

COVID-19 FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIONS & RESOURCES

Contacting Senator Paul for Assistance

Senator Paul is ready to provide assistance to all Kentuckians in need of help navigating the federal response and ongoing community needs related to COVID-19. Please contact our state office at 270-782-8303 or visit our website at www.paul.senate.gov.

General Resources

Assistance with unemployment benefits:

- <https://www.usa.gov/unemployment>

Opportunities to volunteer and serve the community:

- <https://www.usa.gov/volunteer>

The White House and CDC's official COVID-19 website:

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

The Official Guide to Government Information and Services:

- <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>

The Commonwealth of Kentucky's homepage for COVID-19 resources:

- <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>

Kentucky Department of Agriculture – COVID-19 Updates:

- <https://www.kyagr.com/communications/covid-19-ky-agriculture-updates.html>

*Be suspicious if you receive calls, emails, or other communications claiming to be from the Treasury Department and offering COVID-19 related grants or stimulus payments in exchange for personal information, or an advance fee, tax, or charge of any kind, including the purchase of gift cards, as these may be scammers.

- Contact www.ic3.gov to report suspicious communications.

*While the **U.S. Postal Service** has experienced some operational impacts due to widespread disruptions in the air freight and cargo industries, in general, mail delivery continues. For the most up-to-date information on what the USPS is doing to protect its customers and its workforce, you can view postal service alerts at:

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/>

*The **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** issued a guide for employers who would like to defer payroll taxes, which can be found here: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/deferral-of-employment-tax-deposits-and-payments-through-december-31-2020>.

*Also, for those who would normally not file a federal income tax return, the **IRS** has just sent out an update (which you can read in full [HERE](#)) with information about the **Economic Impact Payment**. The web tool they provide, which you can find [HERE](#), is the only place non-filers should go to enter their information to get the

Economic Impact Payment. Visit the IRS' [Economic Impact Payment Information Center](#) for additional guidance.

*Reminder – if you receive Social Security, Railroad Retirement, or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, you do not need to do anything to receive the payment. The IRS will automatically send it.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

HHS is the lead agency responding to the public health challenges posed by COVID-19. They have assembled substantial COVID-19 resources and responses to FAQs here, via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)

***** On April 24, 2020, President Trump signed into law new emergency appropriations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds include \$75 billion to HHS for emergency relief to hospitals. It also includes \$25 billion to increase coronavirus testing.**

*****Administration for Children and Families:**

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ChildCare.gov has created a new page where parents can connect with state specific resources to help them find, and pay for child care now. Parents, child care providers, and businesses can find direct links to state specific COVID-19 state resources at the top of every [ChildCare.gov](#) webpage.

Food and Drug Administration:

- FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) to Everlywell, Inc. for the Everlywell COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit, the first standalone at-home sample collection kit that can be used with certain authorized tests. Everlywell's kit is authorized to be used by individuals at home who have been screened using an online questionnaire that is reviewed by a health care provider. This allows an individual to self-collect a nasal sample at home using Everlywell's authorized kit. The FDA has also authorized two COVID-19 diagnostic tests, performed at specific laboratories, for use with samples collected using the Everlywell COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit.
- Testing updates:
 - During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has worked with more than 400 test developers who have already submitted or said they will be submitting EUA requests to the FDA for tests that detect the virus or antibodies to the virus.
 - To date, the FDA has authorized 105 tests under EUAs, which include 92 molecular tests, 12 antibody tests, and 1 antigen test.
- The FDA issued a guidance to assist manufacturers in providing FDA timely, informative notifications about changes in the production of certain medical device products that will help the Agency prevent or mitigate shortages of such devices during the COVID-19 public health emergency. On May 11, 2020, the FDA will host a webinar for medical device manufacturers and others interested in learning more about the guidance.
- The FDA issued a Consumer Update, Tips on Good Nutrition and Using the Updated Nutrition Facts Label During the Coronavirus Pandemic. The update provides helpful tips on how to use the Nutrition Facts label to learn more about the foods you have on hand or are purchasing online or in stores, especially if you are purchasing different foods because of temporary disruptions in the food supply chain or are buying more canned or packaged foods instead of fresh.

- The FDA granted accelerated approval to a new dosing regimen for a cancer therapy, to allow patients with certain cancers to continue treatment with fewer in-person visits. Specifically, the new dosing regimen allows patients to visit cancer centers less often while getting the treatment they need.
- The FDA recently posted FAQs on Ventilators, including questions and answers related to the Enforcement Policy on Ventilators and Ventilators added to the “Umbrella” EUA, which added to the existing FAQs on Public Availability (Open Sourcing) of Ventilator Software and Design.
- The FDA also recently posted FAQs on EUAs for Medical Devices During the COVID-19 Pandemic, including how to submit a request for a new EUA and what happens to authorized devices after the public health emergency is over.
- The FDA has posted a new “At-a-Glance Summary” that captures the agency’s major activities in the fight against COVID-19. The agency intends to regularly update this resource on efforts related to medical products and equipment, vaccines and therapeutics, food supply and more.
- The FDA issued guidance on clinical electronic thermometers that immediately went into effect. Fever is a common symptom of COVID-19 and clinical electronic thermometers are an important screening and diagnostic tool to assist in the identification of those individuals who may be infected with COVID-19. The policy set forth in the guidance may help expand the availability of clinical electronic thermometers to address this public health emergency.
- The FDA issued guidance on infusion pumps and accessories that immediately went into effect. The guidance aims to help ensure the availability of infusion pumps and accessories for patients who require continuous infusion of medications, nutrition, and other fluids and help foster technologies, such as remote capabilities, that maintain a safer physical distance between the health care provider and the patient.
- The FDA issued information and best practices for retail food stores, restaurants, and pick-up and delivery services during the pandemic to protect workers and customers. Many of these are smart food safety practices that employers can consider at any time. This information is being issued in two convenient formats.
 - The first is a factsheet on Best Practices for Retail Food Stores, Restaurants, and Food Pick-Up and Delivery Services During the COVID 19 Pandemic. This information addresses key considerations for how foods offered at retail can be prepared safely and delivered to the public, as well as key best practices for employee health and personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing.
 - The companion to the factsheet is a summary infographic that offers at-a-glance information on how to: Be Healthy, Be Clean; Clean & Disinfect; Social Distance and Pick-Up & Delivery.
 - **For additional information:**
 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 - Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 - Retail Food Protection
- **Diagnostics update to date:**
 - During the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has worked with more than 385 test developers who have said they will be submitting EUA requests to the FDA for tests that detect the virus.
 - To date, the FDA has issued 60 individual EUAs for test kit manufacturers and laboratories. In addition, 25 authorized tests have been added to the EUA letter of authorization for high complexity molecular-based laboratory developed tests (LDTs).
 - The FDA has been notified that more than 240 laboratories have begun testing under the policies set forth in our COVID-19 Policy for Diagnostic Tests for Coronavirus Disease-2019 during the Public Health Emergency Guidance.
 - The FDA also continues to keep its COVID-19 Diagnostics FAQ up to date.

- **Drug Enforcement Administration:**
 - At this time, DEA is not aware of any drug shortages related to inadequate quota or importation allowances of controlled substances.
 - DEA collaborated with HHS to put out an Request for Information (RFI) to determine which companies have the ability to address possible capacity issues and they are prepared to increase quotas and approve additional import requests. <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/f32a1c52a3ba4a05a321163c1fd96811/view>
 - DEA removed the 65% manufacturing cap for drug manufacturers. [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/GDP/\(DEA-DC-020\)\(DEA074\)%20COVID-19%20DEA%20bulk%20mnf%20quota%20%20\(final\)%20+esign%20a.pdf](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/GDP/(DEA-DC-020)(DEA074)%20COVID-19%20DEA%20bulk%20mnf%20quota%20%20(final)%20+esign%20a.pdf)
 - DEA issued an exception to separate registration requirements across state lines. DEA-registered practitioners are not required to obtain additional registration(s) with DEA in the additional state(s) where the dispensing (including prescribing and administering) occurs.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is studying the virus worldwide and helping communities respond locally. Check the CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) page for news and guidance.

- The CDC is awarding \$631 million to 64 jurisdictions using funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. These funds, along with the previous support CDC has provided, will help states with their efforts to reopen America.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has guidance for Medicare recipients and Medicare providers.

- (CMS) and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) released a new toolkit to help state and local healthcare decision makers maximize workforce flexibilities when confronting 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in their communities.

- **Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)** is developing new medical treatments and warns about Medicare, COVID-19 testing and treatment scams.
- **1-888-INFO-FDA** is the **FDA Hotline**—operating 24 hours a day—for finding supplies for testing or diagnostic developments.
- **1-800-CDC-INFO** is the public hotline for questions relating to anything CDC-related.
- **Hospice doctors and nurse practitioners** will now be able to conduct face-to-face encounters, previously required to be done by going into the patient's home, via telehealth instead. These are administrative check-in visits for hospice patients without any medical indication.
- **Diagnostic tests for COVID** will now be covered by private insurance without cost-sharing, including tests that haven't received an emergency use authorization from FDA (unless and until an EUA is specifically denied by FDA).
- For any plan year beginning on or before Dec. 31, 2021, health savings accounts (HSAs) can be used to pay for **telehealth services** even if the patient has no deductible for telehealth or other remote care.
- **Guidance for K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs:** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>)
- **Guidance for healthcare facilities:** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html>)
- **Administration for Community Living** offers information for older adults, and people with disabilities.
- **Food and Drug Administration** is working with the medical industry to develop vaccines, drugs, and diagnostic tests. For healthcare professionals, they offer FAQs about diagnostic testing.
- **National Institute on Drug Abuse** advice for people with substance use disorders.
- **National Institutes of Health** are researching COVID-19 treatments and a vaccine and posted updates on the grants process.

- Resources for higher risk populations: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/index.html>)

Small Business Administration (SBA)

“The Small Business Owner’s Guide to the CARES Act” – from the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship – A comprehensive guide to resources for small business owners provided under the CARES Act https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/9/7/97ac840c-28b7-4e49-b872-d30a995d8dae/F2CF1DD78E6D6C8C8C3BF58C6D1DDB2B.small-business-owner-s-guide-to-the-cares-act-final.pdf

Small Business Loan Checklist – provided by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce:

https://www.kychamber.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/023595_comm_corona_virus_smallbiz_loan_final.pdf

The Small Business Administration (SBA) will make the following support opportunities available to eligible persons. For more information, please visit www.sba.gov.

***The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board released supplemental guidance regarding the Paycheck Protection Program and Main Street Lending Program:

- [Interim Final Rule on Corporate Groups and Non-Bank and Non-Insured Depository Institution Lenders](#)
- [Federal Reserve Expands Access to its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility \(PPPLF\) to Additional Lenders, and Expands the Collateral that can be Pledged](#)
- [Federal Reserve Board Announces it is Expanding the Scope and Eligibility for the Main Street Lending Program](#)
- [Main Street Lending Program Frequently Asked Questions](#)

*** On April 24,2020, President Trump signed into law new emergency appropriations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds include:

- \$321B for the Paycheck Protection Program
- \$60B for Economic Injury Disaster Loan
 - Agricultural enterprises (i.e., farms) are now eligible.
- The SBA has a comprehensive list of loans available to small businesses impacted by coronavirus. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
- The **Paycheck Protection Program**, which offers loans for payroll support, such as employee salaries, paid sick or medical leave, insurance premiums, mortgage, rent, and utility payments.
 - ***To help small business owners better navigate the **Paycheck Protection Program**, the Small Business Administration released a document on April 8 answering **Frequently Asked Questions**, which can be reviewed [here](#).
 - ***The SBA announced that **faith-based non-profit organizations are now eligible for Paycheck Protection Program loans**. For more information, visit this [link](#).
- Additional financial awards to resource partners, such as **Small Business Development Centers** and **Women’s Business Centers**, to provide counseling, training, and education on SBA resources and business resiliency to small business owners affected by COVID-19.
- Borrowers could be eligible for loan forgiveness equal to the amount spent by the borrower during an 8-week period after the origination date of the loan on payroll costs, as well as mortgage and rent payments.
- Expanded eligibility for **Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) Grants**

- Advances of up to \$10,000 to be used for providing paid sick leave, maintaining payroll, meeting increased costs to obtain materials, making rent or mortgage payments, and repaying obligations that cannot be met due to revenue losses may be available.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.
- Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state's or territory's Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.
- Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities as well as updated on our website: [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster).
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance per small business and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.
- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.
- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.
- For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov
- Visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster) for more information.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Rapid Response Research (RAPID) Grants: The RAPID funding mechanism is used for proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of, or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment, including quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events.

- Application Guidelines can be found here:
https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf09_1/gpg_2.jsp#IID1

Department of Commerce

Federal Trade Commission

- Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding coronavirus and the FTC published guidelines on how to avoid them. For more information, visit https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing?utm_source=coronavirus

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program: MEP is a national network consisting of manufacturing extension partnership centers located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. MEP provides companies with services and access to public and private resources to enhance growth, improve productivity, reduce costs, and expand capacity.

- **Advantage Kentucky Alliance is MEP's Kentucky affiliate:** <http://www.advantageky.org/contact.html>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- **Financial Assistant to Fishery Participants:** provides direct financial assistance to all manner of fishers, fishery participants, and communities that have been affected by the coronavirus.
 - **Guidelines for applying:** A letter from a governor or an elected or politically-appointed representative of the affected fishing community (e.g., mayor, city manager, county executive) sent to the Secretary of Commerce requesting fisheries disaster assistance will begin the disaster evaluation process. The request letter should include a clear description of the affected fishery(s), including identification of all fish stocks, whether the fishery is federal, non-federal, or both, and the geographical boundaries of the fishery. The letter should also include information on causes and impacts needed to support a finding of a commercial fishery failure, harm incurred, or serious disruption of future production. NOAA Fisheries may request additional information from the requester to aid in the review.
 - Information on what constitutes a fishery disaster:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resources-fishing/frequent-questions-fishery-disaster-assistance>

Department of Labor (DOL)

Department of Labor has information for employers and workers on [preparing workplaces and responding to COVID-19 in the workplace](#).

- The U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of the first installment of 26 [Dislocated Worker Grants](#) (DWGs) totaling \$131,384,557 to help address the workforce-related impacts of the coronavirus public health emergency.
- Resources from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for employers and employees, including hazard recognition and workers' rights: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>
- Resources for employees and employers during public health emergencies: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>
- Background on the Administration's efforts on unemployment flexibility: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200312-0>
- An FAQ page for how to apply for unemployment insurance: <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/unemployment-insurance>
- Navigating worker's compensation during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.dol.gov/owcp/dfec/InfoFECACoverageCoronavirus.htm>
- Background and information on DOL and the Department of Agriculture's partnership to identify labor needs among H-2A employers: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/19/usda-and-dol-announce-information-sharing-assist-h-2a-employers>

Job Corps:

- Job Corps is establishing an extended spring break for all Job Corps centers from March 16 through at least April 14.
- All new enrollments will halt and Job Corps centers will arrange for the transportation of all students to their home of record or alternate destinations. Students experiencing homelessness will be either

placed into local temporary housing or can stay on-center. All students will continue to receive their Job Corps financial stipend.

- Staff will have the ability to telework and it is DOL's intent to use this time for staff development, continued applicant outreach, and student contacts
- During this break, the centers will be cleaned, sanitized and maintained.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- The **Department of Energy (DOE)**'s general website for coronavirus information: <https://www.energy.gov/coronavirus-hub>
- DOE has provided this resource to learn more about what DOE and its laboratories are doing to combat COVID-19. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/how-doe-and-our-labs-are-combating-covid-19>
- DOE, the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)**, and the **North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)** are working together to ensure the continued reliability of the U.S. energy grid. https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/03/f72/COVID-19_Release_DOE_FERC_NERC_0320_FINAL.pdf
- **Tennessee Valley Authority:** On Thursday, March 26, TVA is announced that it is leveraging its resources to support public power's ongoing mission of service to the Valley during these challenging times by doing the following:
 - TVA is providing up to \$1 billion in the form of need-based payment deferrals to all 154 local power companies to enable them to support their customers and communities.
 - As the regulator for local power companies, TVA is also providing these utilities with more flexibility to meet immediate customer needs. TVA will be allowing local power companies to suspend disconnections for customer non-payment and quickly adopt temporary policies and provisions through an expedited TVA review process.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

A comprehensive list of USDA actions and resources in response to COVID-19 can be found here (<https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>). Answers to frequently asked questions related to food safety, access to food, pet safety, USDA loans, and USDA service centers can all be found on that website.

*** On Tuesday, May 19, the USDA announced the final details of its **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**. The two-part program will (1) make direct payments to farmers, and (2) purchase dairy, meat, and produce from farmers and ship it to food banks and other non-profits. Starting **May 26**, farmers and ranchers can apply for aid, and USDA will start sending out checks as quickly afterward as one week. For more details about CFAP, [click here](#). To check eligibility requirements and for more information on how to apply, [click here](#). The USDA has set the application deadline as August 28, 2020.

*** Under the emergency appropriations signed into law on April 24, 2020, by President Trump, agricultural enterprises (i.e., farms) are now eligible under the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program.

H-2A/Agriculture Labor:

- The Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Foreign Labor Certification has issued a second round of COVID-19 related H-2A FAQ. The Round 2 FAQs address potential issues regarding the H-2A temporary

agricultural labor certification program. [View the Round 2 FAQs regarding COVID-19](#). These, along with other ongoing announcements, are being posted at www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a. Along with these DOL FAQs and State Department's additional interview waiver flexibilities previously announced, USDA continues to work specifically with DHS on flexibilities related to lawful presence and transfer of workers.

- On March 26, USDA, in conjunction with the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, announced consular officers, who process H-2 applications, have been authorized to expand the categories of H-2 visa applicants whose applications can be processed without an in-person interview. Consular officers can, if they choose, now waive the visa interview requirement for **both** first-time and returning H-2 applicants who have no apparent ineligibility or potential ineligibility. They anticipate this vast majority of otherwise qualified H-2 applicants will now be processed without an interview, though all applicants will undergo the same security checks. This action is temporary and will end no later than December 31, 2020. Farmers with may send questions about H-2A to the USDA via this email – AgLabor@usda.gov. USDA has also created an H-2A resource page - <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a>.
- **Farm Service Agency:** Farm Service Agency offices will remain open to serve producers in Kentucky, but services are available by phone appointment only. FSA is also relaxing the loan-making process for producers and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans. For more information about FSA services and changes in loans, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2020/fsa-makes-changes-to-farm-loan-disaster-conservation-and-safety-net-programs-to-make-it-easier-for-customers-to-conduct-business>
- **Meal Deliveries for Rural School Students:** USDA announced it will be partnering with private vendors to provide food boxes to rural students. The food delivery system will prioritize students who do not currently have access to an approved meal distribution site under the Summer Food Service Program and who live in an area with an active outbreak of coronavirus. For more information about the program or if you are a vendor or you know of vendors who would like to partner with USDA to provide meals, please reference USDA's press release (<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/03/17/usda-announces-feeding-program-partnership-response-covid-19>).
- **Farm Credit Administration:** FCA, an independent federal agency which oversees a network of government-backed lenders for the agriculture industry, has called on institutions to work with borrower whose operations are affected by COVID-19. FCA Board Chairman Glen Smith said lenders can extend the terms of loan repayments, restructure debt obligations, and ease some loan documentation terms for certain borrowers. <https://www3.fca.gov/news/Lists/News%20Releases/Attachments/606/NR-20-04-03-17-20.pdf>
- **Livestock Haulers – Hours of Service Exemption:** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, which is part of the Department of Transportation, has issued a temporary “hours of service” exemption to livestock haulers. The exemption will be effective until at least April 12. Drivers who desire to drive under this exemption are encourage to print out, read in its entirety, and keep a copy of the Expanded Emergency Declaration ([available here](#)) in their cab at all times. The Livestock Marketing Association received guidance from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation that all livestock movement fits these exemption definitions.
- **Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Pilot:** This program provides grants for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas. Apply here: <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>
- **Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program:** supports rural communities' access to telecommunications-enabled information, audio, and video equipment, as well as related advanced technologies for students, teachers, and medical professionals. Apply here: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>

Department of Education (ED)

The Department of Education (ED) has assembled a comprehensive list of information and resources for schools and school personnel, which can be found here (<https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?src=feature>).

- **Reopening Schools, Camps, and Child Care Facilities:** The CDC has issued interim guidance and tools to help schools, camps, and child care facilities in the reopening process.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
- **Student Loans:** Federal Student Aid has issued COVID-19 information for students, borrowers, and parents. <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus>
 - Per the CARES Act, the Department will be handling all actions related to suspension of student loan payments and setting the 0% interest administratively. *Borrowers do not have to do anything at this time.* Should they want to continue making payments, they may do so, but automatic payments will be stopped administratively so they would have to contact their servicer if they want to set them back up. The Department has updated its [student loan repayment information](#) to reflect passage of the CARES Act. The Department also has a [dedicated webpage for all our COVID-19 resources](#).
- **CARES Act Relief Funding to Institutions and Students:**
 - **The IRS issued guidance for students who received emergency financial aid under the CARES Act with concerns about tax treatment of the aid they received. If a student received emergency financial aid, it will **not** be considered earned income, and therefore will not be taxed. For more information, click [here](#).
 - The Department of Education released an announcement on April 9 regarding the release of the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Fund institution allocations and information on the 50% student side of HEER. This first wave of funding will provide assistance for students' housing, food, healthcare, technology, and course materials expenses.
 - To view the Department's press release, go here: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-rapidly-delivers-more-6-billion-emergency-cash-grants-college-students-impacted-coronavirus-outbreak>
 - For more information from the Secretary, as well as specific information on allocations to institutions, go here: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.
 - ***Recently, the Department of Education made an announcement regarding higher education funding under two provisions of the CARES Act.
 - Funding specifically for eligible Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), including HBCUs and Tribally Controlled Colleges; and
 - A small set-aside fund to ensure that every public and private non-profit institution receives at least \$500,000 in funding.
 - Here's the [link](#) to the Department's press release.
- **Serving Students with Disabilities and Protecting Students' Civil Rights:** ED released a webinar on ensuring accessibility for students with disabilities for schools utilizing online learning platforms in response to COVID-19. They also provide a fact sheet for educators and school administrators on how to protect students' civil rights as they take steps to keep students safe and secure.
<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-webinar-fact-sheet-protecting-students-civil-rights-during-covid-19-response>
- ED has developed guidance specific to the needs of both elementary and secondary schools, as well as institutions of higher education.
- **For the KIDS:** For parents and caregivers looking for ways to assist children with learning from home:
 - The **Smithsonian Institute** has multiple distance learning resources available for children of all ages: <https://learninglab.si.edu/distancelearning>

- **America's Public Television Stations** also has nationwide resources, including games and videos: <https://apts.org/news/station-stories/public-media-education-resources-in-response-covid-19-pandemic>
- **NASA:** NASA has tools available for students K-4 to channel their curiosity into STEM projects, which can be found here: <https://www.nasa.gov/stem-at-home-for-students-k-4.html>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Environmental Protection Agency has assembled a list of resources, including a list of disinfectants, as well as drinking water and wastewater information. <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

- To help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and contain its spread, the EPA is directing most of its employees across the country to telework.
- EPA's list of over disinfectant products to protect against the coronavirus can be found here (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>)
- The EPA has information on COVID-19 in several languages
 - <https://www.epa.gov/lep>
- **NOTE:** The COVID-19 virus **has not** been detected in drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. **Americans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual.** (<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Homeland Security (DHS) is engaged in a Department-wide, layered response to help limit the spread of the pandemic, maintain heightened security at our international borders, airports and seaports, and is providing operational support to its federal partners as well as state, local, tribal and territorial governments throughout the country.

Some items of note for Kentuckians:

- ****REAL ID Enforcement Deadline Postponed Until October 2021****
 - <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/26/acting-secretary-chad-wolf-statement-real-id-enforcement-deadline>
- The State Department is advising Americans to avoid all international travel: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>
- Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf issues instruction supplementing a decision issued on January 31, 2020, directing all flights from specified countries be routed through designated U.S. airports where the government is focusing public health resources. For a list of arrival restrictions due to coronavirus, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/notices-arrival-restrictions-coronavirus>
- The personnel office for the federal government has directed agencies to "minimize face-to-face interactions": <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-16.pdf>. As a result, as of March 17, all Social Security offices have closed: <https://www.ssa.gov/agency/emergency/>
- DHS is enforcing broad travel restrictions, and more may soon be added. If you must travel, you also may be subject to a health screening. Know before you go – familiarize yourself with the Centers for Disease Control's resource page for travelers at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.
- If you are currently visiting China, Iran, or Europe, or if you have visited China, Iran, or Europe at any point in the past two weeks, your travel will be affected by these restrictions and you will be asked to

take certain other precautions. For additional information, visit: https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/17/fact-sheet-dhs-notice-arrival-restrictions-china-iran-and-certain-countries-europe?utm_source=hp_slideshow&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=dhsgov.

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency is the lead agency in charge of the federal government's response to the pandemic, and their coronavirus page is being frequently updated with news, fact sheets, frequently asked questions and information on donating and volunteering: <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus>
- Some Transportation Security Administration field personnel have contracted the virus. TSA is publishing that information at: <https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus>.
- If you have an immigration-related matter scheduled with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, your appointment may have been suspended. For more information, visit <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>.
- DHS and the Federal Trade Commission are warning consumers to stay alert for online scams and other malicious cyber activity. You can view their guidelines for remaining secure on the Internet at: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing> and: <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/current-activity/2020/03/06/defending-against-covid-19-cyber-scams>.
- The U.S. Fire Administration has published some important guidance for first responders and law enforcement at: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/current_events/coronavirus.html.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Justice Assistance Grant Program: These funds will go directly to state and local governments, with no match required, and will support criminal justice needs related to coronavirus, including overtime for state, local, and tribal officers; personal protective equipment and supplies; and medical needs and other supplies for inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.

- Application guide: <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17277>

Fraud Protection: The DOJ is committed to fighting fraud conducted by criminals trying to take advantage of people during these times. For news on DOJ's efforts and to report fraud, visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>

Elder Justice Initiative: The DOJ's Elder Justice Initiative is providing information on where to report COVID-19 scams and resources for seniors to report elder fraud and abuse. For more information, visit this [link](#).

Department of the Interior (DOI)

- National Park superintendents are empowered to modify park operations, including closing facilities and cancelling programs, to address the spread of the coronavirus.
- DOI Secretary David Bernhardt has suspended all entrance fees to all National Park Service areas that plan to remain open. The suspension will remain in place until further notice. <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/statmentonparkscovid19.htm>

- The National Park Service (NPS) is taking extraordinary steps to implement the latest guidance from the White House, **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention** (CDC), and local and state authorities to promote social distancing. The NPS is modifying operations, until further notice, for facilities and programs that cannot adhere to this guidance. Where it is possible to adhere to this guidance, outdoor spaces will remain open to the public.
- Fish and Wildlife Services facilities are currently open to the public.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has assembled its COVID-19 resources and responses to FAQs here (<https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus>)

- Interim guidance for homeless service providers to plan and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Interim-Guidance-for-Homeless-Service-Providers-to-Plan-and-Respond-to-COVID-19.pdf>)
- COVID-19 FAQs for the Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) (including the Project-based Voucher Program (PBV)) and Native American Programs (https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/COVID19_FAQ_PIH_Final.pdf)
- To search for a HUD program most relevant to you, and a grantee in your area, please follow this link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/find-a-grantee/>

Federal Mortgage and Housing Assistance: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), HUD, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency just released a new website that consolidates federal mortgage and housing assistance all in one place. The link is: <https://www.cfpb.gov/housing>

- This joint website consolidates the CARES Act mortgage relief, protections for renters, resources for additional help, and information on how to avoid COVID-19 related scams. It also provides lookup tools for homeowners to determine if their mortgage is federally backed, and for renters to find out if their rental unit is financed by FHA, Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac.

In addition to the resources below, the **Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA)** has issued a FAQ sheet entitled “Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Assistance Options for Families Impacted by COVID-19.” This and other information is available at www.fhfa.gov/coronavirus.

- [Fannie Mae: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Help](#)
 - Use Fannie Mae’s [Loan Lookup Tool](#)
 - Or call 1-800-2FANNIE (1-800-232-6643)
- [Freddie Mac: Extending Help to Homeowners Impacted by COVID-19](#)
 - Use Freddie Mac’s [Loan Lookup Tool](#)
 - Or call 1-800-FREDDIE (1-800-373-3343)

Department of State (DOS)

- Information for Cruise Ship Passengers and Families:
 - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/cruise-ship-passengers.html>
- A country-by-country breakdown of COVID-19 information and status:

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID-19-Country-Specific-Information.html>
- FAQs for Americans returning from Europe:
 - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/presidential-proclamation--travel-from-europe.html>
- FAQs on the Global Travel Restriction for US Citizens:
 - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>

Department of Transportation (DOT)

- For comprehensive updates on the Department of Transportation's efforts to fight coronavirus, visit <https://www.transportation.gov/coronavirus>
- The Department of Transportation is working to expedite delivery of grocery and medical supplies. For more information, visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/connections/how-dot-helping-truckers-expedite-delivery-groceries-and-medical-supplies>.
- Secretary Chao posted information on how the federal government is working to keep public transit safe. <https://www.transportation.gov/connections/making-public-transit-safer-during-covid-19-outbreak>.

The **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** published information to help grantees and agencies prepare for COVID-19. <https://www.transit.dot.gov/coronavirus>

- **FTA Transit Infrastructure Grants:** For transit providers, including states and local governments across the country, for operating and capital expenses. To apply for a FTA Infrastructure Grant please follow this link: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/applying/new-applicants>
- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced **\$25 billion** in federal funding allocations to the transit industry following the President's signing of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act directs FTA to allocate funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus through the existing Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program, Rural Area Formula Grants Program, and the Tribal Transit Formula Grants Program.
- **The State of Kentucky will receive a total of \$ 133,301,695.**
- **For information regarding the funds Urbanized Areas (UZA) in your district and state will receive, [click here](#) to view the apportionment tables.**
- **The funding amount for each individual transit provider is a local decision.** By law, governors, generally through the state Department of Transportation, distribute FTA formula funds among recipients in rural and small urban areas. For large urban areas, governors select a Designated Recipient. The Designated Recipient then allocates funds within the Urbanized Area to specific transit agencies that then apply for and receive grants from FTA. This is all a normal part of the FTA formula grant process, so states and localities will follow a familiar process for making these decisions. Funds are apportioned directly to Tribes for the Tribal Transit Formula Grants Program.
- Funding will be provided at a 100 percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be available to support operating, capital and other expenses incurred beginning January 20, 2020. Operating expenses are eligible for all urban, rural and Tribal recipients, even those in large urban areas, and includes operating expenses to maintain transit services as well as pay for administrative leave for transit personnel due to reduced operations during the emergency are eligible.
- **Resources for Stakeholders and Grantees** - The FTA website provides multiple resources to help grantees in your state understand eligible expenses, program requirements, and receive grant funds.
 - [Resources on COVID-19/Coronavirus](#);

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) page](#);
- [Apportionment Tables](#) for states and Urbanized Areas to begin their planning processes.
- If grantees require further clarification or technical assistance, email questions to FTAresponse@dot.gov or contact [FTA regional office](#). FTA's regional offices continue to operate at full capacity and will provide grantees with any assistance necessary.