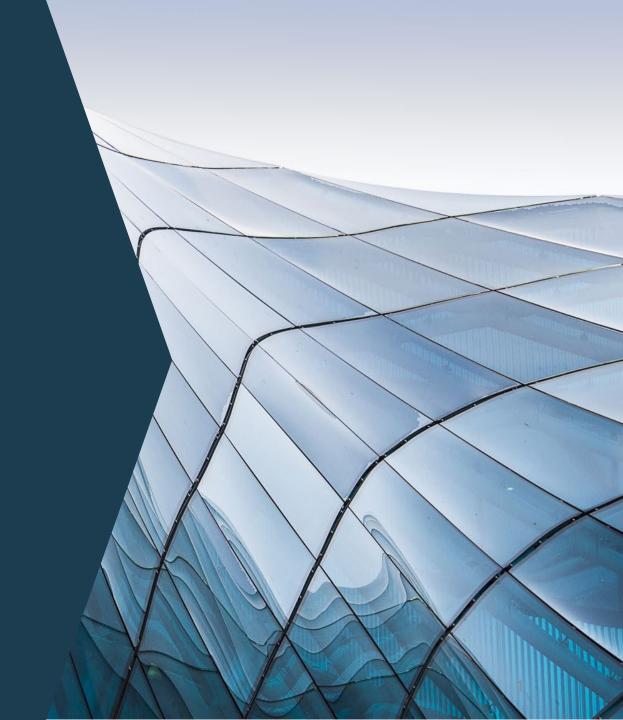
AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022









# Letter from AIRA's Executive Director

AIRA Community,

This past year, we have continued to navigate the remnants of a global pandemic and found ways to evolve by establishing a new normal. When confronted by adversity, we have continued to advance all immunization information systems (IIS) together with partnerships that have demonstrated resilience and dedication to the communities we serve. In collaboration with IIS staff, partners, and members, we have maintained an unwavering commitment to our mission of supporting the IIS community's goal of preventing and controlling vaccine-preventable diseases.

Over the past year, 95% of IIS volunteered their time and talents with AIRA. AIRA also significantly expanded the Measurement and Improvement (M&) initiative, which helps IIS more fully align with national standards and best practices, increasing the credibility and sustainability of all IIS.

Our continuous progress, despite pandemic constraints, would not have been possible without our members, volunteers, and board of directors. I'm thankful for the board's strategic direction and leadership in fostering AIRA's mission and vision. I express my gratitude to all our sponsors, members, volunteers, and community partners for supporting our critical efforts to advance the IIS community.

R

**Rebecca Coyle, MSEd** AIRA Executive Director



### **About AIRA**

The American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) is a vibrant membership organization dedicated to supporting continuous advancement of the nation's leading public health information systems.

AIRA was founded in 1999 after a nationwide measles outbreak from 1989 to 1991 that prompted the development of immunization registries in communities and regions across the country. AIRA became an effective advocate and support for immunization registry development as the convener of a collaborative public health community. With members representing all states and local and territorial jurisdictions, AIRA's work encompasses policy, technical, and educational aspects, bringing together the IIS community to work together to promote standards, develop and share best practices, and share collective knowledge and successes.

Today, AIRA brings together voices across the IIS community and uses its platform to provide invaluable education, advocacy, standards development, and measurement and improvement to the IIS community.



### **About IIS**

Immunization information systems (IIS) are confidential, population-based, computerized databases that record all immunization doses administered by participating providers to persons residing within a given geopolitical area. IIS are the most powerful tool for managing immunization records and supporting healthier communities.



Provides Consolidated Immunization Records



Minimizes
Vaccine Waste



Reminds Patients of Due Dates



Spotlights Areas of Need



Expedites Response in an Outbreak

### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

### Board of Directors

Christy Gray, Virginia

**PRESIDENT** 

Mary Woinarowicz, North Dakota

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Melissa Mickle-Hope, New York City

**SECRETARY** 

Heather Roth, Colorado

**TREASURER** 

David McCormick, Indiana

**GOVERNANCE CHAIR** 

**David Crowell**, Nevada

Jeffrey McIntyre, Mississippi\*

Jennifer Couiteux, Washington\*

John Robison, Philadelphia

Kathryn Cruz, New Mexico

Miriam Muscoplat, Minnesota

**Sammy Chao**, Public Health Informatics Institute\*

**Steve Murchie**, Envision Technology Partners



<sup>\*</sup> Served a partial-term



### **OUR VOLUNTEERS**

# Subject Matter Experts

AIRA has the following three types of volunteer groups:

Communities of practice support the creation of best practice recommendations for IIS.

Workgroups manage specific projects to support the needs of the organization and the IIS community.

User groups bring community members together to discuss specific issues that they have in common.



of IIS had at least one staff member participate in an AIRA workgroup in FY22



### **OUR COMMUNITY**

# AIRA Members and Corporate Partners

AIRA's members include IIS and immunization program staff working in health departments, IIS implementers, nonprofits, and other organizations with an interest in IIS. AIRA's membership also includes corporate partners, which are private sector organizations that support AIRA and its mission to enhance public health. In FY22, AIRA had **113** organization members representing over **900** individuals.

AIRA's corporate partnership provides an excellent opportunity for private sector organizations to get involved in the IIS community and join AIRA in advancing IIS.

To learn more about AIRA membership, visit <a href="https://www.immregistries.org/membership-info">https://www.immregistries.org/membership-info</a>.

### **CORPORATE PARTNERS**

DIAMOND **PLATINUM** gainwell GOLD • SSG SANOFI PASTEUR 🎝 SILVER **Cerner** AMC | Health Informatics **\*athena**health LexisNexis<sup>®</sup> docket Iron Bridge MERCK **cotimoz** ....vacmobile

<sup>\*</sup>Corporate partners were previously called supporting members.



#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# Member Spotlight: Oklahoma

Oklahoma State Department of Health IIS The Oklahoma State Department of Health IIS has been involved with AIRA for as long as **PAULA DEYELL**, IIS manager, can remember. "I have been a voting member since 2019 but have worked with the Immunization Service/IIS for 21 years." Paula and her team currently work with AIRA and the Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART) to validate their HL7 interface and participate in the Data At Rest project. Recently, the Oklahoma IIS worked with AIRA and the CDC to develop a data quality plan. Oklahoma also takes part in the IZ Gateway and is now exchanging data with nine states, the Veterans Health Administration, and, soon, the Department of Defense.

Working with AIRA has given Oklahoma access to resources to look at its IIS data in a different way. "The resources provided by AIRA have allowed us to come up with a realistic plan to improve data quality in our IIS, which in turn helps us to better pinpoint strategies that will increase immunization coverage in Oklahoma," says Paula. "Our employees enjoy the opportunities that AIRA has provided for trainings, and those have positively impacted their job performance and understanding of the needs of the IIS."

According to Paula, AIRA's work is far-reaching. "AIRA as a whole has been instrumental in HL7 standardization and creating an environment for interjurisdictional data exchange. AIRA has helped me immensely in the understanding of IIS standards and best practices. AIRA conferences and meetings have provided an opportunity for collaboration among jurisdictions and helped us to create relationships that allow for better understanding of all IIS."



#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# Member Spotlight: Kansas



Kansas Department of Health and Environment IIS

**KIMBRA NEMMERS**, IIS manager with the Kansas Immunization Registry, has worked closely with AIRA for years. Kansas regularly participates in many of AIRA's user groups, including Smarty and the Power BI User Group, and attends AIRA's discovery sessions, regional meetings, and national meetings. Kansas IIS staff rely on AIRA guides and resources to help improve their IIS functionality and data quality and use the Smarty service provided by AIRA, which has helped to validate over 7.8 million addresses in their system. Kansas is also validated with AIRA's Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART) and often uses the tool to ensure its IIS meets functional standards and to review suggestions on how to improve the system.

In 2021, when Kimbra received an invitation from AIRA to partner on a data quality initiative, Kimbra jumped at the chance. "At the time, Kansas IIS was understaffed and had no real plan for ongoing data quality outside of the standard reports they had used for years. We had just started using Microsoft Power BI but were very overwhelmed with where to start in developing a plan." AIRA was able to help IIS staff create a comprehensive data quality plan that is manageable and can be updated as data quality focus areas change.

Kimbra values AIRA's trainings and looks forward to attending the AIRA National Meeting each year as a valuable way to learn and connect. According to Kimbra, "The AIRA community is one of the most important resources for our IIS. Not only does AIRA create opportunities to bring jurisdictions together, but they also have knowledgeable staff who are always willing to assist in any way they can. They are always bridging the gap in the areas we often need guidance."

### **FINANCIALS**

# Revenue, Assets and Liabilities

AIRA plays a critical role in the immunization landscape by increasing the impact of IIS.

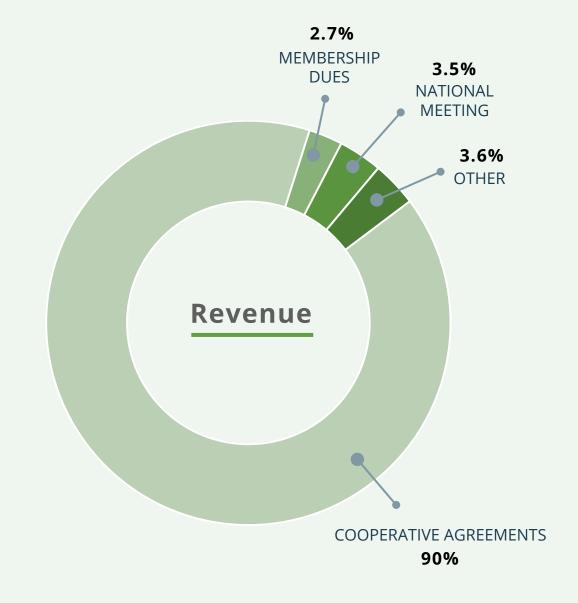
### **Total Revenue**

\$7.4 million

### **Assets**

\$3.1 million

**Liabilities** \$627,000



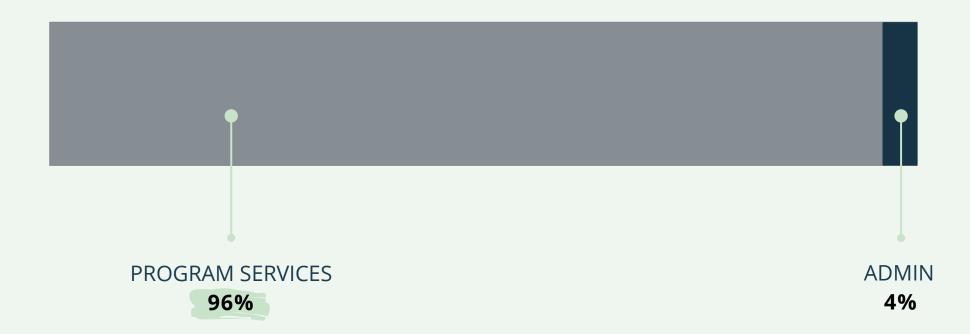


### **FINANCIALS**

# Expenses

The vast majority of AIRA's funding goes toward key program services to advance IIS.

### **Expenses**

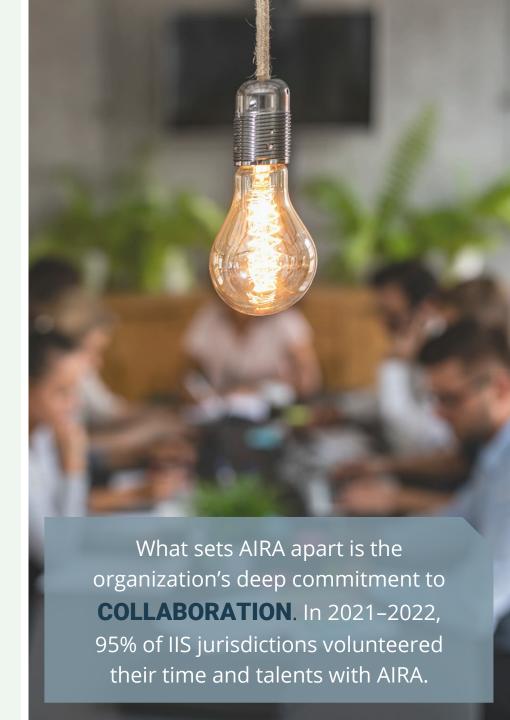




# **Our Work**

AIRA provides invaluable support to advance IIS. Working collaboratively with the IIS community and the CDC, AIRA brings together key partners and stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities facing the IIS community and develop standards and best practices for IIS.

Through education, advocacy, standards development, and the Measurement and Improvement (M&I) initiative, AIRA helps strengthen all IIS to ensure healthy communities.



# Advocacy and Partnerships

Advocacy work is one of the primary ways AIRA ensures IIS are supported and represented. With an overarching view of the IIS landscape, AIRA elevates IIS needs and concerns to a national stage, speaking as the collective voice for the IIS community.

By engaging stakeholders and partners at a national level, AIRA ensures IIS interests are championed and advanced. AIRA's strategic partnerships include various national organizations, as well as federal agencies.

### NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



















### **FEDERAL AGENCIES**









# Convening the Community

AIRA convenes the IIS community to foster collaboration, explore latest IIS best practices, and address key priorities for IIS.

Educational webinars provide training and education on key topics impacting the IIS community.

Newsletters, including AIRA's Weekly Update and quarterly *SnapShots*, highlight the progress, activities, and accomplishments of AIRA and IIS.

Regional workshops and national meetings advance the IIS community by providing professional education and training, developing new relationships, and strengthening long-term partnerships.





# AIRA National Meeting

Virtual Edition

In 2022, due to the pandemic, AIRA held its first-ever all-virtual National Meeting. The agenda included COVID-19 response, routine immunizations, onboarding and interoperability, policy and workforce challenges, leveraging data, system integration, and more.

- + A record-setting **658 attendees** participated.
- + **95%** of participants agreed the content was either relevant or very relevant to the work they do.

The AIRA 2022 National Meeting brought together attendees from across the country to educate on the latest IIS best practices and discuss IIS at a national level.

As always, AIRA did a fantastic job with the National Meeting. AIRA staff is so knowledgeable and well prepared. Thank you again for bringing such great information to the different jurisdictions.

Anonymous Participant



# Measurement and Improvement

Through the Measurement and Improvement (M&I) initiative, AIRA partners with individual IIS to identify opportunities for improvement and offers operational and technical assistance to help each IIS align with national standards to facilitate interoperability with other health care systems.

The M&I initiative provides all IIS with information and tools to more fully align with Functional Standards. The project connects IIS test systems with AIRA's testing web application called the Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool (AART). Within AART, each IIS has access to customized quarterly reports on how that individual IIS is doing in specific content areas, such as data quality, forecasting, etc. Through this process, AIRA helps jurisdictions institute standards and improve their systems.

By bringing the IIS community together under broadly implemented standards, all IIS gain **CREDIBILITY** and become increasingly **SUSTAINABLE**.







### Measurement and Improvement

The M&I initiative's final step is validation. Validation acknowledges IIS that are progressing toward or achieving alignment with community-selected measures and tests. This public-facing approach showcases how IIS are meeting or exceeding community standards for interoperability, functionality, and quality.

Although participation is voluntary, **98%** of IIS jurisdictions are actively participating in the M&I initiative.

In 2022, IIS were able to gain validation in the five following content areas:

- 1. Transport
- 2. Submission/Acknowledgment
- 3. Query/Response
- 4. Clinical Decision Support
- 5. Data Quality Incoming/Ongoing







# Improving Onboarding Processes

Onboarding describes the process and activities necessary to establish an electronic interface between an immunization provider's electronic health record (EHR) system and a jurisdiction's IIS.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of new data exchange partners needed to be onboarded to IIS, and new provider types emerged as valuable immunization and data exchange partners. AIRA met this need by collaborating with the CDC to create the Onboarding Shared Services program. AIRA supports IIS by optimizing and standardizing jurisdictional onboarding practices through:

- Direct technical assistance
- Consultation on process and documentation
- Development of community resources, such as onboarding templates for jurisdictional use
- Instructor-led onboarding trainings

The support provided, information received, and overall work that AIRA has given helped us to become much more organized. And of course, being more organized is allowing us to be more efficient, provide better service to our external partners, and overall increase our knowledge.

**Cylvia Tucker**, Oregon IIS Program

- + 7 pilot jurisdictions
  adopted the onboarding
  templates to use within
  their jurisdictions.
- + **90%** of template reviewers felt the content accurately supports local onboarding processes.

# Provider Organization Onboarding for IIS

AIRA's Provider Organization Onboarding for IIS Course was launched in 2022.

The training helps IIS implement standardized onboarding processes and procedures. The course is a live, interactive, instructor-led training that dives into each step of the onboarding process and includes best practices and implementation considerations.

97%

of attendees would recommend this course to a colleague in an onboarding role.

87% of attendees 000 representing 49 state and local

IIS jurisdictions

4% of attendees representing **6** other AIRA membership organizations

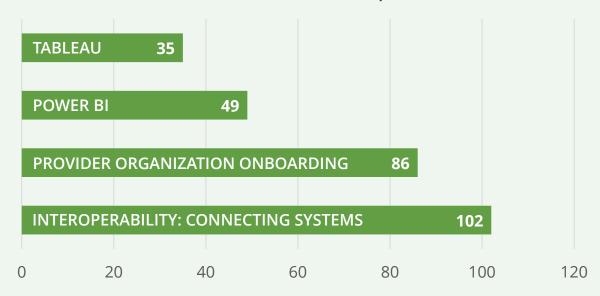
9% of attendees representing 5 IIS vendors and implementers



### Education and Training

AIRA provides invaluable training opportunities for the IIS community, including Tableau and Power BI training for data visualization, the Provider Organization Onboarding for IIS Course, the IIS Interoperability: Connecting Systems Course, and AART clinics.

### **AIRA Course Participants**



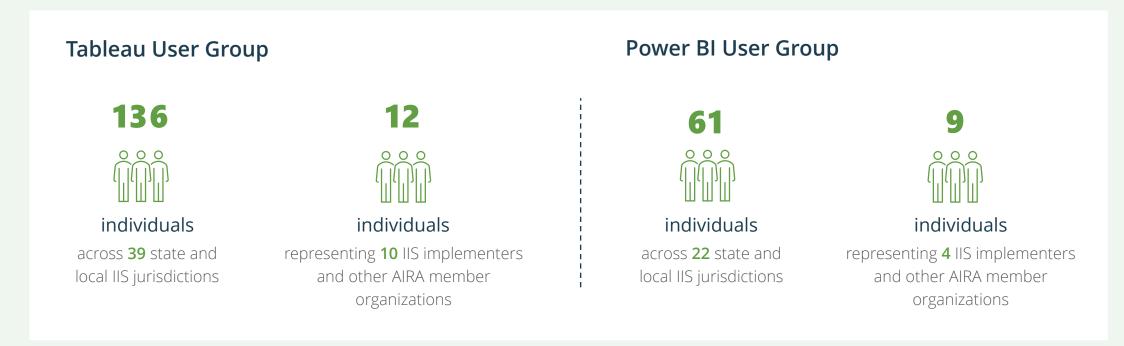




# Data Visualization Training

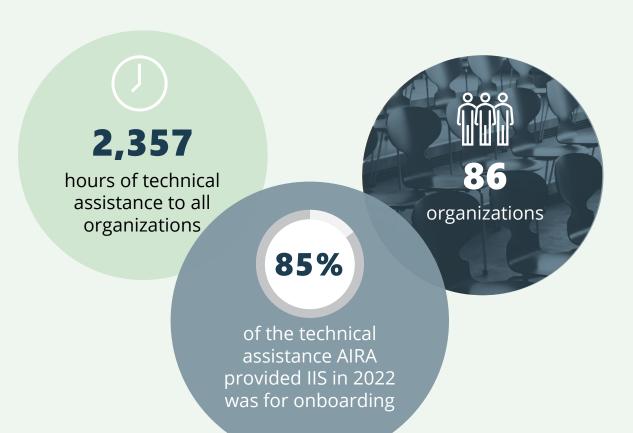
AIRA hosted several trainings and user groups in 2022 to support data analysis, visualization, and reporting, including the **Tableau User Group** and **Power BI User Group**. These user groups bring the IIS community together to share how Tableau and Power BI can be used to achieve data visualization goals.

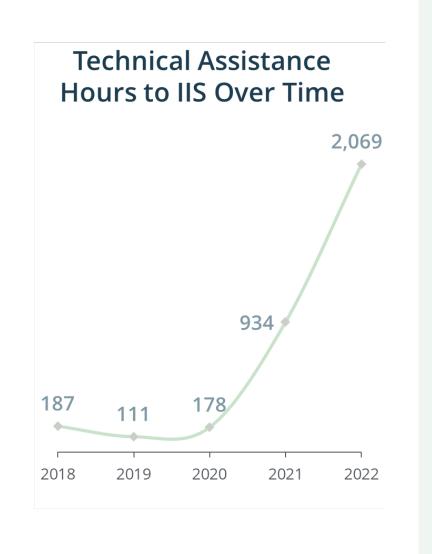




### Technical Assistance

AIRA has a team of experts who provide technical assistance to help the IIS community align with national standards. An improved IIS ultimately allows health care providers to better serve their patients and the community, advancing public health nationwide.

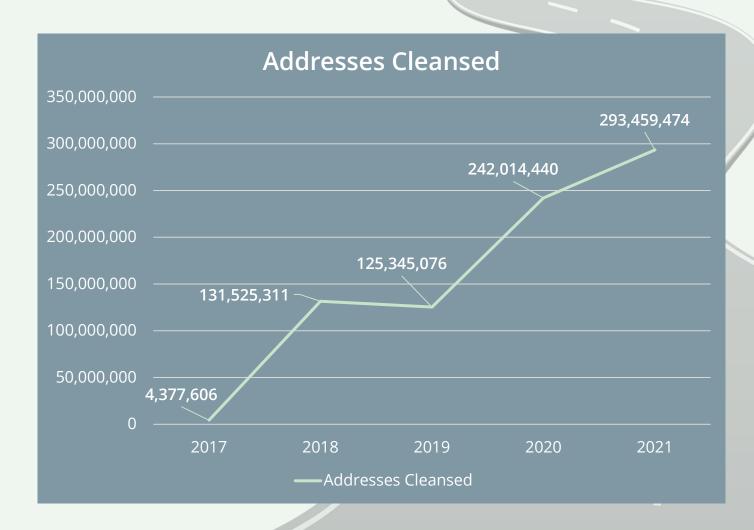




### Address Cleansing

Smarty, previously known as SmartyStreets, is an address cleansing and geocoding service that can help IIS improve data quality. AIRA has helped 45 IIS connect with Smarty to standardize addresses in their systems.

To date, more than **1,270,341,016** addresses have been cleansed.





# Immunization Integration Program

The Immunization Integration Program (IIP) is a collaborative partnership between CDC, AIRA, the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS), and expert consultants to improve immunization interoperability, information sharing, and management. The IIP strives to increase the quality and usage of immunization data through cross-sector collaboration and solution development, electronic health record (EHR) testing, and technical support.

- The IIP's Testing and Recognition initiative is a way for EHRs to be tested on immunization capabilities and to be recognized for their ability to exchange data with IIS.
- The IIP Collaborative brings together partners and creates a forum to develop recommendations and solutions to improve interoperability.

# THROUGH 2022, THE IIP HAS WORKED WITH EHRS AND IIS TO:

- Improve patient matching for EHRs and IIS in an immunization query
- Test and recognize EHRs with advanced immunization capabilities
- Improve interoperability through the IIP Bulk Query Toolkit



### Routine Immunization

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of real-time vaccination data. The CDC-sponsored Routine Immunization initiative helps:

- Demonstrate that IIS are a reliable source of vaccination coverage levels during outbreaks and for routine immunization efforts
- Improve the ability of IIS staff to use and analyze their vaccination data

AIRA worked closely with 11 jurisdictions to help them measure the quality of the data in their IIS. AIRA then collaborated with them to identify steps to improve the completeness, timeliness, and validity of their data.



The information generated through this project will be so beneficial in helping our team improve our IIS data quality.

Rachel Odom, RN, Arkansas IIS Manager



# IZ Gateway

The IZ Gateway provides a centralized technical infrastructure that facilitates the flow of immunization data from IIS to vaccine providers that operate in multiple cities and states and back, as well as from IIS to consumers. The IZ Gateway Project aims to address gaps in data exchange between immunization registries, providers, and patients to provide more complete and accurate immunization records.



of interjurisdictional MOUs were signed and submitted to AIRA by the end of September 2022

# THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CDC, AIRA SUPPORTS THE IZ GATEWAY PROJECT BY:

- Developing strategies to assist
  IIS and multijurisdictional
  vaccine providers with
  connecting and exchanging data
  through the IZ Gateway
- Providing subject matter expertise to support IZ Gateway documentation development, review, and maintenance
- Tracking and monitoring completion of IZ Gateway legal agreements, specifically interjurisdictional MOUs



# **Thank You**

The following partners contributed their time, talents, and resources to AIRA. Thank you for your efforts to coordinate and amplify the voice of immunization information systems and public health!

Allscripts	Docket	Physicians Computer Company (PCC)
Altarum Institute	DXC (Gainwell)	Professional Software for Nurses
Amazon Web Services	Envision Technology Partners, Inc.	Promed
Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)	Epic	Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII)
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)	Healthvana	Scientific Technologies Corporation (STC
Atlantic Management Center	HLN Consulting, LLC	Sentry MD
Audacious Inquiry	Indian Health Services	Strategic Solutions Group
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of New Mexico	Iron Bridge	SW Partners
Business Rules Solutions	Luminare	Task Force for Global Health
CAN Immunize	M Corp	University of Michigan Child Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Merck	Evaluation & Research Unit
Cerner Corporation	MetaStar	University of Montana
Children's Hospital of Colorado	Multi-State Partnership for Prevention	University of Pennsylvania
CureMed	National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	University of Washington
Dakota Consulting	Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC)	VCI



# AIRA

# ADVANCING IIS TOGETHER

Join AIRA as we promote the use of immunization information, collaborate, advance best practices, and drive meaningful results for public health policy.





