Mpox: Resources and Tools for Existing State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Grant Recipients

UPDATE: On January 31, 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services did not renew the public health emergency declaration for mpox, due to the low number of cases. With the end of the declaration, the temporary reassignment of personnel described below is no longer available. As a reminder, CDC can provide administrative flexibilities as needed during public health emergencies – see the CDC general guidance page for more information.

CDC continues to fund State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) health departments to prepare for, detect, or respond to emerging infectious diseases, such as mpox. The Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a nationwide <u>public health emergency</u> for mpox on August 4, 2022. This document provides a brief overview of resources and tools STLT recipients can consider utilizing to support their mpox activities – leveraging existing funding, temporary reassignment of personnel, and grant administrative flexibilities.

For staffing needs, consider temporary reassignment of personnel as described below.

Leveraging Existing Funding and the Process for Requests

CDC encourages STLT recipients to first examine their current assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) funded with non-COVID-19 regular appropriations to determine if they can be used to support mpox activities. Existing, non-COVID-19 funding may provide more flexibility to support mpox activities than COVID-19 supplemental funding as most of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CDC supplemental appropriations for COVID-19 are specifically directed to those COVID-19 activities, per Congressional language.

However, there may be circumstances in which COVID-19 funds can support the intended purpose of COVID-19 activities and be leveraged for work to control other infectious diseases such as mpox; in those circumstances, the redirection of funds may be allowable.

Recipients must submit a request to their CDC program official for the redirection of any COVID-19 funding to support non-COVID activities. For non-COVID-19 regular appropriations, recipients should refer to the terms and conditions of their award, and contact their CDC program official as appropriate. CDC will review recipient requests as quickly as possible to ensure that funds proposed for redirection to mpox activities are within the scope of the current award, and consistent with the award's statutory authority and the underlying appropriation's purpose.

How to Request Reassignment of Personnel

As needed, STLT recipients can submit requests to temporarily reassign personnel for up to 30 days at a time during a declared public health emergency, with extensions permitted as long as the public health emergency remains in effect. Other types of recipients, such as non-governmental organizations or subrecipients, may not reassign staff under the temporary reassignment authority, but should work with CDC to determine if redirection of funds may be allowable for certain mpox personnel activities. For more information about temporary reassignment, review CDC's webpage and ASPR guidance.

Other Grant Administrative Flexibilities

As appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, CDC can provide flexibilities to help recipients manage administrative and financial management requirements. Administrative flexibilities can support recipients by reducing administrative burden during public health emergencies. For more information, please review the <u>Flexibilities Guidance for Applicants</u> and <u>Recipients of Federal Financial Assistance</u>.

For any questions, reach out to your program official listed in your notice of award.