

**US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Federal
Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Federal COVID-19 Resources:
Federal Resources for Populations Disproportionately Impacted**



REGION 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

Last updated: June 15, 2020

Introduction

Unprecedented challenges exist for organizations that serve individuals who are at higher risk of being disproportionately impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this resource document is to help state and local agencies within Region 8, find resources and information that are available at the federal level to support them in responding to the needs of their clients and communities. This electronic resource is intended to be a living document and may be updated from time to time as additional information becomes available.

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The Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Children's Bureau

The Children's Bureau (CB) focuses on improving the lives of children and families through programs that reduce child abuse and neglect, increase the number of adoptions, and strengthen foster care.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb>

Child Care

[Childcare.gov](https://www.childcare.gov) provides direct links to information provided by each state and territory to help families and childcare providers stay informed during this fast-moving and developing situation.

<https://www.childcare.gov/>

Child Support

OCSE partners with federal, state, tribal and local governments and others to promote parental responsibility so that children receive support from both parents even when they live in separate households.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css>

Community Services

The Office of Community Services (OCS) partners with states, communities and agencies to eliminate causes of poverty, increase self-sufficiency of individuals and families and revitalize communities.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs>

Domestic Violence and Homelessness

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds life-saving domestic violence shelter and other support services in states, territories and Tribes. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVPSA Program) in the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) administers these funds.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/domestic-violence-and-homelessness>

Early Childhood Development

The Office of Early Childhood Development (ECD) will act as a catalyst to create collective impact and support early learning and care of our nation's children and their families.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd>

Head Start| ECLKC

The Office of Head Start (OHS) promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families through local programs.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us>

Hotlines/Helplines

ACF has an important role in helping domestic violence survivors, runaway and homeless youth, and trafficking survivors. We support the following hotlines / helplines to serve people in need.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf-hotlines-helplines>

Human Trafficking

ACF is committed to preventing human trafficking and ensuring that victims of all forms of human trafficking have access to the services they need.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>

Native Americans/Tribes

ANA supports Native American communities by providing financial assistance and capacity building, gathering and sharing data, and advocating for improved policies within HHS and across the federal government.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana>

Refugee Resettlement

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) helps new populations maximize their potential in the United States by linking them to critical resources that assist them in becoming integrated members of American society.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr>

Repatriation & Emergency Response

OHSEPR promotes resilience for individuals, families, and communities impacted by disasters & public health emergencies by providing expertise in human services policy, planning, operations, and partnerships.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr>

Runaway & Homeless Youth

Through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHY), FYSB supports street outreach, emergency shelters and longer-term transitional living and maternity group home programs to serve and protect these young people.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/runaway-homeless-youth>

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF gives both States and Federally recognized Tribes flexibility in the design of welfare programs which promote work, responsibility and strengthen families.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/programs/tanf>

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/programs/tribal/tribal-tanf>

Whole Family Approach to COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 crisis requires a Whole Family response from state, local and tribal leaders. This page builds on [ACF's COVID-19 Resources](#) and provides information geared towards state leaders.

The intent is to provide current mandatory program flexibilities, guidance and resources in ACF

programs, as well as information on other federal programs that serve vulnerable children and families. Information will be updated periodically.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/oro/priorities/covid-19-resources-for-human-services-leaders#whole-family>

Resources for Children and Families		
Audience	Program	Links/Resources
Grantees	ACF Grant Recipient COVID-19 Guidance	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants-funding/acf-grant-recipient-covid-19
States/Territories, and Tribes	Child Care COVID-19 Resources	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/occ-covid-19-resources https://www.childcare.gov/
State/Local Child Support Agencies and Tribal Child Support Agencies	Child Support	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/resource/economic-impact-payments-under-the-coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-cares-act https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/covid-19-faqs-for-child-support-programs
State, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners	Child Welfare	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/covid-19-resources https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/guidance-caseworker-visits-videoconferencing
Grantees, state, local, and tribal partners	Community Services	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/site_search/COVID-19 https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/partnership-to-address-covid-19-spread https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/ced-dcl-partnership-to-address-the-spread-of-covid-19 https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/csbg-dear-colleague-2020-15-partnership-to-address-covid-19-spread https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-dcl-partnership-to-address-the-spread-of-covid-19 https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/rcd-dcl-partnership-to-address-the-spread-of-covid-19 https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/ssbg-dcl-partnership-to-address-the-spread-of-covid-19

Shelter settings, faith-based and community organizations, and more	Domestic Violence	https://vawnet.org/news/preventing-managing-spread-covid-19-within-domestic-violence-programs https://nnev.org/latest_update/resources-response-coronavirus-covid-19/ https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/get-updates-information-covid-19/ https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html
ECD programs support staff, children, and families	Early Childhood Development	https://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/messages/2020/coping-with-coronavirus-managing-stress-fear-and-anxiety.shtml
HS/ECLKC programs support staff, children, and families	Head Start ECLKC	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/coronavirus/responding-covid-19 https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/coronavirus/staff-wages-benefits https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/physical-health/coronavirus/health-hygiene https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/coronavirus/enrollment https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/coronavirus/monitoring
Domestic violence survivors, runaway and homeless youth, and trafficking survivors	Hotlines/Helplines	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf-hotlines-helplines
Grantees, Partners, and Stakeholders	Human Trafficking	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/news/covid-19-updates-hhs https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/news/uscis-ssa-temporary-office-closures

Native American Communities and Tribes	Native Americans/Tribes	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/news/acf-native-american-covid-19-resources
Grantees, Partners, and Stakeholders	Refugee Resettlement	https://switchboardta.org/blog/a-round-up-of-multilingual-resources-on-covid-19/?mc_cid=55a6c15918&mc_eid=c85028644e
State Emergency Repatriation Coordinators	Repatriation & Emergency Response	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr/resource/repatriation-q-as https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr/resource/covid-19-resources
Grantees, Partners, and Stakeholders	Runaway & Homeless Youth	https://www.rhyttac.net/covid-19 https://www.1800runaway.org/ https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5985/infectious-disease-toolkit-for-cocs/
States/Territories, and Tribes	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-acf-pi-2020-01

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

RESOURCES FOR AGENCIES WORKING WITH OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Website (<https://acl.gov/COVID-19>)/ACL COVID UPDATES – 5.22.2020

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](#).

Older Americans Act

[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.

[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](#).

[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.

[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](#).

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. Go [here](#) for more information.

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](#).

- [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](#).
- The Eldercare Locator ([1-800-677-1116](tel: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).
- Native American Elders (Older American Act) Tribal Resources: [Title VI Directors List](#): Please find the complete list of Title VI Directors [here on the Older Indians website](#)

Preventing Medicare Fraud – from the Senior Medicare Patrol resource center

- [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 consumers 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.

Federal and State Resource Staff: Older Adults and People with Disabilities:

Name Title Agency	Email Phone	Services
Corinna H. Stiles, PhD, JD National Director Independent Living: Administration for Community Living (Federal) D.C.	Corinna.Stiles@acl.hhs.gov 202.795.7446	Office of Independent Living Programs
Ophelia M. McLain, DHA Director Administration for Community Living (Federal) D.C.	ophelia.mclain@acl.hhs.gov 202-795-7401	Administration on Disabilities / Protection & Advocacy
April Lipinski Individual and Mass Feeding FEMA Region 8 (Federal) Denver	april.lipinski@fema.dhs.gov 202-368-9646	Individual Assistance Mass Care Specialist Tribe /Older Adult /PPE guidance

Percy Devine DHHS-ACL 020 and continuing Administration for Community Living (Federal) Denver	Percy.Devine@acl.hhs.gov 303-844-7815	Older Adults / Older American Act Programs
Allison Cruz, MS Ed., Director, Office of Innovation Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities DHHS Administration for Community Living Federal D.C.	http://www.acl.gov (202) 795- 7334 (Office)	Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

State	NAME, TITLE, AGENCY	Office Phone	EMAIL
Colorado	Greg Smith, Operations Manager Todd Coffey, SUA Manager Kara Harvey, Director Aging & Adult Services	303-866-4927; 303-866-2750; 303-866-5905	greg.smith2@state.co.us todd.coffey@state.co.us kara.harvey@state.co.us
Montana	Kerrie Reidelbach, SUA Director Senior & Long-Term Care Div.	406-444-7788	Kreidelbach@mt.gov
North Dakota	Nancy Nikolas-Maier, Div. Director North Dakota Aging Services Div.	701-328-4607	nmaier@nd.gov
South Dakota	Yvette Thomas, Div. Director Long-Term Care Services & Supports	605-773-2610	yvette.thomas@state.sd.us
Utah	Nels Holmgren, Div. Director	801-538-3921	nholmgren@utah.gov
Wyoming	Lisa, Osvold, Senior Administrator Wyoming Aging Division	307-777-7995	lisa.osvold1@wyo.gov

Survival Guide: Navigating ACL’s guidance for administering Title IIIC during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click the icon to learn more.

ACL COVID-19
Survival Guide

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

CMS oversees and administers Medicare and the Federally-facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace, and works with states to administer Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and State Partnership Marketplaces. CMS maintains and monitors quality standards, fights fraud and abuse, and explores quality-improving and cost-saving advances by funding or leading studies, demonstrations, and pilots.

Medicare is a health insurance program for:

- People age 65 and older
- Certain people under age 65 with disabilities and
- People of all ages with End-stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

Medicaid provides health coverage to eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities. Medicaid is administered by states, according to federal requirements.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides health coverage to eligible children, through both Medicaid and separate CHIP programs. CHIP is administered by states, according to federal requirements. The program is funded jointly by states and the federal government.

The Health Insurance Marketplace provides uninsured Americans and small business owners access to private insurance plans. All plans must meet baseline quality standards and are monitored by CMS.

For more information, visit: www.cms.gov

CMS and the COVID-19 Pandemic

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 issued an unprecedented array of temporary regulatory waivers and new rules to equip the American healthcare system with maximum flexibility to respond to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. [Flexibilities Overview Graphic](#)

Current Emergencies

For information and updates about natural disasters, man-made incidents, and public health emergencies, including Coronavirus 2019, visit:

<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

Coronavirus Waivers & Flexibilities

In certain circumstances, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) using section 1135 of the Social Security Act (SSA) can temporarily modify or waive certain Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, or HIPAA requirements, called 1135 waivers. There are different kinds of 1135 waivers, including Medicare blanket waivers. When there's an emergency, sections 1135 or 1812(f) of the SSA allow us to issue blanket waivers to help beneficiaries access care. When a blanket waiver is issued, providers don't have to apply for an individual 1135 waiver. When there's an emergency, CMS can also offer health care providers other flexibilities to make sure Americans continue to have access to the health care they need.

CMS is easing burden and helping providers care for Americans by offering **new waivers and flexibilities**:

[List of Blanket Waivers](#)

For provider-specific fact sheets, FAQs, toolkits, waiver checklists, and more related to waivers and flexibilities, visit:

[Coronavirus Waiver & Flexibilities](#)

Podcasts and Transcripts of Stakeholder Calls and Open Door Forums

For recordings and transcripts of stakeholder calls and open door forums, visit:

[Podcasts and Transcripts](#)

Toolkit for Partners

CMS has developed a toolkit to help partners stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19:

[Coronavirus Partner Virtual Toolkit](#)

Consumer Information:

For people with Medicare:

[Medicare & Coronavirus](#)

[Get help paying costs](#)

[Helpful Contacts](#)

For people with Marketplace Coverage:

[Marketplace coverage](#)

[Connect for Health Colorado \(CO only\)](#)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Resources		
Audience	Resources	Contact
Uninsured	<p>Health Insurance Marketplace <i>Enroll in or change health plans if you have certain life changes or see if you qualify for Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)</i> https://www.healthcare.gov/</p> <p>In Colorado only: https://connectforhealthco.com</p>	<p>(1-800-318-2596) TTY: (1-855-889-4325)</p> <p>(1-855-752-6749) TTY: (1-855-346-3432)</p>
Older Adults or Disabled	<p>Medicare <i>Individuals age 65 and older and certain disabled individuals may be entitled to Medicare coverage.</i> https://www.medicare.gov/</p> <p>Medicare and Coronavirus Get Help Paying Costs Helpful Contacts</p>	<p>(1-800-622-4227) TTY: (1-877-486-2048)</p>

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

HRSA grantees and community partners play a critical role in improving health care to people who are geographically isolated and economically or medically vulnerable—at this time more than ever. The following is a list of resources, funding opportunities and answers to address questions and concerns regarding HRSA programs during the COVID-19 response.

Recent Corona Virus HRSA News. See the following link: <https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus>

Find Funding. HRSA fulfills its mission through grants and cooperative agreements. The following link can assist in finding open funding opportunities:

- <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding?status=All&bureau=642>

COVID-19 grants policies. To find answers to common questions that HRSA has received from HRSA grant recipients concerning important COVID-19 grants policies see the following link:

- [General Grants Questions; https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/manage-your-grant/COVID-19-frequently-asked-questions](https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/manage-your-grant/COVID-19-frequently-asked-questions)

HRSA COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing and Treatment of the Uninsured. Providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured individuals with COVID-19 on or after February 4, 2020 can begin the process to file claims for reimbursement for testing and treating the uninsured.

- The COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal link: <https://coviduninsuredclaim.linkhealth.com/>
- <https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim/frequently-asked-questions>

340B Drug Pricing Program. If a 340B stakeholder has a specific circumstance where they believe their COVID-19 response may affect their compliance or eligibility in the 340B Program contact the 340B Prime Vendor at 1-888-340-2787 (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET).

- <https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/COVID-19-resources>

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP). Many of HRSA’s rural health program recipients and stakeholders are concerned about coronavirus disease and its impact on programs and rural communities. FORHP provides the following resources:

- Link to FORHP Site: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/index.html>
- HRSA awarded \$225 million to Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) for COVID-19 testing. Link to the announcement and a list of the number of RHC’s that received funding by state: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/20/hhs-provides-225-million-for-covid19-testing-in-rural-communities.html>
- [HHS Awards Nearly \\$165 Million to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic in Rural Communities](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/20/hhs-provides-225-million-for-covid19-testing-in-rural-communities.html)
- FAQs: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions>

The Office for the Advancement of Telehealth promotes the use of telehealth technologies for health care delivery, education, and health information services. See the following links:

- <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/telehealth>
- [HHS Awards \\$15 Million to Support Telehealth Providers During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [HHS Awards \\$20 Million to Combat COVID-19 Pandemic through Telehealth](#)

Bureau of Primary Healthcare (BPHC). HRSA is working to keep health centers and their partners updated on the latest information. All COVID-19 information for health centers is on the link below:

- Resources and links on COVID-19 Information for Health Centers and Partners: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-info>
- Coronavirus-related funding FAQs webpage: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/program-opportunities/coronavirus-disease-2019/faq>
- 2020 Expanding Capacity for Coronavirus Testing (ECT) award provides one-time funding to support health centers to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus disease. <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/program-opportunities/expanding-capacity-coronavirus-testing-supplemental-funding>

Bureau of Health Workforce. As the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic continues, HRSA is actively working to address issues that affect National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Nurse Corps participants and approved sites.

- National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Nurse Corps resources: <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/coronavirus>
- FAQs about NHSC and CoVid-19 response: <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/faqs>
- HRSA staff contributed to new workforce resource from the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). [COVID-19 Workforce Virtual Toolkit: Resources for Healthcare Decision-Makers Responding to COVID-19 Workforce Concerns.](#)

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. HRSA understands the important work Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients and stakeholders are doing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [HHS Awards \\$90 Million to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Recipients for COVID-19 Response](#)
- Corona Virus FAQs: <https://hab.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions>

Poison Control Centers. HRSA funding gives Poison Control Centers the support to field the significant increase in calls we've seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly \$5 Million Awarded to Poison Control Centers to improve their capacity to respond to increased calls due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Poison Help: <https://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/>

Health Resources and Services Resources		
Audience	Resources	Contact
Programs Working with Families	The HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funds programs to improve the health and well-being of America's mothers, children, and families. https://mchb.hrsa.gov/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions	Cherri Pruitt at cp Pruitt@hrsa.gov HRSA Regional MCH Coordinator
Providers in Underserved Communities	The COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal is open at: https://coviduninsuredclaim.linkhealth.com/ Find a Health Center: http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/ Find a Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program: http://data.hrsa.gov/hdslocator/index.html Find a Ryan White Health Care Provider: https://findhivcare.hrsa.gov Find a Health Professional Shortage Area: https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area	Frequently asked questions https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim/frequently-asked-questions
Telehealth Providers	HRSA Telehealth Resources Centers have been established to provide assistance, education and information to organizations and individuals who are actively providing or interested in providing healthcare at a distance. https://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/	

Rural Communities	<p>The Rural Information Hub is a guide for rural communities to learn about activities underway to address COVID-19. Federal and state agencies, along with national organizations are sharing resources and guidelines to help all communities and healthcare facilities, including rural areas response. https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/covid-19</p> <p>Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer, to find geographic areas that are defined as Rural and are eligible to apply for Rural Health Grants: https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health?tab=Address</p>	
Behavioral Health	<p>HRSA Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Technical Assistance is a centralized training and technical assistance center to support HRSA-funded grantees to integrate substance misuse and mental health services in primary care settings, as well as training and education of the workforce. https://bhta.hrsa.gov/</p> <p>The Lifeline provides 24/7; free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/</p>	
Workforce	<p>Workforce tools and resource relating to federal regulatory and funding flexibilities, licensure and scope of practice expansions, liability protections, workforce resilience and protection, and COVID-19-related training resources.</p>	

	<p>COVID-19 Workforce Virtual Toolkit: Resources for Healthcare Decision-Makers Responding to COVID-19 Workforce Concerns</p> <p>National Practitioner Data Bank: https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/coronavirus.jsp</p>	
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Prepared May 2020, Region 8 Office of Regional Operations
Contact CAPT Debra Scott at dscott@hrsa.gov for questions

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Behavioral Health Resources for Individuals, Families, Providers and Communities

COVID-19: Behavioral Health Resources (www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus)

SAMHSA recognizes the challenges posed by the current COVID-19 situation and is providing the following guidance and resources to assist states, tribes, communities, and individuals across the U.S.

- [Disaster Distress Helpline](#)
- [TAP 34: Disaster Planning Handbook for Behavioral Health Treatment Programs](#)
- [Tips for Social Distancing, Quarantine, Isolation During an Infectious Disease Outbreak \(PDF | 493 KB\)](#)
- [Virtual Recovery Resources \(PDF | 244 KB\)](#)
- [Telework and DFWP Drug Testing During COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Response and 42 CFR Part 2 Guidance \(PDF | 168 KB\)](#)
- [Considerations for the Care and Treatment of Mental and Substance Use Disorders in the COVID-19 Epidemic: March 20, 2020 \(PDF | 76 KB\)](#)
- [Considerations for Crisis Centers and Clinicians in Managing the Treatment of Alcohol or Benzodiazepine Withdrawal during the COVID-19 Epidemic: March 19, 2020 \(PDF | 213 KB\)](#)
- [Considerations for Outpatient Mental & Substance Use Disorder Treatment Settings \(PDF | 104 KB\)](#)
- [COVID-19: Interim Considerations for State Psychiatric Hospitals \(PDF | 207 KB\)](#)
- [Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse Considerations During COVID-19 \(PDF | 328 KB\)](#)
- [Letter to Treatment Providers on PPE \(PDF | 543 KB\)](#)
- [Double Jeopardy: COVID-19 and Behavioral Health Disparities for Black and Latino Communities in the U.S. \(PDF | 426 KB\)](#)
- [Guidance for Law Enforcement and First Responders Administering Naloxone \(PDF | 117 KB\)](#)
- **Specific Guidance for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP)**
 - [Opioid Treatment Program \(OTP\) Guidance \(March 16, 2020\) \(PDF | 216 KB\)](#)
 - [OTP Guidance for Patients Quarantined at Home with the Coronavirus \(PDF | 160 KB\)](#)

- [FAQs: Provision of Methadone and Buprenorphine for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in the COVID-19 Emergency \(PDF | 202 KB\)](#)
- [Sample OTP COVID-19 FAQs \(PDF | 341 KB\)](#)
- [Use of Telemedicine While Providing Medication-Assisted Treatment \(PDF | 146 KB\)](#)
- Funding Announcements/Opportunities
 - [SAMHSA COVID-19 Funded Grants \(PDF | 297 KB\)](#)
 - [COVID-19 Emergency Response for Suicide Prevention Grants](#)
 - [COVID-19 Information for SAMHSA Discretionary Grant Recipients](#)
- Training and Technical Assistance
 - [Training and Technical Assistance Related to COVID-19 \(PDF | 268 KB\)](#)

Audience	SAMHSA Resources
National Behavioral Health Crisis Lines	<p>Disaster Distress Helpline (1-800-985-5990 / TTY: 1-800-846-8517 / text TalkWithUs” for English to 66746 or “Hablanos” for Spanish to 66746) - www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline</p> <p>National Helpline (1-800-662-HELP (4357) / TTY: 1-800-487-4889) - www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline</p> <p>Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK (8255) / TTY: 1-800-799-4889) - www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org</p> <p>Veteran's Crisis Line (1-800-273-TALK (8255) / TTY: 1-800-799-4889) - www.veteranscrisisline.net</p> <p>Drug-Free Workplace (1-800-WORKPLACE (967-5752)) - www.samhsa.gov/workplace/resources/drug-free-helpline</p>
National Behavioral Health Treatment Locators	<p>Substance Use Treatment Locator – www.FindTreatment.gov</p> <p>Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator – www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov</p> <p>Buprenorphine Practitioner & Treatment Program Locator - www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/practitioner-program-data/treatment-practitioner-locator</p> <p>Early Serious Mental Illness Treatment Locator - www.samhsa.gov/esmi-treatment-locator</p> <p>Opioid Treatment Program Directory – www.dpt2.samhsa.gov/treatment/</p>
Children with Mental Illness and/or Substance Use Disorders	<p>National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supporting Children During Coronavirus (COVID19) https://www.nctsn.org/resources/supporting-children-during-coronavirus-covid19 ○ Coping in Hard Times: Fact Sheet for Youth High School and College Age: https://www.nctsn.org/resources/coping-hard-times-fact-sheet-youth-high-school-and-college-age <p>Simple Activities for Children and Adolescents: https://www.nctsn.org/resources/simple-activities-children-and-adolescents</p>
Providers of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder Prevention	<p>Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC): Mountain Plains Prevention Technology Transfer Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://pttcnetwork.org/centers/global-pttc/pandemic-response-resources ○ Self-Care for Prevention Providers during COVID-19

	<u>Prevention Practitioner’s Role in Disaster Response</u>
Providers of Mental Illness Treatment	<p>Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC): Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MHTTC Pandemic Response Resources: https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/global-mhttc/responding-covid-19 ○ School Mental Health: https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/global-mhttc/responding-covid-19-school-mental-health-resources <p>Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Adviser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coronavirus Resources: https://smiadviser.org/about/covid ○ Managing the Mental Health Effects of COVID-19 - https://education.psychiatry.org/Users/ProductDetails.aspx?ActivityID=7256&utm_source=SMI_Adviser_COVID_19_Email&utm_medium=March2020 ○ Tele-Psychiatry in the Era of COVID-19 - https://education.smiadviser.org/Users/ProductDetails.aspx?ActivityID=7257&utm_source=Email&utm_medium=WebinarEmail <p>Suicide Prevention Resource Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.sprc.org/covid19
Providers of Substance Use Disorder Treatment	<p>Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC): Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ATTC Pandemic Response Resources - https://attcnetwork.org/centers/global-attc/pandemic-response-resources ○ Compassion Fatigue: https://attcnetwork.org/centers/pacific-southwest-attc/news/compassion-fatigue-and-behavioral-health-workforce-curriculum ○ Telehealth: https://telehealthlearning.org/telehealth/ <p>Provider Clinical Support System (PCSS: www.pcssnow.org)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telepsychiatry and Medication Assisted Treatment: https://pcssnow.org/event/telepsychiatrys-role-in-medication-assisted-treatment? ○ Stress, Relaxation, and Mindful Breathing: A Primer: https://pcssnow.org/education-

[training/training-courses/9-stress-relaxation-mindful-breathing-primer/](https://www.pcssnow.org/education-training/training-courses/9-stress-relaxation-mindful-breathing-primer/)

- Supporting Providers After Overdose Death: <https://learning.pcssnow.org/p/SupportingProviders>
- Grief and Managing an Overdose Death: <https://pcssnow.org/resource/grief-and-overdose-death-2/>
- Young adult seeking treatment after overdosing: <https://pcssnow.org/education-training/training-courses/teenager-seeking-treatment-after-overdosing-part-1/>
- Partnering with Pharmacists: Naloxone Prescribing and Dispensing to Prevent Overdose Deaths: <https://pcssnow.org/event/partnering-with-pharmacists-naloxone-prescribing-and-dispensing-to-prevent-overdose-deaths-aoaam/>

Opioid Response Network (ORN)

- Telemedicine: Getting Started, Regulations and Privacy Issues: [https://education.aoaam.org/products/telemedicine-getting-started-regulations-and-privacy-issues-3272020#tab-product tab overview](https://education.aoaam.org/products/telemedicine-getting-started-regulations-and-privacy-issues-3272020#tab-product%20tab%20overview)
- Compassion Fatigue and Self Care: For Helping Professionals Working with Opioid Use Disorders: <https://opioidresponsenetwork.org/admin/ResourceDetails.aspx?resourceID=9338>
- Recommendations for the Care of Homeless Patients with Opioid Use Disorders: <https://opioidresponsenetwork.org/admin/ResourceDetails.aspx?resourceID=4162>
- Initial Patient Contact about Buprenorphine Checklist: <https://opioidresponsenetwork.org/ResourceMaterials/Sample-Initial-Patient-Contact-about-Buprenorphine.pdf>

Tele-Health Guidance: Additional Federal Guidance

- [DEA SAMHSA Buprenorphine Telemedicine \(PDF | 209 KB\)](#)
- [OCR Announces Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency](#)
- [The Notification of Enforcement Discretion on Telehealth Remote Communications](#)

DEA Diversion Control Division COVID-19 Information

- [DEA Information on Telemedicine \(PDF | 75 KB\)](#)

<p>Populations Disproportionately Impacted</p>	<p>SAMHSA National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://nned.net/ <p>SAMHSA National GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.samhsa.gov/gains-center <p>African American</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Double Jeopardy: COVID-19 and Behavioral Health Disparities for Black and Latino Communities in the U.S. (PDF 426 KB) <p>Native American/Alaskan Native</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/national-hispanic-and-latino-mhffc/news/increased-risks-ipv-latinas-during-covid-19 <p>LatinX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/national-american-indian-and-alaska-native-mhffc/event/native-youth-telehealth-initiative <p>Hmong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Talking With Children: Tips for Caregivers, Parents, and Teachers, During Infectious Disease Outbreak</i> https://store.samhsa.gov/product/behavioral-health-tips-for-social-distancing-quarantine-and-isolation-during-an-infectious-disease-outbreak-hmong-language-version/PEP20-01-01-011 ○ <i>Behavioral Health Tips for Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation during an Infectious Disease Outbreak</i> https://store.samhsa.gov/product/talking-with-children-tips-for-caregivers-parents-and-teachers-during-infectious-disease-outbreak-hmong-language-version/PEP20-01-01-012 <p>Somali</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Talking With Children: Tips for Caregivers, Parents, and Teachers, During Infectious Disease Outbreak</i> https://store.samhsa.gov/product/talking-with-children-tips-for-caregivers-parents-and-teachers-during-infectious-disease-outbreak-somali-language-version/PEP20-01-01-009 <p><i>Behavioral Health Tips for Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation during an Infectious Disease Outbreak</i> https://store.samhsa.gov/product/behavioral-health-tips-for-social-distancing-quarantine-and-isolation-during-an-infectious-disease-outbreak-somali-language-version/PEP20-01-01-010</p>
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Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA is responsible for:

- Protecting the public health by assuring that foods (except for meat from livestock, poultry and some egg products which are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture) are safe, wholesome, sanitary and properly labeled; ensuring that human and veterinary drugs, and vaccines and other biological products and medical devices intended for human use are safe and effective
- Protecting the public from electronic product radiation
- Assuring cosmetics and dietary supplements are safe and properly labeled
- Regulating tobacco products
- Advancing the public health by helping to speed product innovations

FDA's responsibilities extend to the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and other U.S. territories and possessions.

The scope of FDA's regulatory authority is very broad. FDA's responsibilities are closely related to those of several other government agencies. Often frustrating and confusing for consumers is determining the appropriate regulatory agency to contact. The following is a list of traditionally-recognized product categories that fall under FDA's regulatory jurisdiction; however, this is not an exhaustive list.

In general, FDA regulates:

- Foods, including: dietary supplements, bottled water, food additives, infant formulas
- Drugs, including: prescription drugs (both brand-name and generic), non-prescription (over-the-counter) drugs
- Biologics, including: vaccines for humans, blood and blood products, cellular and gene therapy products, tissue and tissue products, allergenics
- Medical Devices, including: simple items like tongue depressors and bedpans, complex technologies such as heart pacemakers, dental devices, surgical implants and prosthetics
- Electronic Products that give off radiation, including: microwave ovens, x-ray equipment, laser products
- ultrasonic therapy equipment, mercury vapor lamps, sunlamps
- Cosmetics, including: color additives found in makeup and other personal care products, skin moisturizers and cleansers, nail polish and perfume
- Veterinary Products, including: livestock feeds, pet foods, veterinary drugs and devices
- Tobacco Products, including: cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, smokeless tobacco

FDA COVID-19 homepage

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Reporting Fraudulent Medical Products

<https://www.fda.gov/safety/report-problem-fda/reporting-unlawful-sales-medical-products-internet>

Adverse Events related to FDA regulated products

<https://www.fda.gov/safety/report-problem-fda/reporting-unlawful-sales-medical-products-internet>

List of Consumer Complaint Coordinators

<https://www.fda.gov/safety/report-problem-fda/consumer-complaint-coordinators>

Reporting Emergencies to FDA

<https://www.fda.gov/safety/report-problem-fda/when-and-where-report-emergencies>

Q&A for Consumers on Hand Sanitizer

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/information-drug-class/qa-consumers-hand-sanitizers-and-covid-19>

Guidance for Industry on Hand Sanitizer

Temporary Policy for Preparation of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency (COVID-19)

<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/guidance-industry-temporary-policy-preparation-certain-alcohol-based-hand-sanitizer-products-during>

Policy for Temporary Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency

<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/policy-temporary-compounding-certain-alcohol-based-hand-sanitizer-products-during-public-health>

Temporary Policy for Manufacture of Alcohol for Incorporation Into Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency (COVID-19)

<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/temporary-policy-manufacture-alcohol-incorporation-alcohol-based-hand-sanitizer-products-during>

FDA Resources on N95 Respirators and Surgical Masks (Face Masks)

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>

Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

Executive Summary of Key Facts

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Rocky Mountain Region is coordinating closely with our Headquarters staff who is overseeing and directing all COVID-19 activities and policy decisions for our staff division nationally.

The public may file civil rights discrimination, health information privacy, and conscience and religious freedom complaints through our online complaint portal:

<https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/smartscreen/main.jsf>

OCR has issued a series of guidance documents on COVID-19 covering a wide range of HIPAA and non-discrimination topics: <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html>

Background

As an HHS law enforcement agency, the OCR investigates complaints, conducts compliance reviews, vindicates rights, develops policy, promulgates regulations, provides technical assistance, and educates the public concerning our nation's civil rights, conscience and religious freedom, and health information privacy and security laws. OCR accomplishes this by:

- Ensuring that recipients of HHS federal financial assistance comply with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, and religion.
- Ensuring that HHS, state and local governments, health care providers, health plans, and others comply with federal laws that guarantee the protection of conscience and free exercise of religion and prohibit coercion and religious discrimination in HHS- conducted or funded programs.
- Ensuring the practices of health care providers, health plans, healthcare clearinghouses, and their business associates adhere to federal privacy, security, and breach notification regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, through the investigation of complaints, self-reported breaches, compliance reviews, and audits.

Through these mechanisms, OCR helps to ensure equal access to health and human services, protects the exercise of religious beliefs and moral convictions by individuals and institutions participating in HHS programs, protects individuals' health information, gives tools for provider awareness and full engagement of individuals in decisions related to their health care, and advances the health and well-being of all Americans.

OCR's services could be used to support the federal strategic COVID-19 priorities as follows:

- **Shielding the Vulnerable and Sheltering the Susceptible** – OCR is available to coordinate with federal partners and provide technical assistance to health and social services entities to ensure that the response to COVID-19 effectively addresses the needs of at-risk populations. OCR is committed to leaving no one behind during this emergency. This includes individuals with disabilities, those with limited English proficiency, and those needing religious accommodations. For information about OCR guidance on civil rights and COVID-19, see: <https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-providers/civil-rights-covid19/index.html>.
- **Saving the Sick** – OCR enforces laws and regulations which prohibit discrimination based on disability and age in HHS funded health programs and activities, and as such is ensuring that persons with disabilities are not denied medical care on the basis of stereotypes, assessments of quality of life, or judgments about a person's relative "worth" based on the presence or absence of disabilities or age. Decisions by covered entities concerning whether an individual is a candidate for treatment should be based on an individualized assessment of the patient based on the best available objective medical evidence. OCR is available to provide guidance and technical assistance to our federal partners and covered entities during this public health emergency. OCR has issued guidance on these principles, including: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/28/ocr-issues-bulletin-on-civil-rights-laws-and-hipaa-flexibilities-that-apply-during-the-covid-19-emergency.html>. In addition, OCR has taken enforcement actions to enforce civil rights during COVID-19: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/ocr-reaches-early-case-resolution-alabama-after-it-removes-discriminatory-ventilator-triaging.html>; <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/16/ocr-resolves-civil-rights-complaint-against-pennsylvania-after-it-revises-its-pandemic-health-care.html>
- **Sustaining Supplies** – OCR's policy and enforcement actions help to ensure that health care entities refrain from rationing lifesaving supplies and care in a way that disproportionately affects older individuals, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. To ensure non-discrimination, decisions by covered entities concerning whether an individual is a candidate for treatment should be based on an individualized assessment of the patient based on the best available objective medical evidence.
- **Supporting the National Response Workforce** – OCR has announced HIPAA flexibilities and guidance in response to the COVID-19 emergency in an effort to support the National Response Workforce. We are available to provide additional technical assistance and guidance on these topics: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/hipaa-covid19/index.html>. The topics include:

- **Telehealth:** OCR's Notice of Enforcement Discretion allowing providers to serve patients where they are through commonly used apps like FaceTime, Skype, and Zoom to provide telehealth remote communications:
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/20/ocr-issues-guidance-on-telehealth-remote-communications-following-its-notification-of-enforcement-discretion.html>
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/telehealth-faqs-508.pdf>

- **First Responders:** Guidance that empowers first responders and others who receive protected health information about individuals who have tested positive or been exposed to COVID- 19 to help keep both first responders and the public safe.
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/ocr-issues-guidance-to-help-ensure-first-responders-and-others-receive-protected-health-information-about-individuals-exposed-to-covid-19.html>

- **Information Sharing:** Guidance on how health care providers can share information with the CDC, family members of patients, and others, to help address the COVID-19 emergency.
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/february-2020-hipaa-and-novel-coronavirus - PDF>

- **Business Associates:** OCR's Notice of Enforcement Discretion allowing uses and disclosures of protected health information by business associates for public health and health oversight activities.
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/02/ocr-announces-notification-of-enforcement-discretion.html>

- **Testing Sites:** OCR's Notice of Enforcement Discretion allowing good faith participation in the operation of community-based COVID-19 testing sites.
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/09/ocr-announces-notification-enforcement-discretion-community-based-testing-sites-during-covid-19.html>

- **Media Access:** Guidance on covered health care providers and restrictions on media access to protected health information about individuals in their facilities.
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/05/ocr-issues-guidance-covered-health-care-poviders-restrictions-media-access-protected-health-information-individuals-facilities.html>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

COVID-19 Preparedness Resources for FEMA

General FEMA COVID-19 Resources

Audience: State, local, and tribal governments and non-profit organizations

Fact Sheets and Guidance

View the most recent fact sheets and guidance documents related to the COVID-19 response.

<https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/fact-sheets>

(COVID-19) Pandemic: Public Assistance Simplified Application

Purpose: FEMA may provide funding to eligible applicants for costs related to emergency protective measures conducted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency protective measures are activities conducted to address immediate threats to life, public health, and safety. Eligible Applicants may submit funding requests to the Recipient and FEMA through the Public Assistance Grants Portal.

Audience:

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/03/23/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-public-assistance-simplified-application>

Economic Recovery Support

The response and recovery from COVID-19 will be the largest relief assistance program in American history by far and will take a whole-of-America partnership, every step of the way. We are working with federal partners to ensure that the economic needs of American families, workers, and small businesses are addressed. Below are some of the efforts that have been announced to support people experiencing economic hardship during this crisis.

<https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/economic>

FEMA Coronavirus Response

FEMA, HHS and our federal partners are working with state, local, tribal and territorial governments to execute a whole-of-America response to the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the health and safety of the American people.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Topics - Patients & Healthcare Workers • State, Local, Tribal & Territorial Governments • Economic Support & Recovery • Understanding Data & Prioritizing Resources • News & Media Gallery • How to Help • Rumor Control • Coronavirus Best Practices

<https://www.fema.gov/coronavirusCoronavirus>

Pandemic: FEMA Assistance for Tribal Governments Release date: May 1, 2020

Tribal FAQ This document provides answers to frequently asked questions about FEMA assistance options for federally recognized tribal governments responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the programmatic differences of an emergency declaration, a major disaster declaration and a tribe as a Recipient or as a Subrecipient.

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/05/01/coronavirus-pandemic-fema-assistance-tribal-governments>

Preparedness Resources

Business Preparedness/Continuity

Audience: Non-Federal Government organizations and private sector

Continuity Resource Toolkit

NEW In these uncertain times of the coronavirus public health emergency, organizations across the nation are grappling with when and how to resume normal operations while protecting the well-being and safety of their employees and communities. To assist non-Federal Government organizations and the private sector in the process of a measured return to normal operations, FEMA has created the Planning Considerations for Organizations in Reconstituting Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic Fact Sheet.

This document builds upon the White House guidelines for Opening Up America Again by providing a range of considerations, questions and web links that provide valuable insights and resources as organizations navigate through this critical process.

<https://www.fema.gov/continuity-resource-toolkit>

IS-520: Introduction to Continuity of Operations Planning for Pandemic Influenzas - Pandemic Awareness online course

Audience: Public

The purpose of this course is to provide you with a general understanding of:

- Pandemic influenzas.
- The effects that a pandemic can cause on every facet of our society.

Steps your organization can take to minimize a pandemic's effect. This lesson should take approximately 1 hour to complete.

<https://emilms.fema.gov/IS.0520/curriculum/1.html>

FEMA Region VIII POC: Mike Brinkman, Regional Continuity Manager,

Michael.brinkman@fema.dhs.gov

Exercise Starter Kit for Workshop on Reconstituting Operations

FEMA has developed an Exercise Starter Kit with sample documents your organization can use to conduct your own planning workshop to navigate the complexities of returning to full operations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Exercise Starter Kit includes a sample facilitator guide and conduct slides that are designed to be adapted and customized for your own needs. Suggested discussion questions for the workshop build upon reconstitution planning principles and relevant White House guidance for employers included in the Guidelines for Opening Up America Again.

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/188077>

FEMA Region VIII POC: Andrew Batten, Andrew.batten@fema.dhs.gov

Individual/Personal Preparedness

Audience: Public

FEMA's [Ready.gov](https://www.fema.gov) and American Red Cross's [Be Red Cross Ready](https://www.redcross.org) programs provide information and tips on preparedness planning such as How to Make a Family Communications Plan or How to Build A Supply Kit on a budget for individual to identify and prepare for their different risks.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

Requests for assistance must be made through your local jurisdiction such as your fire department or emergency manager.

To check to see if there is a CERT in your area:

https://community.fema.gov/Register/Register_Search_Programs

You Are the Help Until Help Arrives Online Training

[You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](https://www.fema.gov) course is to teach participants basic skills to keep people with life-threatening injuries alive until professional help arrives. Use the animated interactive video and/or web-based training program as the key course materials.

Youth Preparedness (K-12)

Virtual emergency preparedness resources for youth engagement and school-based learning options. Recommended virtual training and materials are available for download online at the following:

Audience: Schools/2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders

- The [Prepare with Pedro - Disaster Preparedness Activity Book](https://www.fema.gov) is designed to teach children and their families about how to stay safe during disasters and emergencies.
- [Ready 2 Help, Disaster Master](https://www.fema.gov), and [Build a Kit](https://www.fema.gov) games teaches kids simple steps to stay safe and make a difference until help arrives in a fun and interactive way.
- [Ready.gov/kids](https://www.fema.gov/kids) is a FEMA site which maintains extensive information and tips on youth preparedness activities.

Audience: Schools/4th and 5th graders

- The [Prepare with Pedro - Disaster Preparedness Activity Book](https://www.fema.gov) is designed to teach children and their families about how to stay safe during disasters and emergencies.

Audience: Schools/5th – 12th graders

- [You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](https://www.fema.gov) course is to teach participants basic skills to keep people with life-threatening injuries alive until professional help arrives. Use the animated interactive video and/or web-based training program as the key course materials.

- [Student Tools for Emergency Planning \(STEP\)](#) purpose is to discuss emergency preparedness and response with youth and work to build core capabilities that will enable youth to remain calm and execute preparedness actions in stressful times, the syllabus and all materials can be found online.

FEMA Region VIII POC: Katrina Woodhams, Community Preparedness Officer,
Katrina.woodhams@fema.dhs.gov or (202)380-8431

FEMA Office of Equal Rights

If Audience is Survivors/Applicants

External Civil Rights

Under Federal civil rights laws and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (Stafford Act), FEMA, State, local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) partners, and non-governmental relief and disaster assistance organizations engaged in the “distribution of supplies, the processing of applications, and other relief and assistance activities shall [accomplish these activities] in an equitable and impartial manner, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, [national origin], sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status.” Civil rights laws and legal authorities remain in effect, and cannot be waived, during emergencies.

FEMA’s Office of Equal Rights is responsible for ensuring compliance with and enforcement of FEMA’s external Civil Rights obligations under Sections 308 and 309 of the Stafford Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Age Discrimination Act. The Office of Equal Rights also oversees efforts to meet agency obligations under Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency,” and Executive Order 12898, “Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations.”

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requires that FEMA and its recipients ensure nondiscrimination for individuals with disabilities by providing equal access to programs, physical accessibility of facilities, effective communication, and reasonable accommodations.

CIVIL RIGHTS AUTHORITIES

OER is the principal office responsible for compliance with and enforcement of civil rights obligations in connection with programs and services provided by FEMA and by recipients of FEMA financial assistance under the following authorities:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act;

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972;

Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act;

Age Discrimination Act of 1975;

Sections 308 and 309 of the Stafford Act;

44 C.F.R. Parts 7, 16, and 19; 44 C.F.R. § 206.11;

Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency;”

and

Executive Order 12898, “Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations.”

Civil Rights Mailbox:

FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov

If Audience Includes Employees

FEMA Office of Equal Rights Equal Employment Opportunity Division

The Equal Employment Opportunity Division (EEO) within the Office of Equal Rights (OER) processes complaints of employment discrimination, including harassment, in accordance with applicable federal laws.

FEMA employees and job applicants who may wish to file a complaint, must seek equal employment opportunity (EEO) counseling within 45 calendar days of an alleged discriminatory act.

Five federal anti-discrimination laws protect job applicants and employees from discrimination based on nine bases:

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act- race, color, religion, sex (includes pregnancy gender identity, and sexual orientation), and national origin.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act- age 40 and over.

Equal Pay Act - sex/gender-based statute that requires equal wages for equal work performed under equal circumstances; Rehabilitation Act- disability of qualified job applicants and employees, and failure to provide a reasonable accommodation.

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act- genetic information.

All five laws also prohibit reprisal or retaliation because an individual engaged in protected activity.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 202-212-3535

Email: FEMA-EqualRights@fema.dhs.gov

FEMA Office of Equal Rights
Disability Division

The Disability Division within OER is responsible for the overall management, administration, and processing of requests for reasonable accommodations made by applicants and qualified employees with disabilities. An employee can request an accommodation from either their supervisor or the Disability Division. After the request is received, both parties will work together to determine the most effective accommodation to address the needs of the employee and the Agency. The Disability Division is also available to assist with accommodation requests from job applicants seeking employment with FEMA.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 202-212-3535

Email: FEMA-Reasonable-Accommodation@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA Office of Professional Responsibility

The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is an independent office that provides expeditious, fair, and objective follow up and resolution of all allegations of employee misconduct, including harassment. OPR is committed to protecting and supporting FEMA's workforce and maintaining a harassment-free environment.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 833-TELL-OPR (833 -835-5677)

Email: FEMA-Misconduct@fema.dhs.gov

Additional FEMA Civil Rights Related Resources. Click the each icon to learn more.

Accessible
Videos

Civil Rights
Notice

Accessible
Public Service
Announcements

Interacting With
People Who Have
Disabilities Guide

How To Set Up A
Fed Relay

Language Guidelines
Inclusive Emergency
Management

Additional Federal COVID-19 Websites

- **The White House/CDC/FEMA:** <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **Health and Human Services:** <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/index.html>
- **Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response:**
<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/Pages/default.aspx>
- **HHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives (Partnership Center):**
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/iea/partnerships/index.html>
- **Indian Health Service:** <https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/>
- **National Institutes for Health:** <https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):** <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>,
- **USDA Food and Nutrition Service:** <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>
- **USDA Rural Development:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus>
- **Department of Housing and Urban Development:** <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus>
- **Department of Education:** <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>
- **Department of Justice:** <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>
- **Department of Labor:** <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>
- **Environmental Protection Agency:** <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>
- **Federal Grants:** <https://www.grants.gov/>
- **Social Security Administration:** <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>
- **US Small Business Administration:** <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
- **Veterans Administration:** <https://www.va.gov/coronavirus-veteran-frequently-asked-questions/>
- **Youth.Gov:** <https://youth.gov/feature-article/covid-coronavirus-resources>