

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2020

President Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I am writing to urge you to support and actively advocate for more funding for COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts. The country has been anxiously waiting for a vaccine, and we are now close to beginning distribution efforts as both Pfizer and Moderna have applied for emergency use authorizations from the FDA. With more than 270,000 American fatalities from COVID-19, we must ensure that our country is prepared to effectively distribute a vaccine once approved.

As of now, the CDC has provided \$200 million to states for vaccine distribution, but state and local officials have said that is not close to what they will require to properly inoculate their populations.^[1] Local health departments are already struggling financially due to the pandemic and are facing severe shortages of healthcare workers.^[2] As we prepare for the crucial transition from developing the coronavirus vaccine to distributing it, we must equip states with the funding necessary to execute this enormously important next phase in defeating COVID-19.

In October, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) wrote a letter to Congress requesting at least \$8.4 billion for COVID-19 vaccination distribution plus \$500 million for seasonal influenza operations.^[3] Their specific funding allocation recommendation included:

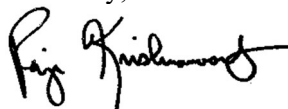
- \$3 billion for workforce recruitment and training for state and local health departments.
- \$1 billion for state and local vaccination infrastructure improvements.
- \$500 million for Immunization Information Systems (IIS) data modernization.
- \$700 million for reporting on vaccine coverage, effectiveness, safety, and evaluation.
- \$1.2 billion for cold supply chain management which includes transportation, storage, equipment, and training for staff.
- \$500 million for Emergency Use Authorization regulation and oversight.
- \$500 million for outreach to priority populations, communications, and educational efforts to increase vaccine confidence and combat misinformation.
- \$1 billion for standing up additional vaccination sites.

While Congress must approve additional funding for vaccine distribution efforts before it reaches your desk, the vocal support of the President of the United States will only strengthen the effort to move this funding through Congress.

I urge you to embrace the vaccine distribution funding recommendation of ASTHO and AIM, as well as those of other public health experts, including CDC Director Robert Redfield, and lend your full support to this effort.

The approval of a COVID-19 vaccine will be an enormous step forward in defeating the pandemic, but only through fully funding state and local vaccine distribution efforts will we be able to capitalize on that achievement and bring this dark chapter in our nation's history to a close.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

^[1] [Missing From State Plans to Distribute the Coronavirus Vaccine: Money to Do It](#). *New York Times*. November 22, 2020.

^[2] [States will need billions to distribute the Covid vaccine as federal funding falls short](#). *CNBC*. October 27, 2020.

^[3] [Letter to Congressional Leadership Requesting Funds for COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution](#). *ASTHO*. October 15, 2020.