



Incentives to Recognize Outstanding and Improved Practices

The “I” in AFIX stands for the incentives to motivate providers and practices to improve immunization coverage levels. Making changes and sustaining high immunization coverage levels is not easy. It is important to recognize practices for outstanding and improved immunization rates. The key to this part of the AFIX process is to provide effective motivational rewards for positive change and improvement in immunization services/rates. Incentives promote change and reward achievement. Anecdotally, recognition of accomplishments is a leading incentive for provider behavior change.

There are two types of incentives that can be used – informal and formal. At least two informal incentives should be offered during the feedback session. Informal incentives include providing practices some of the following education materials and opportunities:

- Most recent ACIP Immunization schedule
- Accelerated/catch-up schedule
- Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* (“The Pink Book”)
- Immunization Record cards for charts
- Immunization Resources list
- Impact SIIS (statewide immunization information system) information
- Maximize Office Based Immunizations (MOBI) information (in-service education program)

If informal incentives are going to be provided at AFIXs, it is recommended that these items be included in the IAP application in the budget section as educational items.

The AFIX Project for Ohio offers formal incentives in the form of annual awards that provide public recognition of high performing and improved practices. There is an alternating award schedule from year to year. Awards will be present at the ImmunizeOhio Statewide Immunization Conference on the years that it takes place (odd year, 2013, 2015, etc.). Awards from the current year and previous year will be presented at the conference (at the 2015 conference both 2014 and 2015 awards will be presented). A letter from the Director of Health or Medical Director is sent to all practices receiving an award. Funding restrictions have caused the award type to change from a plaque to signed certificate from the Medical Director.

The local health department may provide recognition at the local level to providers. The criteria for local recognitions can and should be set by each local health department.

Statewide Award Criteria

The AFIX Project for Ohio will present certificates recognizing those providers, both public and private, throughout the state for achievement in pediatric immunizations. Local health districts may choose to offer their own incentive awards in addition to the state awards.

In order for a local health district or a practice to be eligible at the state level for an award, the assessment must consist of at least 25 records and the “AFIX Project for Ohio” protocol must have been followed.

All awards are considered at the practice and health district level (they are not subdivided into a specific provider or clinic site). Awards will be presented the following year.

Immunization Coverage Excellence Award

This is awarded to those practices who achieve a 90% or higher in the Up-to-Date category at 24 months for the 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib and 3 Hepatitis B and 1 Varicella (4:3:1:3:3:1:4) series on the CoCASA report when assessing 24-35 month olds during the appropriate calendar year.

For IAP grantee health districts – A 90% or higher at 24 months in the Up-to-Date category on the CoCASA report when assessing 24-35 month olds must be achieved on CoCASA reports submitted with the IAP end of the year progress report in the appropriate calendar year.

For Private practices, non-IAP grantee health districts, FQHC, RHC, and Other Public practices – A 90% or higher at 24 months in the Up-to-Date category when assessing the 24-35 month olds must be achieved on the January 1 Common Assessment date CoCASA report for the appropriate calendar year.