CDC continues to fund State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) health departments to prepare for, detect, or respond to emerging infectious diseases, such as monkeypox. The Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a nationwide public health emergency for monkeypox on August 4, 2022. This document provides a brief overview of resources and tools STLT recipients can consider utilizing to support their monkeypox 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 monkeypox activities. Existing, non-COVID-19 funding may provide more flexibility to support monkeypox 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 monkeypox; 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. 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 monkeypox 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 monkeypox 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 Flexibilities Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of Federal Financial Assistance.

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