVID-19 education & 2 vaccine events)

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES FROM BUSINESS THAT WILL PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING: _____

POPULATION(S) BUSINESS SERVES: (select all that apply)

_____ RURAL _____ LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY _____ TRANSPORTATION LIMITED / ISOLATED

_____ PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES _____ HISPANIC / LATINOS _____ AFRICAN AMERICANS

_____ NATIVE AMERICANS / AMERICAN INDIANS / ALASKAN NATIVES _____ ASIANS / PACIFIC ISLANDERS

_____ CAUCASIANS _____ REFUGEES / IMMIGRANTS _____ OTHER: (please specify): _____

LANGUAGE NEEDS: (If you need materials in languages other than English please list language for each area below)

_____ TRAINING: _____

_____ FLIERS & EDUCATION MATERIALS: _____

_____ INTERPRETATION FOR VACCINATION EVENT: _____

_____ OTHER: _____

STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY YOUR BUSINESS IS A GREAT PARTNER FOR THIS PROGRAM:

_____ I CERTIFY THAT THIS BUSINESS IS AN "ELIGIBLE BUSINESS" AS DEFINED BY THIS ANNOUNCEMENT

PRINTED LEGAL NAME & TITLE OF APPLICANT:
