

# Partnering With Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for SLVEs

## What is a School-Located Vaccine Event (SLVE)?

At a school-located vaccine event (SLVE), vaccines are administered at a school to students and staff. SLVEs can include vaccines that ALL students potentially need, like seasonal flu or COVID-19 vaccines, and can also include Tdap, HPV, meningococcal or other vaccines.

## Why SLVEs?

Benefits of SLVEs include:

- Convenience for families
- Decreased illness-related absenteeism
- Timely immunization
- Increased immunity for students, staff, student families and their communities
- Decreased seasonal burden on healthcare providers

## SLVE Resources

- SLVE Resources and Templates on [ShotsforSchool.org](https://shotsforschool.org) ([bit.ly/CDPHSLVEResources](https://bit.ly/CDPHSLVEResources))
- CDPH Director and Health Officer [Letter of Support](#) ([bit.ly/CDPHSLVELetterofSupport](https://bit.ly/CDPHSLVELetterofSupport)) for SLVEs
- Questions? Email us at [schoolvaxteam@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:schoolvaxteam@cdph.ca.gov)

## Why Partner with Community Based Organizations (CBOs)?

- A CBO is a public or private nonprofit organization that operates within a local community for the greater common good. Examples include Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), community or school-based health centers (SHHCs) and service organizations. CBOs can bring established connections with local health departments (LHDs) and schools/districts.
- Many CBOs can provide comprehensive healthcare, wrap-around services, and health education/outreach during immunization events.
- CBOs can bill insurance or contract with third-party billers for insurance verification and reimbursement of privately purchased vaccine.
- CBOs understand local communities and their vaccine access challenges and can support vaccinations in underserved areas.
- CBOs may be eligible for federal and state grants to support SLVEs and immunizations.
- CBOs can often vaccinate all ages, so schools can choose to include students' families, school staff, and the community in their vaccine events.
- CBOs can often meet the language and cultural needs of the local community.

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## Getting Started

- Investigate which CBO is closest to or has relationships with the host school, or has experience with SLVEs, and contact them to explore partnership opportunities.
- Ensure that the school's needs and goals align with the CBO partner's expertise and capacity to serve the population.

## Practical Tips

- Plan well in advance (4-6 months if possible) and share any required district/school agreements (Memorandums of Understanding or Facility Use Agreements) with the CBO if required.
- CBOs that are VFC providers should order VFC vaccines at least four weeks ahead of time to ensure timely and adequate supply, and they should specify that the vaccine will be used for an SLVE.
- Use a preregistration and pre-consent system, such as [MyTurn](#), to determine how many students will be coming to the event and how much vaccine is needed.
- If an electronic system such as My Turn is not being utilized, schools can use the [School and Child Care Roster Lookup \(SCRL\) tool](#) as a proxy to understand how many students are missing school required vaccines and invite those students to participate in vaccine events.
- If the CBO is only able to supply VFC vaccine, consider partnering with a pharmacy or other healthcare provider who can supply privately purchased vaccine and bill commercial insurance.

## Potential Challenges or Issues

- Finding a CBO who has the capacity to conduct an SLVE may be challenging.
- Partnering with schools to hold SLVEs may not always be financially sustainable for CBOs. Federal or state grants may be used to supplement funding.

## Real World Examples

A CBO (FQHC) in Southern California conducted 7 SLVEs at school sites in a single year. Events were 4 hours, took place on weekdays and Saturdays, and vaccinated 200-400 individuals per event. The school district supported these annual SLVEs by providing a list of all students missing immunizations for school entry. Only vaccines required for school entry were administered but plans to offer all ACIP recommended vaccines are being explored. This CBO served Medi-Cal, uninsured, and insured participants at all public schools with a mandate from their leadership to turn no one away. A private vaccine supply fund was supported by grants; the ability to seek reimbursement for associated doses was possible yet not always pursued. The CBO emphasized the critical importance of nurturing relationships with the school district.

A CBO (non-profit) partners routinely with their LHD; last year they held up to 11 SLVEs per day. The SLVEs were held on school campuses during and after school in public elementary, middle, and high schools throughout a Southern CA county. This partnership is funded by grants secured by the LHD. As a new VFC provider, the CBO implemented pre-consented events enabling them to place their vaccine orders at least 4-6 weeks in advance. The CBO also had a small supply of private vaccine they administered to commercially insured individuals, and the CBO contracted a third-party billing vendor to seek reimbursement for these doses. The CBO emphasized the importance of nurturing relationships both in the LHD and district schools. The schools now expect the CBO to show up annually to provide SLVEs.