

**The Office of Minority Health (OMH)** serves as an advocate for action on minority health issues within the PHS. It serves as a catalyst for collaboration among PHS agencies, HHS operating divisions, other Federal departments, and non-Federal partners on minority health issues and projects. Working with the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the NVPO, OMH facilitates the distribution of immunization materials targeted to minority populations.

**The Office of the Surgeon General** has the responsibility for advising the public on emerging public health issues of concern, with an emphasis on controlling epidemics. In response to the 1989-91 measles epidemics, the Surgeon General is giving priority to promoting the appropriate and timely administration of childhood immunizations.

## **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** supports the plan to assess the immunization status of persons receiving assistance through various Federal programs, including Public Housing programs, Public Housing serves over 4 million people, of whom 1.5 million are children. HUD is increasing its coordination efforts with Resident Management Groups and public housing authorities across the country so that resident awareness of the need for immunization is enhanced and accessibility of services to client children is facilitated.

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**The Department of Agriculture (USDA)** has begun a cooperative effort with the CDC to increase immunization coverage among preschool children who participate in the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The WIC program has regulatory responsibility to coordinate with other programs providing immunization services. Many WIC local agencies are located on-site with health care services where immunizations are available. Other WIC agencies refer participants to other health care providers in the community for immunization. Child care providers and centers participating in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are encouraged to become involved in promoting immunization.

Also, as part of its national “Decisions For Health” and “Plight of Young Children” education initiatives, the USDA’s Cooperative Extension Service (CES) works in close partnership with several HHS operating divisions, including the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, the CDC, and HRSA’S BPHC, to organize and activate communities to immunize their children. The CES is a national educational network with links to the 74 land-grant universities, a number of the medical schools and teaching hospitals located on those campuses, and 3,150 county extension offices. Through its professional staff, trained volunteers, and advanced telecommunications capabilities, the CES is educating families as to why it is critical to immunize their children and how they can access the appropriate health care resources that provide immunization services.

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**The Department of Education** has a working agreement with HHS that fosters relationships at State and local levels to ensure the availability, accessibility, and quality of comprehensive health care (including immunization and other preventive health services) for the children of migrant farm workers. The Department of Education’s Office of Migrant Education also provides financial assistance for State education agencies to establish or improve education programs designed to meet the special educational and support needs of children of migrant workers in agriculture and fisheries. A key component of the Migrant Education Program is the Migrant Student Record Transfer System, which system contains health records used by local health centers.

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**The Department of Defense (DOD)** runs a comprehensive immunization program that is designed to protect defense forces against foreseeable threats from infectious diseases. Because there is a large active-duty military force, plus a large number of reservists, and dependents who receive vaccines, the DOD immunization program affects a significant portion of the Nation’s population.