

APPROACH

Achieving these goals requires federal agencies, community groups, private health care providers, public health departments, schools, religious institutions, parents, and others all working together. As vaccines are delivered locally through both public and private sector providers, efforts must focus on providing communities with the resources, skills, and support needed to reach parents and children.

Key activities in this plan will strengthen the vaccine delivery infrastructure in all 50 states to meet the immediate needs for reaching the 1996 and later goals. As health reform is implemented, it is anticipated that vaccinations will be increasingly provided to children by the private sector. Public health agencies will need to ensure that children in their jurisdictions are appropriately vaccinated by providing support for private sector vaccination delivery. Therefore, the plan includes new activities designed to improve public-and private-sector collaboration and private-sector capacity to administer vaccines more effectively in the health care system of the future.

National activities will include financial and technical assistance to states, communities, as well as mass media promotion, development of information systems, surveillance, and applied research to improve vaccines. Local efforts will use Immunization Action Plans (IAP) -- road maps developed by states and major urban areas -- to improve immunization levels. In addition, the Vaccines for Children program will provide vaccines free of charge to more than 60 percent of children, thus reducing cost as a barrier to vaccination.

This plan includes 2 segments: first, the key objectives and action steps, and, second, milestones and timelines for these action steps.

Efforts will be focused in five broad areas directed toward achieving the 1996 CII goals:

- I. Improve infrastructure for providing vaccines
- II. Increase community participation and parent/provider education
- III. Reduce vaccine cost for parents
- IV. Improve monitoring of vaccination coverage and disease
- V. Improve vaccines and vaccination schedules