

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ELC Supplement

General Guidance Overview

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: ELC Funding Supplements for Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control

- \$2.1 billion package announced on Sept. 17
- CDC will issue \$1.25 billion of this total to 64 health departments through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Cooperative Agreement
- Objective: Strengthen and equip U.S. public health and healthcare facilities to address SARS-CoV-2 and other infectious disease threats by expanding healthcare infection prevention and control (IPC) activities
 - Wide range of healthcare settings, with specific nursing home provisions

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: ELC Funding Supplements for Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control

- Initial awards:
 - \$385 million for the Strengthening HAI/AR¹ Program Capacity (SHARP) Project
 - Purpose: build on and expand health department IPC activities (existing HAI/AR Programs and AR Lab Network) to better protect patients and healthcare workers from SARS-CoV-2 and other infectious disease threats
 - Additional funding planned for the next ELC cycle (late 2024)
 - \$500 million for Nursing Home & Long-term Care Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Project
 - Purpose: support clinical and IPC activities in nursing homes and other LTCFs, including response to SARS-CoV-2 infections and infection prevention infrastructure necessary to support resident, visitor, and healthcare personnel safety

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceid/dpei/pdf/guidance-strengthening-haiar-program-capacity-508.pdf>

1. HAI/AR: healthcare-associated infections (HAI) and antibiotic resistance (AR)

Strengthening HAI/AR Program Capacity (SHARP)

*Activities and Projects Overview
(\$385M, through July 2024)*

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Strengthening HAI/AR Program Capacity (SHARP) Components

Project I

HAI/AR Program Network for Prevention and Response

- Strengthening state capacity to prevent, detect, and contain infectious disease threats across healthcare settings

Project II

Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network (AR Lab Network)

- Increasing state and regional laboratory capacity to conduct surveillance for emerging pathogens

Project III

Antibiotic Stewardship

- Supporting state analyses of antibiotic use data and implementing programs to improve antibiotic prescribing across communities

Project IV

Enhancing Use of National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)

- Increasing data and monitoring through the National Healthcare Safety Network

Project V

Project Firstline

- Implementing effective infection prevention and control training and education to frontline healthcare staff

Project I: HAI/AR Response & Prevention

- Build on existing HAI/AR Program response and prevention activities to strengthen and expand existing public health capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to HAI and AR threats; Project 1 Guidance contains 4 subparts
 - **B: Implement an Intervention for Prevention of Novel and Targeted MDROs**
 - **C: Expand and Strengthen HAI Response Activities**

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceid/dpei/pdf/guidance-strengthening-haiar-program-capicity-508.pdf>

P.I Activity C1 (Required): Establish an HAI Outbreak Lead who is dedicated to coordinating and overseeing response to HAI (non-AR/MDRO) outbreaks including, but not limited to:

- a. Initial consultation with healthcare facility with suspected outbreak or infection control breach
- b. Focused onsite IPC assessment
- c. Environmental sampling
- d. Coordination with PHL for testing/typing of clinical and environmental specimens/isolates
- e. Assisting facility and/or provider with patient notification
- f. Coordinating patient testing as part of patient notification
- g. Tracking of outbreak and infection control breach investigations in a dedicated tracking system
- h. Collaborating with regional/LHD staff
- i. Engaging with regional FDA office for medical product investigations
- j. Engaging with CDC as needed (medical product investigations or multi-jurisdictional outbreaks)

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P.I Activity C2 (Required): Ensure staff are adequately trained in HAI outbreak response. Options for training materials include:

- Council for Outbreak Response: HAI and AR Pathogens (CORHA) (<https://www.corha.org/resources-and-products/>)
- SHEA Outbreak Training Course
- CDC HAI Outbreak Course (under development)
- Other educational opportunities

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P.I Activity C3 (Optional): Improve capacity for HAI outbreak response through additional activities:

- a. Regional/LHD participation in remote consultations and onsite IPC assessments
- b. Presentations of HAI outbreak response to regional/LHD staff
- c. Procurement of adequate materials, supplies, and expertise to conduct environmental sampling or to help train staff on appropriate IPC practices

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