

Did you know?

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships called [The Partnership Center](#). The Center exists to engage and communicate with faith communities and grassroots organizations and offers resources on mental health, COVID-19, and the opioid crisis.



State Examples

Arizona: AAAs work with churches that serve Hispanic and African American communities. Collaborating with these churches helps the AAAs reach underserved populations.

Michigan: To reduce social isolation, Michigan offered technology support services through faith-based organizations.

Arkansas: The UCEDD partnered with the Department of Health's Office of Faith-Based Outreach to promote the COVID-19 vaccine in places of worship. Read more [here](#).

Montana: Seven rural AAAs started a pilot outreach project targeting faith-based organizations to promote the COVID-19 vaccine. Check out their [toolkit](#) for faith leaders.

Tennessee: Tennessee is distributing approved vaccine materials from the public health department to faith-based programs.

Spotlight: Faith in Science Rhode Island

Faith in Science Rhode Island is a multicultural, multiracial, and interfaith coalition of the Ministers Alliance of Rhode Island churches, the United Way of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island state agencies. Currently, *Faith in Science* is focused on promoting COVID-19 vaccines for Rhode Island's Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) population through vaccine clinics at various locations, such as churches and Black Lives Matter offices. *Faith in Science* also aims to support the BIPOC community with other initiatives of importance beyond those related to the pandemic.

Practical Steps to Partnership with Faith-Based Organizations

1. **See if your state Department of Health has a faith-based office.** As described above, Arkansas has partnered with this office on vaccine outreach.
2. **Discover the places of worship your target population visits.** To find potential faith-based partners, conduct outreach to the communities you serve to understand where they worship and assemble. Partner with places of worship of various religions and faith traditions (Jewish, Muslim, Christian, etc.).
3. **Partner on vaccine outreach.** If you have not already, consider using some of your vaccine outreach supplemental funding to promote partnerships with faith-based organizations. Check out [Faith4Vaccines](#) for more information.
4. **Leverage connections made through the COVID-19 response.** You may already be working with faith-based organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic on vaccine outreach or supplying food and essentials. Expand on these partnerships to increase support to older adults and individuals with disabilities.
5. **Partner on support for caregivers.** Consider partnering with congregations, places of worship, and faith-based organizations on initiatives to support caregivers for older adults and individuals with disabilities. You and your partners could work together to inform caregivers about resources, such as this [database](#) for evidence-based caregiving practices and programs.