

## Andrea Messina

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**From:** Swonson, Bethany <Bethany.Swonson@fldoe.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 3:45 PM  
**Cc:** Ochs, Jared; Moya, Elizabeth; Fowler, Jessica  
**Subject:** FW: FYI Federal Updates: COVID-19 Important Resources

Dear Education Partners, and Legislators,

Here are some federal updates you may find interesting:

- **President Trump Signs H.R. 266 – Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act:** Friday, April 24, President Trump [signed the new legislation](#) into law to further assist American businesses, workers and healthcare providers. The legislation provides \$310 billion in additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), \$60 billion more for the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Disaster Loan Program, \$75 billion in funding for hospitals and healthcare providers, and \$25 billion to support our Nation’s testing efforts. Find more on the Paycheck Protection Program [here](#).
- **President Trump Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Revitalize Communities Hit Hard by the Coronavirus:** Wednesday, April 22, President Trump announced that the Administration is implementing a comprehensive strategy for distressed communities severely impacted by the coronavirus. Working with State and local leaders, the Administration will target resources to these communities and take other measures, including providing more support for community health care centers and expanding access to telehealth. The effort will be directed by the [White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council](#) led by House and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson.
- **U.S. Department of the Treasury Releases Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance:** Wednesday, April 22, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released guidance for State, Local, and Tribal Governments regarding the Coronavirus Relief Fund of the CARES Act. As stated by the legislation signed by President Trump on March 27, the use of funds “are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19).” The guidance document ([here](#)) and frequently asked questions ([here](#)) provide, in detail, examples of eligible and ineligible expenditures of the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund. You can find additional information about Assistance to State and local governments [here](#).
- **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again:** On Thursday, April 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled [new guidelines](#) ([download here](#)) for the reopening of America. Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The guidelines also set clear benchmarks on new cases, testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country.
- **Coronavirus Guidelines for America:** On Tuesday, March 31, the White House announced updated [Coronavirus Guidelines for America \(Español\)](#), extending social distancing efforts through April 30. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance recommending individuals wear cloth face coverings *in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain* (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies, particularly in areas of significant community-based transmission. On April 8, CDC also provided [guidelines](#) regarding when people in critical infrastructure roles can return to work after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Additional information on critical infrastructure below.
- **Up-To-Date Information:** The most up-to-date, verified information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website – [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent briefings, which can be viewed live [here](#).

- **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Primer:** Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. It is important that requests for assistance, including for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. Learn more about the response and recovery process via this important resource – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Response and Recovery Through Federal-State-Local-Tribal Partnership](#). FEMA’s public assistance guidance for COVID-19 response efforts can be found [here](#). Guidance for Tribal Governments can be found [here](#).
- **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidelines:** On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued updated [critical infrastructure guidance](#) in response to the COVID-19 emergency. DHS continues to work with stakeholders in the critical infrastructure community to update the advisory list if necessary as the Nation’s response to COVID-19 evolves. The guidance, and accompanying list, is intended to help State, local, tribal and territorial officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The list is advisory in nature and is not a federal directive or standard.
- **Rural Resource Guide:** USDA and Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses, and communities. USDA developed a [resource guide](#) for State, Local, and Tribal leaders, and other stakeholders.
- **Coronavirus Fact vs. Myth:** Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis. FEMA setup a [website](#) to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Fraud & Scam Protection:** The Department of Justice is remaining vigilant in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting wrongdoing related to the crisis. Find out how you can protect yourself and helpful resources on DOJ’s Coronavirus Fraud Prevention [website](#). The Federal Trade Commission has also established a [website](#) with helpful information to help consumers avoid coronavirus-related scams.
- **Social Media Resources:** Download the [Apple COVID-19 Screening Tool](#). Follow the White House on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Also follow HHS ([Twitter](#)) and CDC ([Twitter/Facebook](#)) You can also find informational videos from Coronavirus Task Force members on mitigation, social distancing, etc. on the White House’s [YouTube](#) page.
- **Mental Health Resources:** Natural disasters – including such pandemics as the coronavirus outbreak – can be overwhelming and also can seriously affect emotional health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 (or text TalkWithUs to 66746) – provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to anyone who is seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic. Learn more about the Disaster Distress Helpline [here](#).
- **Addiction & Substance Abuse Resources:** The COVID-19 pandemic has created countless challenges for those delivering care to our most vulnerable populations. People with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) are especially at high risk suffering complications from COVID-19. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which leads and coordinates the development, implementation, and assessment of U.S. drug policy, released a [fact sheet](#) that contains information on Federal actions to expand telemedicine and e-prescribing, to increase flexibility for treatment with methadone and buprenorphine, to improve access to prescribed controlled substances, and to expand assistance to rural areas.
- **Administration Actions and Federal Agency Resources:** USA.gov is cataloging all U.S. government activities related to coronavirus. From actions on health and safety to travel, immigration, and transportation to education, find pertinent actions [here](#). Each Federal Agency has also established a dedicated coronavirus website, where you can find important information and guidance. They include: Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)), Food and Drug Administration ([FDA](#)), Department of Education ([DoED](#)), Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)), Small Business Administration ([SBA](#)), Department of Labor ([DOL](#)), Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)), Department of State ([DOS](#)), Department of Veterans Affairs ([VA](#)), Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)), Department of Energy ([DOE](#)), Department of Commerce ([DOC](#)), Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)), Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)), Department of the Treasury ([USDT](#)), Internal Revenue Service ([IRS](#)), Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([ODNI](#)), and U.S. Election Assistance Commission ([EAC](#)).

Best,

Bethany

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