

American Rescue Plan-funded Impact in HAI/AR Prevention and Control

Improving Patient Safety

The COVID-19 pandemic worsened a long-standing need for significant, sustainable improvements in U.S. public health and healthcare systems.¹

In October 2021, CDC's Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Program awarded health departments American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funding to protect Americans from COVID-19 infections and other emerging infectious diseases across healthcare settings.

ARP funding, which is separate from regular, annual funding, advances health department HAI/AR Programs' ability to:

- Prevent and contain threats
- Improve surveillance and reporting
- Promote antibiotic stewardship (AS)
- Better assist healthcare settings at-risk of COVID-19 and other known and emerging threats, such as HAI/AR threats
- Provide healthcare workers with higher-quality infection prevention and control (IPC) education through initiatives like Project Firstline.²

Health departments spent the first year of ARP's project period launching new initiatives, building strong HAI/AR program foundations, and recruiting staff.



90,000+

healthcare workers **trained in IPC**. Better IPC in healthcare = a stronger defense against HAI/AR threats.



93%

of Project Firstline participants voiced **improved understanding of IPC**. Project Firstline makes patients safer with IPC training for every kind of healthcare worker.



Health departments reported engaging **15,000+** healthcare workers in **antibiotic stewardship** efforts. Increased participation in stewardship improves antibiotic prescribing and use, and combats antimicrobial resistance.³

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/data/portal/progress-report.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/index.html>

³ Data shown reflect activities from the first year of ARP supplements, October 2021-August 2022.



Success in Improving Patient Safety

Chicago Excels with Infection Prevention Training

In 2022, as concerns of mpox grew nationwide, Chicago's health department adapted their existing Project Firstline COVID-19 training materials to proactively meet healthcare workers' educational needs. With support from CDC's Project Firstline, Chicago developed online, interactive trainings with case-based examples, IPC messaging, and resources geared specifically toward mpox. The new training – already delivered to more than 200 healthcare workers – includes Project Firstline's foundational IPC principles and adds examples and lessons from Chicago's local mpox response. Chicago's mpox training reflects how ARP-funded CDC's Project Firstline training resources can be quickly **adapted to provide cost-effective and responsive education for emerging healthcare threats.**

Los Angeles Expands Antibiotic Stewardship

Before receiving ARP funding, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) antibiotic stewardship (AS) team consisted of one part-time physician. That physician managed AS outreach and activities for almost 500 healthcare facilities and more than 30,000 Medicare Part D prescribers. In short, **the scale of outreach needed for LACDPH's AS program was impossible** to achieve. LACDPH used ARP funding to hire three additional AS team members: a pharmacist, epidemiologist, and physician, all of whom are highly trained and experienced. As a result, the AS team is now:

- **Growing California's AS Honor Roll Program.** The program promotes smart antimicrobial use, prevents antimicrobial-resistant infections, and showcases AS programs that demonstrate improved outcomes and engage their local healthcare community.
- **Piloting programs to curb unnecessary prescribing in nursing homes.** The Targeting Appropriate Prescribing in Outpatient Settings program addresses unnecessary antibiotic use for bronchitis. The Transforming Nursing Home Care Together program increases AS support for long-term care and skilled nursing facilities.
- **Using data to actively address disparities.** By analyzing Medicare Part D antibiotic prescribing by medical specialty, the AS team emphasizes antibiotic stewardship inequity in their outreach efforts. National Healthcare Safety Network data analysis will inform additional outreach to hospitals with high prescribing rates and metrics.
- **Improving outreach with pharmacists.** Pharmacists often lead AS activities, antibiotic tracking/reporting, and policy work, but previously had low engagement with LACDPH.

Future ARP-funded projects can modernize healthcare systems, expand initiatives, and improve patient safety.

ARP funds are supporting crucial improvements to patient safety and the nation's preparation for future threats. But when the supplemental funds end, CDC will not be able to continue supporting the current level of work, and the progress health department HAI/AR Programs are making will be threatened.

⁴https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/Honor_Roll.aspx

⁵<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/TAPOUT.htm>

⁶<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/TNTProgram.htm>

