



CCP Member Funder Conversation: Vaccines and Health Equity
April 21, 2021

Advancing Equity in Vaccine Access: Key Takeaways

- **The state Department of Public Health is now focused on direct outreach to increase vaccinations.**
 - **Targeted outreach** — Grossman Solutions has been hired to do door knocking. They are using SVI (social vulnerability index) to better focus efforts on those who could need support to access vaccination.
 - **Equity Partnership Grants** — The state Department of Public Health announced up to \$33 million to local health departments to work with community-based organizations to increase equitable access to vaccinations. They only received applications for \$15 million. **Many local health departments are not well-equipped to quickly respond to grant opportunities.** (On May 3, the Lamont administration announced \$13 million in grants from this fund to 27 local health departments.)
- **State data remains inadequate to focus response.** While the state is reporting data by race, ethnicity, and SVI (social vulnerability index), they are not providing localized data that would help towns, cities and their partners better focus their outreach efforts.
- **Recommendations have been made to focus outreach and vaccination opportunities to better meet people where they are.** For Spanish-speaking communities and those who are undocumented, outreach and vaccination opportunities should be clearly marketed based on lessons learned. Pop-up clinics should be held in trusted places. Outreach for these clinics should be clear that identification is not required and that people without documentation are welcome and encouraged. Finally, outreach ads should be placed on Spanish-speaking television channels.
- **The state is working with home health care organizations to increase vaccine access to homebound individuals.**
- **Local health departments require additional infrastructure.**



Recommendations for Funders

- 1. Support for outreach, pop-up clinics in trusted venues during extended hours (not just traditional 9-5).
- 2. Consider supporting local health departments. Immediate support to help health departments access state grants (see above) could be helpful.
- 3. Consider increasing and growing local health department infrastructure. CT public health relies on local health departments. Funders should explore short-term and long-term infrastructure to increase their capacity to support community health.
- 4. Join our next virtual meeting on May 20 from 12:30-2:00 pm. Register for the upcoming event by [clicking this link](#).