What Is The VFC Program?

• A federal entitlement program designed to reduce or eliminate vaccine cost as a barrier to childhood immunization.
• Funding is awarded to the states through an annual federal grant administered by CDC.
• Vaccines are provided at no charge to public and private providers to improve and expand access to immunization services for VFC-eligible children.
• CDC establishes contracts with vaccine manufacturers to purchase bulk quantities of vaccines at federal contract prices.
Magnitude of the CDC’s Vaccines for Children Program

- CDC total budget - $9.2 billion
- CDC allocates 35% of their annual budget to the immunization program
  - Largest amount to any single program
  - Comparison - 15% of CDC’s budget is allocated for terrorism
- From June 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 Missouri distributed $53,224,000 worth of vaccine (CDC contract price)
- No state dollars are spent on vaccines
Who Is Eligible For VFC?

• Children birth through 18 years of age who meet one of the following:
  – Medicaid eligible
  – Uninsured
  – American Indian/Alaska Native
  – Underinsured (only eligible for VFC Vaccine through Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs))
  ❖ “Underinsured” – child has health insurance, but:
    Insurance doesn’t cover vaccines, covers only select vaccines, or has a fixed dollar amount for vaccines
CDC Responsibilities

• Establishes vaccine contracts for the purchase of vaccines by states
• Establishes programmatic guidelines for implementation of the VFC program
• Establishes a national vaccine distribution system
• Determines priority groups for receipt of vaccines if a particular vaccine is in short supply
States Responsibilities

- Enroll providers
- Assure adequate supplies of all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are available
- Ensure provider vaccine order parameters are established and followed
- Provide technical assistance to providers
States Responsibilities (cont.)

Quality assurance – conduct VFC/AFIX site visits to VFC enrolled providers to assess:

- Storage and Handling
- Vaccine Information Statement Forms
- Vaccine Administration
- Chart Documentation
- Eligibility Screening
- Immunization Rates

- Administration Fees
- Training
- Emergency Plan
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Schedules
Provider Responsibilities

• Determine patient eligibility at each visit
• **Do not** charge for the cost of VFC vaccine
• Complete re-enrollment contract to VFC program annually
• Utilize approved refrigeration equipment
• Use certified calibrated thermometer for every refrigeration unit containing vaccine
• Submit monthly temperature logs and accountability reports
• Maintain VFC information for a period of 3 years
Vaccine Ordering

Vaccine ordering involves more than just writing numbers on the vaccine order form. It starts by.....

• Using real data to complete the provider profile to determine the number of VFC and non-VFC children a provider will serve during the year
  – Types of data used to determine profile - Medicaid billing, provider encounter forms, and VFC tally sheets

• Before completing the VFC order form review
  – Previous Vaccine Tally Sheets and Vaccine Accountability Form
  – Review doses administered AND the inventory on hand to determine the number of doses needed

• Provider should order approximately a 6 week supply of vaccine
Vaccine Distribution

- McKesson Specialty Distribution is the distributor utilized by all VFC Grantees
- Provider orders are processed by CDC daily
- Deliveries from McKesson are usually made on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and occasionally on Friday
  - The distributor is allowed 15 working days for delivery of product
Shipments Received by Providers

• Check vaccine shipment upon receipt for accuracy
• Any discrepancies must be reported to the VFC program within 2 hours of vaccine delivery
  ❖ Temperatures out of range
  ❖ Incorrect vaccines received
• Store vaccine at the appropriate temperature upon receipt
• Inappropriate storage or lack of action upon delivery resulting in waste is considered negligence and replacement of vaccine by the provider is required
• Keep vaccine invoices/shipping logs for 3 years
Immunization Rates

• Missouri’s Goal – 90% of children appropriately immunized by 24 months of age

• What is our status – LAST. The 2009 National Immunization Survey lists Missouri’s rate at 50.1% for the 4-3-1-3-3-1 Series (4-Dtap, 3-IPV, 1-MMR, 3-Hib, 3-HepB, 1-Varicella and 4-PCV) for children 19 - 35 months of age

• Is the 90% goal unreasonable?
• Will it be difficult to reach?
• What is our focus?
  – Education, Inter-agency Partnerships, Research and Idea Sharing, Shots for Tots campaign, Increase VFC provider base.....
Questions/Comments

For more information about the VFC program, call:

VFC Program Staff at: (800) 219-3224

Or go to:

http://www.dhss.mo.gov/living/wellness/immunizations/vfc-parentsguardians.php

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/