



REGION VI
(ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, NEW MEXICO, TEXAS)
COVID-19 EMERGENCY
FEDERAL RESOURCE GUIDE FOR
STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES SERVING AT-RISK POPULATIONS



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REGION VI POINT OF CONTACTS

Office of the Regional Director

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Regional Outreach Specialist	LaDonna Singleton Ladonna.singleton@hhs.gov	214-767-3100
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Dallas Regional Office Operating Divisions

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	Regional Administrator LaKeshia Pope Jackson (214) 767-2821 Lakesha.Popejackson@acf.hhs.gov	ACF promotes economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities with funding, strategic partnerships, guidance, training and technical assistance.
Administration for Community Living (ACL)	Administration for Community Living Regional Administrator Derek Lee (214) 767-1865, Derek.Lee@acl.hhs.gov	Mission: Develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of home & community-based services to help older adults and people with disabilities maintain health and independence in homes and communities.
Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)	Acting Regional Administrator CAPT Amy Taylor (972) 606-6190 amyo.Taylor@hhs.gov	ASPR is the Secretary's principal advisory staff on matters related to bioterrorism and public health emergencies. ASPR coordinates interagency activities between HHS, Federal agencies, State and local officials responsible for emergency preparedness and the protection of the civilian population.
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)	Regional Director Egide Louis, Ph.D. (214) 665-8016 pjy0@cdc.gov	ATSDR prevents exposure to toxic substances and the adverse health effects and diminished quality of life associated with exposure to hazardous substances from waste sites, unplanned releases, and sources of environmental pollution.
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)	Acting Regional Administrator Lisa McAdams, M.D. (214) 767-6427	CMS oversees the Medicare program, the federal portion of the Medicaid program and State Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP).

Medicaid Services (CMS)	Lisa.McAdams@cms.hhs.gov	Program, the Health Insurance Marketplace, and quality assurance activities.
FDA	District Director Edmundo Garcia (214) 253-5200 Edmundo.Garcia@fda.hhs.gov	FDA ensures that food is safe, pure, and wholesome; human and animal drugs, biological products, and medical devices are safe and effective; and electronic products that emit radiation are safe.
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	Regional Administrator Jeri Pickett (214) 767-3342 jpickett@hrsa.gov	HRSA improves access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. HRSA provides training and financial support to health care providers and improves systems of care in rural communities. HRSA grantees provide health care to the uninsured, people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers and children.
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)	Regional Health Administrator (RHA) CAPT Mehran Massoudi (214) 767-3879 Mehran.Massoudi@hhs.gov	RHAs are the senior regional federal public health official fostering collaboration across federal departments on HHS priorities at the local, state, and national levels. RHAs use expertise and networks to catalyze public health action and impact leading health indicators across the Nation.
OASH (PACE) Prevention through Active Community Engagement	Director CDR Luz E. Rivera (214) 767-6084 Luz.rivera@hhs.gov	Develop targeted, public health interventions in collaboration with federal and non-federal partners for “Ending the HIV Epidemic: Plan for America” implementing the best practices to address long-standing and critical emerging issues in order to reduce new HIV diagnoses in the United States by 75 percent.
Office for Civil Rights (OCR)	Regional Manager Marisa Smith 1-800-368-1019 Marisa.Smith@hhs.gov	HHS’s law enforcement agency for civil rights, conscience and religious freedom rights, and health information privacy rights. OCR investigates complaints, enforces rights, promulgates regulations, develops policy, and provides technical assistance and public education to ensure understanding of, and compliance with non-discrimination and health information privacy laws.
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	Regional Administrator CAPT Karen Hearod (214) 767-0522 Karen.hearod@samhsa.hhs.gov	Mission: Reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on communities. Eight Strategic Initiatives focus on improving lives and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. In Region 6, we currently have 71 MRC Units in AR, LA, NM, OK and TX. For agency or state needs/requests, work with the state MRC Coordinator who can best connect you with an appropriate MRC if applicable.

For more information about the MRC Program - <https://mrc.hhs.gov/HomePage>
To volunteer – register on the state systems below or contact Coordinator for assistance.

Arkansas	Louisiana	New Mexico	Oklahoma	Texas
Mr. Daniel Kelly AR MRC Coordinator AR Dept. of Health 4815 W Markham Little Rock, AR 72201 5016828332 daniel.kelly@arkansas.gov	Dr. Gail Hollins State Coordinator- Louisiana; Statewide Registered Nurse Program Consultant Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Public Health 8453 Veterans Memorial Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 708072253543508 2253543506 gail.hollins@la.gov	Ms. Bobbie MacKenzie NM ESAR-VHP/MRC Coordinator New Mexico Department of Health Bureau of Health Emergency Management 1301 Siler Rd., Bldg. F Santa Fe, NM 87507 5054768302 bobbie.mackenzie@state.nm.us	Ms Lezlie Carter State Coordinator OKMRC 1000 NE 10th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73117 4052710900 x56457 4052715143 lezliec@health.ok.gov	Kelley Adams State Volunteer System Coordinator/St ate MRC Coordinator Texas Department of State Health Services 1100 W. 49th St. Austin, TX 78714 512-776-2651

NVOAD

National VOAD, an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters, provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster.

**Below is a list of State Leadership.*

Arkansas	Louisiana	New Mexico	Oklahoma	Texas
Rhonda Sanders, Chair Arkansas Food Bank rsanders@arkansasfoodbank.org	Mike Manning, President Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank Mike@brfoodbank.org	Sandra Darling-Roberts, President sandra.darling-roberts@redcross.org	Christa Figgins, Chair christa.figgins@laok.org	Kathy Clark, President The Salvation Army TexasVOAD.President@gmail.com

HOW TO HELP: VOLUNTEER & VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES

FEMA's Coronavirus Response: How to Help

- donate or sell
- volunteer who is medically trained
- member of the general public

Corporation for National and Community Service

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/coronavirus>

OLDER ADULTS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

All Americans—including people with disabilities and older adults—should be able to live at home with the supports they need, participating in communities that value their contributions. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) serves as the Federal agency responsible for increasing access to community supports, while focusing attention and resources on the unique needs of older Americans and people with disabilities across the lifespan. ACL has created a webpage with COVID-19 information, and selected relevant information is included here.

ACL COVID-19: <https://acl.gov/COVID-19>

Eldercare locator: <https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx>

Older Americans Act

Older Americans Act (OAA) programs provide home and community-based services through state, tribal, and local agencies in each state to individuals age 60 and over. In addition, the OAA provides support to family caregivers. Services include, but are not limited to information & assistance, personal care, nutrition services, transportation, and adult day care.

National Resources

[Long Term Care.gov](#)

LongTermCare.gov provides information and resources to help you and your family plan for future long-term care.

NIA-Long Term Care

Long term care information from the National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health.

Medicare.gov – Long-Term Care

This web page provides general information on long-term care options.

Advance Care Planning Fact Sheets

Eldercare Locator fact sheets designed to assist you in making plans now for the care you want when you have a serious illness.

Guide to Long Term Care for Veterans

The Guide provides information about long-term care options - home and community based, and residential care.

The CDC published [guidance for older adults](#) about their potential risks during the pandemic, symptoms, developing care plan, and more.

Nutrition Programs

Many congregate meal sites are closed. During this emergency, ACL strongly recommends that any state or local policy that limits eligibility for home-delivered meals should be waived. Go here for additional guidance regarding the operation of Older Americans Act nutrition programs during the COVID-19 emergency.

Through the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program, ACL's Administration on Aging (AoA) provides grants to states to help support nutrition services for older people throughout the country. These services include the Congregate Nutrition Program and the Home-Delivered Nutrition Program, which provide healthy meals in group settings, such as senior centers and faith-based locations, as well as in the homes of older adults who live alone. Through the Aging Network's meal providers, the programs provide a range of services including nutrition screening, assessment, education, and counseling. Nutrition services also provide an important link to other supportive in-home and community-based supports such as homemaker and home-health aide services, transportation, physical activity and chronic disease self-management programs, home repair and modification, and falls prevention programs.

The SMP National Resource Center, the SHIP National Technical Assistance Center, and the Center for Benefits Access, and ACL offered a series of webinars to help grantees manage their volunteer programs and outreach efforts during the COVID-19 crisis. The April 9th webinar provided an opportunity for [SMP](#), [SHIP](#), and [MIPPA](#) grantees to share their concerns and, more importantly, their strategies and practices about how to do outreach, counseling, and benefits enrollment during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Adult Protective Services (APS)

APS is a social services program provided by state and local governments' nationwide serving older adults and adults with disabilities facing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation. In all states, APS is charged with receiving and responding to reports of adult maltreatment and working closely with clients and a wide variety of allied professionals to maximize client safety and independence. Most APS programs serve both older and younger vulnerable adults. ACL works to support these systems.

Guidance from ACL relative to the COVID-19 emergency for APS programs can be found [here](#).

Legal Assistance

ACL-funded programs in every state provide civil legal counsel and representation to older people with economic or social need in order to preserve their independence, choice, and financial security. These programs are designed to help older people understand their rights, exercise informed decision-making, and benefit from the support and opportunities promised by law.

Guidance from ACL relative to the COVID-19 emergency for legal assistance providers can be found [here](#).

- [SMP Consumer Fraud Alert: COVID-19](#): This SMP Consumer Fraud Alert is available to the public and to SMPs on the SMP Resource Center website to warn about COVID-19 Fraud.
- [COVID-19 Consumer Tip Sheet](#): This tip sheet includes tips for protecting yourself and Medicare from COVID-19 fraud.

[COVID-19 Fraud Infographic](#): This infographic can be shared on social media or printed and used as a handout.

Individuals with Disabilities

The Administration for Community Living, through its Administration on Disabilities, supports states and communities in increasing the independence, productivity and community inclusion of individuals with disabilities; empowers individuals with disabilities to maximize opportunities for competitive integrated employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence and integration into society; promotes consumer control and self-advocacy; and ensures that the rights of individuals with disabilities are protected. The ACL carries out programs operated under the Developmental Disabilities Act, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, section 262 and 292 of the Help America Vote Act, section 5 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, and Title III of the Public Health Service Act.

ACL's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) supports the generation of new knowledge and promotes the effective use of this knowledge to (1) improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to participate in community activities of their choice and (2) enhance society's capacity to provide opportunities and accommodations for these individuals. NIDILRR fulfills its mission through research, development, and dissemination and related activities designed to contribute to community living and participation, employment, and health and function of individuals of all ages with all types and degrees of disability, including low-incidence disability.

Resources for Native Americans

ACL funds programs that support American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Americans in the areas of nutrition, supportive services for older adults, and caregiver services. The nutrition and supportive services grants include congregate and home-delivered meals, information and referral, transportation, personal care, chores, health promotion and disease prevention, and other supportive services. The caregiver services grants include assisting families in caring for older relatives with chronic illness or disability, and grandparents caring for grandchildren. Eligible Tribal organizations receive grants to support of the delivery of these home and community-based supportive services for their elders and family caregivers.

Disaster Relief

Should a State or Tribe (Title VI grantee) receive a Major Disaster declaration by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207, this Major Disaster Declaration triggers disaster relief authority in the Older Americans Act (OAA). More information can be found here: <https://acl.gov/COVID-19> .

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs are in every state. They can resolve complaints, protect rights, and promote access to services for long-term care facility residents before, during and after emergencies such as COVID-19. While Ombudsmen are not first responders, they can play an important role in supporting residents.

Protecting Elder Rights and Preventing Elder Abuse

In general, elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. Legislatures in all 50 states have passed some form of elder abuse prevention laws. Laws and definitions of terms vary considerably from one state to another, but broadly defined, abuse may be:

- **Physical Abuse**—inflicting physical pain or injury on a senior, e.g. slapping, bruising, or restraining by physical or chemical means.
- **Sexual Abuse**—non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
- **Neglect**—the failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection for a vulnerable elder.
- **Exploitation**—the illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a senior for someone else's benefit.
- **Emotional Abuse**—inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts, e.g. humiliating, intimidating, or threatening.
- **Abandonment**—desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.
- **Self-neglect**—characterized as the failure of a person to perform essential, self-care tasks and that such failure threatens his/her own health or safety.

The National Institute on Aging, located within the National Institutes of Health, has developed a list of signs of possible elder abuse: if the older adult-

- Has trouble sleeping
- Seems depressed or confused
- Loses weight for no reason
- Displays signs of trauma, like rocking back and forth
- Acts agitated or violent
- Becomes withdrawn
- Stops taking part in activities he or she enjoys
- Has unexplained bruises, burns, or scars
- Looks messy, with unwashed hair or dirty clothes
- Develops bed sores or other preventable conditions.

Assistive Technology Act

The State Grant for Assistive Technology Program makes assistive technology devices and services more available and accessible to individuals with disabilities and their families. The program provides one grant to each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the outlying areas (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). State/Territory AT Programs may purchase additional supplies and equipment needed to respond to the current emergency situation. **Connecting People to Services**

The aging and disability networks are made up of local, state, and national organizations and committed advocates working to support older adults and people with disabilities. ACL helps support these networks and the programs and services they provide, including, among others, the following:

- **Aging and Disability Resource Centers** - These centers provide information and counseling to help individuals make informed decisions about long-term services and supports and help accessing programs.
- **State Units on Aging** - These state-level agencies develop and administer plans to provide assistance for older adults, families, and in many states also adults with physical disabilities.
- **Area Agencies on Aging** - These agencies address the needs of older adults at the regional and local level through services and supports (like home-delivered meals and homemaker assistance) to support independent living.
- **Centers for Independent Living** - These centers provide tools, resources, and supports for integrating people with disabilities fully into their communities to promote equal opportunities, self-determination, and respect. All CILs provide information and referral to services and supports available in the local community. These services may include: access to psychological counseling, assistance in securing housing or shelter, personal assistance services, transportation referral and assistance, physical therapy, mobility training, rehabilitation technology, recreation, and other services necessary to improve the ability of individuals with disabilities to function independently in the family or community and/or to continue in employment. A list of Centers for Independent Living can be found here: <https://acl.gov/programs/centers-independent-living/list-cils-and-spils>
- **Protection and Advocacy Systems** - These state systems work to protect individuals with disabilities by empowering them and advocating on their behalf to defend their personal and civil rights. P&As operate in each state in the region; they inform people with disabilities of their rights, investigate suspected abuse and neglect, and provide free legal representation for clients. Protection and advocacy agencies in each state can be found here: <https://acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/state-protection-advocacy-systems> .

The **Eldercare Locator** (1-800-677-1116) can help connect older adults and their families to state units on aging and other aging organizations and services in each state (such as home-delivered meals, transportation, in-home assistance, Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs, legal assistance providers, and adult protective services).

ACL COVID-19 Related Funding

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed into law by President Trump on March 18, 2020, provides \$250 million in additional funding for the nutrition services programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965. These programs provide meals to more than 2.4 million older adults each year, both through home delivery and in places like community centers. The need for these services, particularly home-delivered and packaged meals, has increased as community measures to slow transmission of COVID-19 have closed meal sites and have left many family caregivers unable to assist their older loved ones.

On March 27, 2020, the President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, into law. Under this legislation, A total of \$955 million has been provided to existing grantees in the aging and disability networks, including State Units on Aging and Centers for Independent Living, as well as to Tribes and tribal organizations. The CARES Act includes:

- \$200M for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) under Title III-B of the Older Americans Act (OAA);
- \$480M for nutrition programs under Title III-C of the OAA;
- \$20M for nutrition and related services for Native American Programs under Title VI of the OAA;
- \$100M for the National Family Caregiver Support Program under Title III-E of the OAA;
- \$20M for the Ombudsman Program under Title VII of the OAA;
- \$50M for Aging and Disability Resource Centers; and
- \$85M for Centers for Independent Living under Title VII, Part C, Chapter I of the Rehabilitation Act.

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

The COVID-19 crisis requires a Whole Family response from state, local and tribal leaders. From Food and Nutrition, Parents as Workers, Education for Children and Families, Health, to Housing and Homelessness, [ORO COVID-19 Resources for Human Services Leaders](#) provides information geared towards state leaders. The information, updated weekly, explains current mandatory program flexibilities as well as information on other federal programs that serve vulnerable children and families. Download an updated pdf version of this page [here](#).

In addition, ACF funding flexibilities for supporting a virtual workforce, and providing emergency personal protective equipment for staff working directly with clients, and information on any caps on administrative expenditures is further outlined [here](#).

The [CARES Act \(visit disclaimer page\)](#) updates policy and provides supplemental funding for human services and other programs targeting vulnerable children and families and, [ACF's COVID-19 Resources](#) provides guidance and resources specific to ACF programs.

Facilitating Low-Income Families' Use of Emergency Paid Family Leave

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2020 Congress enacted emergency paid family leave as well as emergency paid sick leave as part of the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#). This [brief](#) suggests lessons for facilitating the use of emergency paid family leave by lower-income families, drawing on research by HHS on families' participation in state paid family leave programs.

Virtual Case Management Considerations and Resources for Human Services Programs
https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/263581/Virtual_Case_Management_Considerations.pdf

Updated Guidance for Schools and Child Care Programs

The CDC's [Guidance for Schools and Childcare Programs page](#) is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of coronavirus disease and is updated as needed and as additional information becomes available. You can also find information on:

- [Talking With Children About Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- [Tips for Parents While School's Out](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Office of Head Start (OHS): Communications regarding OHS coronavirus prevention and response are available [here](#).

Office of Family Assistance (OFA): OFA released a Program Instruction (PI) to State and Territorial Agencies and Tribal Agencies administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program on March 24, 2020. The PI addresses TANF's administrative flexibilities for states and tribes and includes questions and answers about how state and tribal grantees might use TANF to address COVID-19. The OFA PI is available [here](#).

Children's Bureau: The Children's Bureau issued a letter to Child Welfare Leaders on March 18, 2020 that addresses: (1) requirements for case worker visits to children in foster care; (2) Program Improvement Plans developed to address the results of a Child and Family Services Review; (3) the onsite Title IV-E Eligibility Review; (4) child abuse and neglect investigations; and (5) other legislative and regulatory flexibility requirements. The letter to Child Welfare Leaders is available [here](#). Additional information and resources for state and tribal child welfare professionals relating to COVID-19 are available [here](#).

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): The LIHEAP Initial COVID-19 Program Guidance can be found [here](#).

Community Health Center Resources

Accessing Care at Community Health Centers

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) may be a viable option for someone in your community seeking medical attention. Health centers are an important component of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your local Community Health Center can assess whether a patient needs further testing, which may be done over the phone or using telehealth. Individuals may also receive primary health care services at their local health center at a reduced cost or free of charge depending on their economic status.

Call your nearest health center or health department to discover their availability for COVID-19 screening and testing. Find a Health Center near your community!

- [HHS Awards 20 Million to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic through Telehealth \(April 30, 2020\)](#)
- [HHS Launches COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal \(April 27, 2020\)](#)
- [HHS Awards Nearly 5 Million to Poison Control Centers as Calls Spike Due to COVID-19 \(April 23, 2020\)](#)

PERSONS LIVING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESSES

HIV

- To find HIV Care and Treatment click [Find HIV Care](#).
- Interim Guidance for COVID-19 and Persons with HIV: https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/guidelines/html/8/covid-19-and-persons-with-hiv--interim-guidance-/554/interim-guidance-for-covid-19-and-persons-with-hiv?utm_campaign=phpartners&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- CDC HIV and COVID-19: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/hiv.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fhiv.html
- CDC HIV and COVID-19 Q&A: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/hiv.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fhiv.html

- CDC HIV and COVID Resources for providers:
<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/clinicians/index.html>

ESRD

- COVID-19 resources for providers and patients:
www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SAMHSA COVID-19 Resources and Information

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) recognizes the challenges posed by the current COVID-19 situation and is providing guidance and resources to assist individuals, providers, communities, and states across the country.

Training and Technical Assistance Related to COVID-19

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Resources

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/training-and-technical-assistance-covid19.pdf?c=2720>

SAMHSA's Virtual Recovery Support Resources

In an infectious disease outbreak, when social distancing and self-quarantine are needed to limit and control the spread of the disease, continued social connectedness to maintain recovery is critically important. This [tip sheet](#) describes resources that can be used to virtually support recovery from mental/substance use disorders. It also provides resources to help local recovery programs create virtual meetings.

Please also consider sharing mobile apps that nurture and sustain virtual recovery communities such as [Sober Grid](#), [rTribe](#), [Connections](#), [WEconnect](#), and [Nomo](#) for those supporting persons in recovery. Many of them are free and offer peer coaching support (usually with a fee).

- SAMHSA COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Response and 42 CFR Part 2 Guidance
<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-42-cfr-part-2-guidance-03192020.pdf>
- SAMHSA Opioid Use Disorder Prescribing and Dispensing in the COVID-19 Emergency Guidance

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/faqs-for-oud-prescribing-and-dispensing.pdf>

- SAMHSA OTP Guidance for Patients Quarantined at Home with the Coronavirus
<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/otp-covid-implementation-guidance.pdf>

<https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/115/covid-19-behavioral-health-resources/99>

RURAL COMMUNITIES

The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

A one-stop-shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information on these actions, visit www.usda.gov/coronavirus

Rural Health Information Hub Mental Health in a Pandemic Q&A

HRSA's Rural Health Information Hub featured SAMHSA's Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center subject matter experts discussing telehealth, economic insecurity, broadband, and mental health under COVID-19 and self-isolation. Sign up [here to get updates](#) from the Rural Health Information Hub.

SMALL BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Updated FAQ Paycheck Protection Program Loans

The Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, has issued this [updated document](#) as an interpretation of the [H.R.748: \(CARES\) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act](#) and of the [Paycheck Protection Program Interim Final Rule](#) to address borrower and lender questions.

Find Eligible Lenders: Use this tool to find a nearby lender eligible to issue a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program.

Pathway Forward: U.S. Chamber Foundation Webinar Series

Featuring deep-dive conversations with a cross-sector of experts led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Suzanne Clark, *Path Forward* will air twice-weekly on

Mondays and Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. ET to explore the complex issues that must be considered as part of a responsible reopening strategy.

Coronavirus Emergency Loans Guide and Checklist for Small Businesses and Nonprofits

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's *Coronavirus Emergency Loans Guide and Checklist for Small Businesses and Nonprofits* — Starting April 3, small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply for loans through existing SBA lenders. Starting April 10, independent contractors and self-employed individuals can apply for loans through existing SBA lenders. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans as soon as they are approved and enrolled in the program.

Visit www.sba.gov for a list of SBA lenders. *There is a funding cap, so the Treasury Department recommends applying as soon as possible.*

Last week the SBA released this FAQ regarding the participation of Faith-based Organizations in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL).

Interim Final Rule Business Loan Program Temporary Changes; Paycheck Protection Program

The SBA also issued an interim final rule regarding the Paycheck Protection Program under the CARES act. Faith-based organizations should review page 6, #2 to better understand how they may participate in the program while maintaining their right to exercise their faith according to their tradition's polity.

Paycheck Protection Program/CARES Act

The Treasury Department released details about how small businesses can apply for the Paycheck Protection Program—which provides \$349 billion in forgivable loans to businesses employing fewer than 500 people. The program—which is part of the CARES Act that was passed and signed into law last week—will help America's small business entrepreneurs face the challenging economic conditions sparked by the coronavirus outbreak.

- [Download the Application Form Here](#)
- [More Information for Small Business Borrowers](#)
- [Overview of the Paycheck Protection Program](#)

As noted above, small businesses—including sole proprietors—can begin applying for the financial relief on April 3, 2020. Independent contractors and self-employed

individuals can begin applying on April 10, 2020. The program will be open until June 30, 2020, but small businesses are encouraged to take advantage of the financial relief as soon as possible.

AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVES

Indian Health Service COVID Resources: <https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/>

COVID-19 Tribal Funding Information:

https://www.ihs.gov/sites/coronavirus/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/COVID-19_Funding_Guidance_Tribes_UrbanIndianOrganizations.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Tribal COVID-19 Resources and Funding:

<https://www.cdc.gov/tribal/cooperative-agreements/covid-19.html>

Weekly Tribal Support email distribution subscribe to: TribalSupport@cdc.gov

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Tribal Resources and Funding:

<https://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/ohe/populations/aian.html>

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Tribal Resources and Funding:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/news/acf-native-american-covid-19-resources>

Grant flexibility information, Head Start information during COVID-19, TANF and more.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Tribal Resources and Funding: <https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus>

Includes counseling, telemedicine, opioid treatment, family violence information, among others.

Administration for Community Living (ACL) Resources and Funding:

<https://olderindians.acl.gov/COVID-19> & <https://olderindians.acl.gov/COVID-19-links>

NICOA to Convene Weekly COVID-19 Call with Title VI Grantees Every Friday

The National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) will be convening weekly calls with all Title VI grantees about the COVID-19. These calls will provide new information and updates to tribal programs, but most importantly are an opportunity for tribes to discuss the impact that COVID-19 is having in your communities. ACL staff will be on all calls, as will your resource centers from NIEJI, the University of Alaska, the University of Hawaii and the University of North Dakota.

Call Details: Each Friday at 3:00pm EDT.

Please note the new dial-in for weekly COVID-19 calls:

Toll Free Number: 800-619-6520; Participant Passcode: 1410635

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Tribal COVID-19 Information:

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Providers-States-and-Tribes/Providers-States-and-Tribes-page> & <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

White House Tribal Information:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Response and Recovery through Federal-State-Local-Tribal Partnership Document

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-Response-and-Recovery-Guidance.pdf>

FEMA Tribal Disaster Declaration Resources:

<https://www.fema.gov/tribal-declaration-and-disaster-assistance-resources>

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Resources: <https://www.bia.gov/coronavirus>

Schools, Indian Health links, Dear Tribal Letters, FEMA links, USDA links...

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tribal C

OVID Resources: <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>

Food assistance, agriculture and more.

National Indian Health Board: <https://www.nihb.org/>

Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/faqs-federal-response-in-indian-country/>

Tribal Leader Letters:

<https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/triballeaderletters/>

FAITH & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FAQ Regarding Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in PPP and EIDL

SBA released this FAQ regarding the participation of Faith-based Organizations in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL).

- [CarePortal](#)

- [Disaster Relief Platform](#)
- [Aunt Bertha](#)
- [Be a Neighbor Campaign](#) through [VOMO](#)
- [Nextdoor](#)
- [COVID-19: Recommended Preventative Practices and FAQs for Faith-based and Community Leaders - PDF](#) (March 2020)
- [Considering Faith, Community, and Mental Health During the COVID-19 Crisis - PDF](#) (April 2020)
- [The Opioid Crisis Practical Toolkit: Helping Faith-based and Community Leaders Bring Hope and Healing - PDF](#) (4th Edition)
- [Faith & Community Roadmap to Recovery Support: Getting Back to Work - PDF](#) (March 2020)

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID RESOURCES

Electronic Toolkit

CMS has created an [electronic toolkit](#) regarding telehealth and telemedicine for long-term care facilities. The toolkit includes electronic links to reliable sources of information regarding telehealth and telemedicine and information on choosing telemedicine vendors, equipment, and software; initiating a telemedicine program; monitoring patients remotely; and developing documentation tools. There is also information that will be useful for providers who intend to care for patients through electronic virtual services that may be temporarily used during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CMS COVID-19 Web Page Resources

- CMS' [Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in nursing homes](#) includes updated guidance for visitation.
 - [Home and Community-Based Section 1915\(c\) Waiver Information](#)

COVID-19 Toolkits

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking action to protect the health and safety of our nation's patients and providers in the wake of the 2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. CMS has released a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay up-to-date on CMS materials available on COVID-19.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Partner Toolkit

<https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/disaster-response-toolkit/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/index.html>

CMS Approves Additional State Medicaid Waivers and Amendments to Give States Flexibility to Address Coronavirus Pandemic

CMS approved its 44th state Medicaid waiver delivering urgent regulatory relief to ensure States can quickly and effectively care for their most vulnerable citizens. In light of the urgent and evolving needs of states during the COVID-19 crisis, CMS developed a toolkit to facilitate expedited application and approval of State waiver requests. More on Section 1135 Waivers and 1915(c) Appendix K Waivers.

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil Rights Laws and HIPAA Flexibilities That Apply During the COVID-19 Emergency: The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a bulletin to ensure that entities covered by civil rights authorities keep in mind their obligations under laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, and exercise of conscience and religion in HHS-funded programs, including in the provision of health care services during COVID-19. OCR is particularly focused on ensuring that covered entities do not unlawfully discriminate against people with disabilities when making decisions about their treatment during the COVID-19 health care emergency.

HIPAA and COVID-19

COVID-19 & HIPAA Bulletin: OCR issued this Bulletin to help ensure that HIPAA covered entities and their business associates are aware of the ways that patient information may be shared under the HIPAA Privacy Rule during an outbreak of infectious disease or other emergency situation, and to serve as a reminder that the protections of the Privacy Rule are not set aside during an emergency. The bulletin is also available in **Spanish**.

Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications: OCR announced that it will exercise its enforcement discretion and will waive potential penalties for HIPAA violations against health care providers that serve patients through everyday communications technologies during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. This exercise of discretion applies to widely available communications apps, such as FaceTime or Skype, when used in good faith for any telehealth treatment or diagnostic purpose, regardless of whether the telehealth service is directly related to COVID-19. The Notification is also available in **Spanish**.

FAQs on Telehealth and HIPAA: During the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency:

The new guidance is in the form of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and clarifies how OCR is applying the Notification to support the good faith provision of telehealth. The FAQs are also available in [Spanish](#).

COVID-19 and HIPAA: Disclosures to law enforcement, paramedics, other first responders and public health authorities:

This guidance explains how covered entities may disclose protected health information (PHI) about an individual who has been infected with or exposed to COVID-19 to law enforcement, paramedics, other first responders, and public health authorities in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. The guidance explains the circumstances under which a covered entity may disclose PHI such as the name or other identifying information about individuals, without their HIPAA authorization, and provides examples. This guidance is also available in [Spanish](#).

Notification of Enforcement Discretion to Allow Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information by Business Associates for Public Health and Health Oversight Activities During The COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency:

OCR announced that it will exercise its enforcement discretion and will not impose penalties for violations of certain provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule against health care providers or their business associates for the good faith uses and disclosures of protected health information (PHI) by business associates for public health and health oversight activities during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. The Notification is also available in [Spanish](#).

Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Community-Based Testing Sites During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency:

OCR announced that it will exercise its enforcement discretion and will not impose penalties for violations of the HIPAA Rules against covered entities or business associates in connection with the good faith participation in the operation of COVID-19 testing sites during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. This exercise of enforcement discretion is effective immediately, but has a retroactive effect to March 13, 2020. This Notification was issued to support certain covered health care providers, and their business associates that may choose to participate in the operation of a Community Based-Testing Site, which includes mobile, drive-through, or walk-up sites that only provide COVID-19 specimen collection or testing services to the public. The Notification is also available in [Spanish](#).

Guidance on Covered Health Care Providers and Restrictions on Media Access to Protected Health Information about Individuals in Their Facilities:

OCR has issued additional guidance reminding covered health care providers that the HIPAA Privacy Rule does not permit them to give media and film crews access to facilities where patients' protected health information (PHI) will be accessible without the patients' prior authorization. The guidance explains that even during the current COVID-19 public health emergency, covered health care providers are still required to obtain a valid HIPAA authorization from each patient whose PHI will be accessible to the media before the media is given access to that PHI. The guidance clarifies that masking or obscuring patients' faces or identifying information before broadcasting a recording of a patient is not sufficient, as a valid HIPAA authorization is still required before giving the media such access. Additionally, the guidance describes reasonable safeguards that should be used to protect the privacy of patients whenever the media is granted access to facilities.

Webinar: OCR Update on HIPAA and COVID-19: OCR hosted a webinar on April 24, 2020, for health care stakeholders on HIPAA privacy and security issues related to COVID-19 and recent OCR actions related to the pandemic. A recording of this webinar is now available on YouTube: https://youtu.be/2C6iOdS_FR0. The slides from this presentation may be viewed at: <https://go.usa.gov/xvExS>.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS/TRAINING

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: FY 2020 Preventing Trafficking of Girls

OJJDP-2020-18135- To prevent/reduce victimization of girls who are vulnerable to sex trafficking. **Closing Date: May 26, 2020 Webinar Overview:** April 28, 2020, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EDT. Register [here](#).

Innovations in Community-Based Crime Reduction Program

BJA-2020-17118 – The Innovations in Community-Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) Program helps communities build trust and support law enforcement agencies by integrating enforcement strategies into community-based crime reduction efforts and using this information to understand and target the issues. **Closing Date: June 11, 2020**

COVID-19 Support and Resources

[U.S. Department of Commerce Announces Availability of \\$1.5 Billion in CARES Act Funds to Aid Communities Impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

The CARES Act provided the U.S. Commerce Department's [Economic Development Administration \(EDA\)](#) with \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. EDA makes grants to state and local governmental entities, institutions of higher education, not for-profit entities, and federally recognized Tribes. Read [EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information.

[HHS Awards More than Half Billion Dollars Across the Nation to Expand COVID-19 Testing](#)

HHS/HRSA awarded nearly \$583 million to 1,385 HRSA-funded health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories to expand COVID-19 testing. Nearly 88 percent of HRSA-funded health centers report testing patients, with more than 65 percent offering walk-up or drive-up testing. Health centers are currently providing more than 100,000 weekly COVID-19 tests in their local communities.

** As mentioned in a prior weekly (May 4) faith and community organizations are partnering with [Community Health Centers](#) to host testing sites. [Find a Community Health Center](#).

[\\$900 Million in Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#)

ACF released \$900 million in supplemental funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The funding, appropriated under the CARES Act, is used to help "prevent, prepare for, or respond to" home energy needs surrounding the national emergency. The funding was disbursed to states, territories, and tribes.

[COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training Guidance and Resources](#)

This document contains a sample training plan including training topics that may be helpful for state and local public health jurisdictions to consider when designing their own training plan for COVID-19 contact tracers. The audience for this training include community health workers or volunteers with little or no experience conducting contact tracing.

**Note: Through the [COVID-19 Dislocated Workers Act](#), the DOL [provides additional flexibility](#) allowing grant awardees to use funds for contact tracing. Review grantees in your community [here](#).

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Interactive Map for Reopening](#)

In an effort to provide clarity on reopening guidance, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce debuted Wednesday an [interactive map](#) with state-specific information to help businesses navigate local rules and guidelines.

[HHS Updates FAQ document on the Provider Relief Fund](#)

Congress has appropriated \$100 billion to reimburse providers for lost revenues and increased expenses due to the coronavirus pandemic. Funds are being distributed by the HRSA and do not need to be repaid if certain terms and conditions are met. HHS also updated its FAQ document and its [methodology for the allocation](#) of the Provider Relief Fund.

[Stand Together.org's funding for fresh ideas to combat COVID-19](#)

[Webinar: Mental Health in a Time of COVID-19 Webinar Series: Preparing Faith Leaders to Address the Challenge](#)

TODAY as part of Mental Health Month, please join us for Part 2, **Tues., May 12th at noon ET**. Register [here](#).

This webinar series addresses overwhelming stress the COVID-19 experience is placing on people and communities.

- **Part 1:** “Preparing Leaders to Address the Challenges,” (webcast April 28, 2020, [download the recording](#)).
- **Part 2:** “When Trauma, Fear, and Anxiety Become Overwhelming,” will air on May 12 at 12 pm ET. Register [here](#).
- **Part 3:** “Task-shifting to Address Increasing Challenges,” May 26 at 12 pm ET. *Registration opening soon.*
- **Part 4:** “Connecting Spirituality to Mental Health Services in the Midst of the Crisis,” June 9 at 12 pm ET. *Registration opening soon.*

Considerations for the Care and Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders in the COVID-19 Epidemic

SAMHSA’s updated document includes considerations aimed at decreasing the likelihood of infection and viral transmission and providing for the behavioral health needs of patients. They have also updated their document with [technical and training resources](#) related to COVID-19.

Webinar: Rural Health and COVID-19

TODAY! Tues., May 12, 2020 4:00 p.m. ET, Register [here](#).

Delivering healthcare in rural communities presents unique challenges that have always required coordination and innovation. Now, more than ever, it is essential that rural communities and healthcare providers have access to the resources they need to combat COVID-19. Join this webinar discussing rural health-focused efforts by HHS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

MEDIA

COVID Social Media Toolkit

CDC created a social media toolkit to help localize efforts in responding to COVID-19.

This toolkit provides messages and graphics to help communicate the most current and correct messages and share resources. Visit the CDC’s [Communication Resources page](#) for images and content you can use. All social media content is public domain and free to use by anyone for any purpose without restriction under copyright law.

Congressional Action in Response to COVID-19

H.R. 6074: Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 — (March 4, 2020). Provided \$8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies to respond to the coronavirus outbreak related to developing a vaccine, medical supplies, grants for public health agencies, small business loans, and assistance for health systems in other countries. Allowed for temporarily waiving Medicare restrictions and requirements regarding telehealth services.

H.R. 6201: Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) — Paid leave provisions are now in effect as of April 1, 2020, and apply to leave taken between April 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. Please review the following:

- Department of Labor's (DOL's) Q&A to learn important definitions, what it means for your community organization as an employer, and what it means for you as an individual should you need to take leave.
- Guidance Explaining Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical Leave for information to employees and employers about how each will be able to take advantage of the protections and relief offered by the FFCRA. Review the Fact Sheet for Employees, a Fact Sheet for Employers, and a Questions and Answers documents to better understand what benefits are available under this law.

H.R.748: (CARES) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act – (March 27, 2020). Includes direct payments to Americans, an aggressive expansion of unemployment insurance, billions of dollars in aid to large and small businesses, and a new wave of significant funding for the health care industry. Review Coronavirus (COVID-19): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources and the Also see: FAQ Regarding Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in PPP and EIDL

- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): An U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan that helps businesses (including non-profits) keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.
- Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Emergency Advance: Loan advance providing up to \$10,000 of economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties. These funds are available to faith communities.
- SBA Express Bridge Loans: Enables small businesses which currently have a business relationship with a SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 quickly.

- **SBA Debt Relief:** The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit www.sba.gov for a list of SBA lenders. *There is a funding cap, so the Treasury Department recommends applying as soon as possible.*

Government Response to COVID-19: <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>

All federal agencies....Guidelines, Health and Safety, Travel, Money and Taxes, Education, Scams, Grants, Housing, Benefits and more

Coronavirus.gov is the source for the latest information about COVID-19 prevention, symptoms, and answers to common questions.