



## Tech Executive Leadership Initiative

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# Equitable Access Roadmap for Digital Vaccine Records

Enabling equitable access to digital vaccine data for all on- and off-line state residents

## BACKGROUND

*As part of their 10-week technology policy training program, the leaders of the Tech Executive Leadership Initiative spent 6 weeks working on real-world government challenges. Three teams tackled whether states should develop digital COVID-19 vaccine credentials, tailoring their recommendations to a fictional “State of Outdoorsville.” Each team narrowed its focus to a specific part of the problem, conducted research, and developed solutions. Below is an overview of one team’s solution: the Equitable Access Roadmap for Digital Vaccine Records.*

## FOCUS

The State of Outdoorsville is considering building a stand-alone COVID-19 vaccine credential. Should it choose to start from scratch, the state would need to undergo a complex development process and then educate the public on the tool’s existence and convince them to utilize it. Instead, to minimize the lift, the state should consider extending its existing infrastructure to accommodate a COVID-19 credential. From there, the state should focus on ensuring that vulnerable populations — including those without ready access to technology — are able to navigate the new credential.

To learn more about this project, please visit [aspentechpolicyhub.com/teli](https://aspentechpolicyhub.com/teli).



## Tech Executive Leadership Initiative

### ABOUT TELI

This project was completed as part of the Tech Executive Leadership Initiative (TELI), a 10-week skills-building initiative that prepares experienced technology leaders to engage effectively with public sector challenges. Learn more at [aspentechpolicyhub.com/teli](https://aspentechpolicyhub.com/teli).

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

The State of Outdoorsville should enable access to COVID-19 vaccine records through the its existing Immunization Information System (IIS) on multiple, convenient platforms. Outdoorsville should develop a new OpenAPI framework to enable other digital city services, such as the state's myOutdoorsville digital identification app and a website, to display vaccination records from the IIS database. This project recommends that the state take [the following actions](#):

**Build an OpenAPI Framework:** While Outdoorsville already allows Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to connect to the IIS, it does not have an OpenAPI framework with the functionality required to showcase vaccine credential data on other applications.

**Create Several Integrations:** To help citizens securely verify their COVID-19 vaccination status, Outdoorsville should use the OpenAPI to create myriad access points, including:

- *The myOutdoorsville app:* Many of the state's residents already use the myOutdoorsville resources app. As [the attached demo](#) shows, building the vaccine credential into this application would provide easy access to residents who are already familiar with the platform.
- *The REAL ID:* The state previously invested in the secure REAL ID drivers' license identification system and has successfully equipped 90% of Outdoorsville citizens with scannable REAL ID cards. Integrating the COVID-19 credential into REAL ID cards would allow cardholders to display their COVID-19 vaccination status without a smartphone or access to broadband.
- *A web interface:* For citizens without a smartphone or REAL ID card, the ability to access their COVID-19 vaccination records via the web and print them as QR codes would be invaluable.

**Educate the Public:** Once the credential is available, Outdoorsville should launch a [public awareness campaign](#) to educate citizens on the options available to them. Outdoorsville should also specially engage groups that support underprivileged communities through a targeted [stakeholder engagement program](#). With these groups' input, the state can facilitate new access points where vulnerable communities would find them helpful.