COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Resource Roadmap

The purpose of the *COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Resource Roadmap* (Roadmap) developed by FEMA is to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) leaders and education stakeholders with navigating some of the challenges, as well as the resources associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Specifically, the Roadmap describes how supplemental appropriated funds, in particular under the CARES Act, and certain ongoing annually funded federal programs, can be used to implement potential solutions.[1]

Navigating the Roadmap

The Roadmap is based on challenges that federal departments and agencies who work directly with SLTT partners in education and COVID-19 pandemic recovery have identified. Although not an exhaustive list, the identified challenges that follow fall within five topic areas:

"The whole of government and the whole of community is involved in the fight against COVID-19. We will prevail, but it will take government, the private sector and individual Americans working together."

- **Pete Gaynor, FEMA Administrator**

- Meeting Daily Nutrition Needs;
- Securing the Food Supply;
- Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets.

Each topic area consists of a flowchart of specific challenges, potential solutions, and federal department or agency resources, including federal support and technical assistance (e.g., Figure 1). Federal funding resources are either universal or solution-specific. Universal resources, for purposes of this document, have broad applicability to the solutions presented within the topic area, whereas resources directly linked to specific solutions are limited to the challenge presented.

---

[1] In this Roadmap, the resources provided by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) focus on assistance under the CARES Act, and do not include assistance from state-administered formula grant programs with annual appropriations administered by ED. For information on those and other ED assistance programs, please see the information on https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus
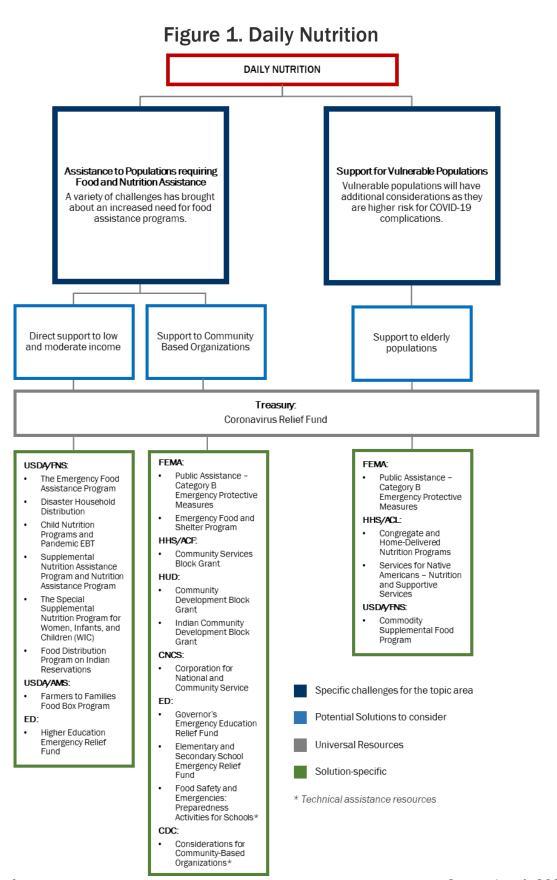
FEMA

Although the solutions are general in nature, additional considerations may be necessary to support children who may be at an elevated risk for contracting COVID-19, including those who may have physical, sensory, behavioral, or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to conform to infection control protocols such as masking, hand washing, or distancing.[2] Additionally, schools may need to consider extra precautions for students, teachers, and staff who may be considered high risk because of known conditions such as respiratory compromise, diabetes, or advanced age. Finally, entities that use federal funds to support COVID-19 relief must ensure that such uses are reasonable, necessary, allowable, and allocable to the federal source program (i.e., resource), whether that program is universal or solution-specific.
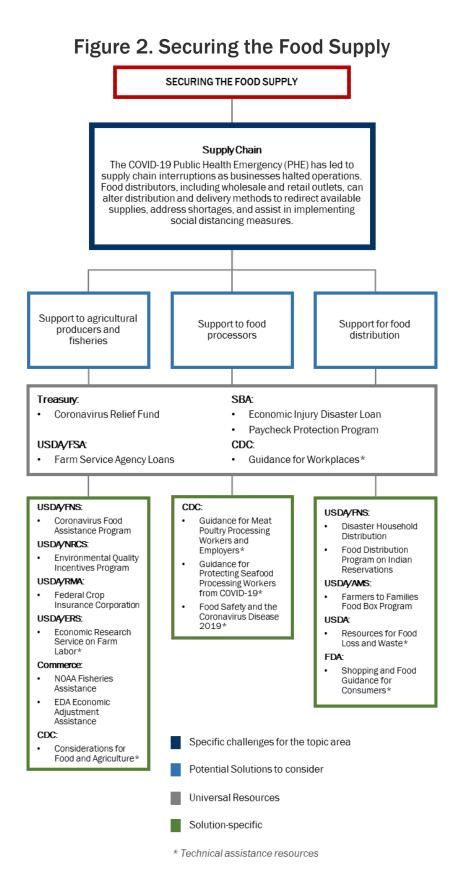
The Roadmap also includes a Funding Index (Index) that provides an overview of resource structure and connection to the identified education challenges. The Index is designed to help SLTT partners navigate resource availability, find opportunities to leverage assistance across federal programs, and avoid potential areas of duplication of benefits. For example, some of the resources, such as the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund and Coronavirus Relief Fund, are federal resources allocated to the Governor (i.e., Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund), or to state and local governments (i.e., Coronavirus Relief Fund), and thus may be subject to state and local decision-making for eligible activities. Other resources are provided directly to educational institutions and have broad flexibility to be used for eligible costs that best fit each educational institution's most critical needs. This information can help inform decisions on how to apply funding to maximize recovery outcomes.

Please note that the information that follows is for general informational purposes only and are compiled with publicly available information or with information provided by sources that are publicly obtained and should be viewed as only a starting point for navigating challenges and available resources. The user should always directly consult the provider of a potential resource (i.e., the respective department or agency administering the federal program) for current program information, as well as to verify whether the user's proposed activities would be allowable under a particular program.
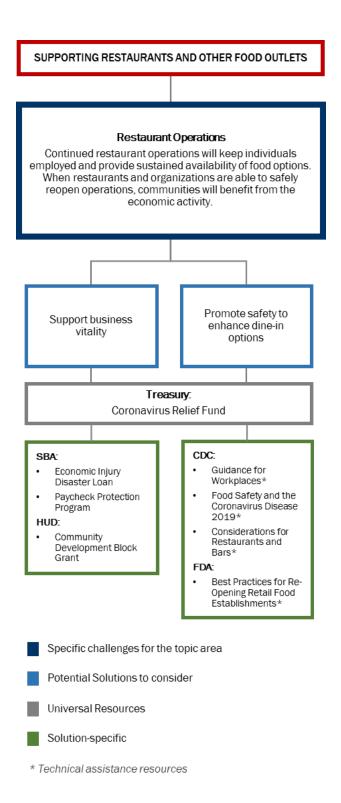
---

[2] Children identified as having a disability may be eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Figure 1. Daily Nutrition

DAILY NUTRITION

Assistance to Populations requiring Food and Nutrition Assistance
A variety of challenges has brought about an increased need for food assistance programs.

Support for Vulnerable Populations
Vulnerable populations will have additional considerations as they are higher risk for COVID-19 complications.

Direct support to low and moderate income

Support to Community Based Organizations

Support to elderly populations

Treasury:
Coronavirus Relief Fund

USDA/FNS:
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Disaster Household Distribution
- Child Nutrition Programs and Pandemic EBT
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Nutrition Assistance Program
- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

USDA/AMS:
- Farmers to Families Food Box Program

ED:
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

FEMA:
- Public Assistance – Category B Emergency Protective Measures
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program

HHS/ACF:
- Community Services Block Grant

HUD:
- Community Development Block Grant
- Indian Community Development Block Grant

CNCS:
- Corporation for National and Community Service

ED:
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
- Food Safety and Emergencies: Preparedness Activities for Schools*

CDC:
- Considerations for Community-Based Organizations*

FEMA:
- Public Assistance – Category B Emergency Protective Measures

HHS/ACL:
- Congregate and Home-Delivered Nutrition Programs
- Services for Native Americans – Nutrition and Supportive Services

USDA/FNS:
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program

■ Specific challenges for the topic area

■ Potential Solutions to consider

■ Universal Resources

■ Solution-specific

Technical assistance resources

Figure 2. Securing the Food Supply

SECURING THE FOOD SUPPLY

Supply Chain

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) has led to supply chain interruptions as businesses halted operations. Food distributors, including wholesale and retail outlets, can alter distribution and delivery methods to redirect available supplies, address shortages, and assist in implementing social distancing measures.

Support to agricultural producers and fisheries	Support to food processors	Support for food distribution

Treasury:
- Coronavirus Relief Fund

USDA/FSA:
- Farm Service Agency Loans

SBA:
- Economic Injury Disaster Loan
- Paycheck Protection Program

CDC:
- Guidance for Workplaces*

USDA/FNS:
- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

USDA/NRCS:
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program

USDA/RMA:
- Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

USDA/ERS:
- Economic Research Service on Farm Labor*

Commerce:
- NOAA Fisheries Assistance
- EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance

CDC:
- Considerations for Food and Agriculture*

CDC:
- Guidance for Meat Poultry Processing Workers and Employers*
- Guidance for Protecting Seafood Processing Workers from COVID-19*
- Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019*

USDA/FNS:
- Disaster Household Distribution
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

USDA/AMS:
- Farmers to Families Food Box Program

USDA:
- Resources for Food Loss and Waste*

FDA:
- Shopping and Food Guidance for Consumers*

■ Specific challenges for the topic area

■ Potential Solutions to consider

■ Universal Resources

■ Solution-specific

Technical assistance resources

Figure 3. Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets

SUPPORTING RESTAURANTS AND OTHER FOOD OUTLETS

Restaurant Operations

Continued restaurant operations will keep individuals employed and provide sustained availability of food options. When restaurants and organizations are able to safely reopen operations, communities will benefit from the economic activity.

Support business vitality

Promote safety to enhance dine-in options

Treasury:
Coronavirus Relief Fund

SBA:
- Economic Injury Disaster Loan
- Paycheck Protection Program

HUD:
- Community Development Block Grant

CDC:
- Guidance for Workplaces*
- Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019*
- Considerations for Restaurants and Bars*

FDA:
- Best Practices for Re-Opening Retail Food Establishments*

- Specific challenges for the topic area

- Potential Solutions to consider

- Universal Resources

- Solution-specific

Technical assistance resources

Funding Index

Program	Program Delivery				Challenges			Additional Information
	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory/ Regulatory Flexibility Provided	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Daily Nutrition Needs	Securing Food Supply	Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets	Links to Program Websites
Child Nutrition Programs and Pandemic EBT (USDA/FNS)	✓		New Program	✓	✓			USDA Food and Nutrition Service Website
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) (USDA/FNS)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			USDA Food and Nutrition Service Website
Community Development Block Grant (HUD)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	CDBG COVID-19 Website
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) (HHS/ACF)	✓		✓	✓	✓			CSBG Website; CSBG COVID-19 Information
Congregate and Home-Delivered Nutrition Programs (HHS/ACL)		✓		✓	✓			ACL Nutrition Services Website

* Items that may provide assistance but are not CARES Act funded.

**State, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) organizations

Program	Program Delivery				Challenges			Additional Information
	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory/ Regulatory Flexibility Provided	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Daily Nutrition Needs	Securing Food Supply	Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets	Links to Program Websites
Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) (USDA/FNS)	✓		New Program	✓		✓		CFAP Website; CFAP FAQs
Coronavirus Relief Fund (Treasury)	✓		New Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	CRF Website; CRF Guidance
Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)					✓			CNCS Website; CNCS Covid-19 Website
Disaster Household Distribution (USDA/FNS)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Disaster Household Distribution Website; USDA Food and Nutrition Service Website
Economic Adjustment Assistance (EDA)		✓		✓		✓		EDA COVID-19 Website; EDA COVID-19 FAQs

Items that may provide assistance but are not CARES Act funded.

**State, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) organizations*

Program	Program Delivery				Challenges			Additional Information
	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory/ Regulatory Flexibility Provided	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Daily Nutrition Needs	Securing Food Supply	Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets	Links to Program Websites
Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) (SBA)		✓				✓	✓	EIDL COVID-19 Website; SBA COVID-19 Programs
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ED)			New Program	✓	✓			ESSERF Website; ESSERF FAQs
Emergency Food and Shelter Program Grant (FEMA)		✓			✓			EFSP Website; FEMA COVID-19 Fact Sheets
*Environmental Quality Incentives Program (USDA/NRCS)**		✓				✓		NRCS Program Website

* Items that may provide assistance but are not CARES Act funded.

**State, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) organizations

Program	Program Delivery				Challenges			Additional Information
	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory/ Regulatory Flexibility Provided	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Daily Nutrition Needs	Securing Food Supply	Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets	Links to Program Websites
Farmers to Families Food Box Program (USDA/AMS)		✓	New Program	✓	✓	✓		Farmers to Families Food Box Website
Farm Service Agency Loans (USDA/FSA)*		✓				✓		FSA Farm Loan Programs Website
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (USDA/RMA)*		✓				✓		RMA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Website; RMA COVID-19 FAQs
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (USDA/FNS)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		FNS COVID-19 Website
Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (ED)			New Program		✓			GEERF Website; GEERF FAQs
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (ED)			New Program		✓			HEERF Website

* Items that may provide assistance but are not CARES Act funded.

**State, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) organizations

Program	Program Delivery				Challenges			Additional Information
	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory/ Regulatory Flexibility Provided	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Daily Nutrition Needs	Securing Food Supply	Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets	Links to Program Websites
Indian Community Development Block Grant (HUD)	✓		✓	✓	✓			Public and Indian Housing Website
NOAA Fisheries Assistance (Commerce)	✓			✓		✓		NOAA COVID-19 Website
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) (SBA)		✓	New Program	✓		✓	✓	PPP Website; SBA COVID-19 Programs
Public Assistance – Emergency Protective Measures (FEMA)	✓		✓	✓	✓			FEMA PA Website; FEMA PA COVID-19 Food Distribution Policy
Services for Native Americans – Nutrition and Supportive Services (HHS/ACL)		✓		✓	✓			ACL Services for Native Americans Website

* Items that may provide assistance but are not CARES Act funded.

**State, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) organizations

Technical Assistance

Daily Nutrition Needs

Community-Based Organizations providing food-related services can review Considerations for Community-Based Organizations (CDC), which provides information on promoting health behaviors, maintaining health environments and operations, and preparing for when someone gets sick.

K-12 schools and school districts can better prepare for food-related emergencies, as well as the role of food services in larger recovery efforts in the Readiness and Emergency Management for School Technical Assistance Center Webinar: Food Safety and Emergencies: Preparedness Activities for Schools (ED).

Securing Food Supply

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has gathered information and best practices to both industry members and consumers from multiple federal agencies to provide a repository on Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

FDA offers Considerations for Food and Agriculture (FDA) on prioritization of personal protective equipment, cloth face coverings, disinfectants, and sanitation supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic in the food and agricultural industry.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has prepared extensive Guidance for Workplaces (CDC) on worker safety to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. For meat and poultry processing facilities, industry-specific Guidance for Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers (CDC and OSHA) is available on workplace safety in the COVID-19 environment. Likewise, information for Seafood Processing Workers is available with considerations for both onshore plants and offshore vessels to mitigate and plan for exposures to COVID-19.

Economic Research Service on Farm Labor (USDA) is a database on farm labor issues to help employers and industry players understand the U.S. Agriculture Workforce.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) addresses Food Loss and Waste (USDA) issues through its programs, policies and guidance. Specific information is available for farmers, businesses, consumers, schools, donations, and funding.

Food Outlets and Restaurants

The Centers for Disease Control has prepared extensive Guidance for Workplaces (CDC) on worker safety to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

FDA has gathered information and best practices to both industry members and consumers from multiple federal agencies to provide a repository on [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).](#)

Food establishments can implement [Best Practices for Re-Opening Retail Food Establishments (FDA)](#) and review [CDC Considerations for Restaurants and Bars (CDC)](#) in reopening and continued operations to ensure safety.

Acronym and Agency Glossary

ACF	Administration of Children and Families
ACL	Administration for Community Living
AMS	Agricultural Marketing Service
CARES	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
CDBG	Community Development Block Grants
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CFAP	Coronavirus Food Assistance Program
CNCS	Corporation for National and Community Service
COVID-19	Coronavirus
CRF	Coronavirus Relief Fund
CSAP	Commodity Supplemental Assistance Program
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant
DOC/Commerce	U.S. Department of Commerce
DOL	U.S. Department of Labor
EBT	Electronic Benefits Transfer
ED	U.S. Department of Education
EDA	Economic Development Administration
EFSP	Emergency Food and Shelter Program
EIDL	Economic Injury Disaster Loan
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERS	Economic Research Service
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grants
ESSERF	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
FAQ(s)	Frequently Asked Questions
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service

FSA	Farm Service Agency
GEERF	Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund
HEERF	Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
NAP	Nutrition Assistance Program
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Public Assistance
PHE	Public Health Emergency
PPP	Paycheck Protection Program
RD	Rural Development (U.S. Department of Agriculture)
RMA	Risk Management Agency
SBA	U.S. Small Business Administration
SLTT	State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
TEFAP	The Emergency Food Assistance Program
Treasury	U.S. Department of the Treasury
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture