COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Resource Roadmap (Version 2.0)

This *COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Resource Roadmap* (Roadmap) was developed to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) leaders and 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 and certain ongoing annually funded federal programs, can be used to implement potential solutions. For more information on the structure of the Roadmap, see the COVID-19 Resource Roadmaps Overview.

Please note that this Roadmap is for general guidance purposes only and has been compiled with publicly available information or with information provided by sources that are publicly obtained. This should be viewed as only a starting point for navigating challenges and available resources. Additionally, the resources highlighted are available as of the date captured in the footer of the document and will be updated, as appropriate. The user should always directly consult the respective department or agency administering the federal program as the provider of a potential resource for current program information, as well as to verify whether proposed activities would be allowable under a particular program.

Navigating the Roadmap

The Roadmap is to assist in challenges that federal departments and agencies which work directly with SLTT partners have identified in delivering food and nutrition support. Although not an exhaustive list, the identified challenges that follow fall within three topic areas:

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

Tables for each topic area provide information on specific challenges, potential solutions, and federal department or agency resources, including federal funding and technical assistance which may be available. 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. This information can help inform decisions on how to apply funding to maximize resources and achieve recovery outcomes. Additional Resources and an Acronym and Agency Glossary can be found at the end of the document.

Although the solutions are general in nature, additional considerations may be necessary to support those 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.

FEMA

Challenge 1: Meeting Daily Nutrition Needs

Assistance to Populations Requiring Food and Nutrition Assistance: A variety of challenges have brought about an increased need for food assistance programs, including direct support to low and moderate income populations and community-based organizations.

Support for Vulnerable Populations: Vulnerable populations will have additional considerations as they are higher risk for COVID-19 complications, including the elderly.

For a list of specific federal department and agency names, review the Acronym and Agency Glossary at the end of the document.

The following universal funding resources are broadly applicable to the solutions presented for this topic area:

- Coronavirus Relief Fund (Treasury)
- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Treasury)[1]
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (USDA/FNS)

Solution-specific funding resources are detailed in the table below.

Department/Agency	Program	Program Delivery Details					
		Assistance to Populations Requiring Food and Nutrition Assistance		Support for Vulnerable Populations	Funds to SLTT[1]	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory / Regulatory Flexibility Provided
		Direct Support to Low and Moderate Income	Support to Community-Based Organizations	Support to Elderly Populations			
Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)	Corporation for National and Community Service		✓				
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Emergency Food and Shelter Program		✓			✓	
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Public Assistance – Category B Emergency Protective Measures		✓		✓		✓
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Farmers to Families Food Box Program (AMS)	✓	✓			✓	New Program

[1] Although guidance for the program is under development, the Roadmap was developed with the assumption that the funding provided will have similar flexibilities provided under the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Visit the Treasury website for the latest information on specific eligible activities and program requirements.

Department/Agency	Program	Program Delivery Details					
		Assistance to Populations Requiring Food and Nutrition Assistance		Support for Vulnerable Populations	Funds to SLTT[1]	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory / Regulatory Flexibility Provided
		Direct Support to Low and Moderate Income	Support to Community-Based Organizations	Support to Elderly Populations			
	Child Nutrition Programs (FNS)	✓			✓		New Program
	Commodity Supplemental Food Program (FNS)			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Coronavirus Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) (FNS)	✓			✓		
	Disaster Household Distribution (FNS)	✓				✓	✓
	Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FNS)	✓			✓		✓
	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (FNS)	✓			✓		
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (FNS)	✓		✓	✓		✓
	The Emergency Food Assistance Program (FNS)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program (RD)			✓	✓	✓	
U.S. Department of Education (ED)	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund		✓				New Program
	Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund		✓				New Program
	Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	✓					New Program
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Community Services Block Grant (ACF)		✓		✓		✓
	Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program (ACF)	✓			✓		
	Aging & Disability Nutrition Services Programs (ACL)			✓	✓		
	Congregate and Home-Delivered Nutrition Programs (ACL)			✓		✓	

Department/Agency	Program	Program Delivery Details					
		Assistance to Populations Requiring Food and Nutrition Assistance		Support for Vulnerable Populations	Funds to SLTT[1]	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory / Regulatory Flexibility Provided
		Direct Support to Low and Moderate Income	Support to Community-Based Organizations	Support to Elderly Populations			
	Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs (ACL)			✓	✓		
	Services for Native Americans – Nutrition and Supportive Services (ACL)			✓		✓	
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	Community Development Block Grant		✓		✓		✓
	Indian Community Development Block Grant		✓		✓		✓
U.S. Department of the Treasury	Coronavirus Relief Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓		New Program
	State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓		New Program

[1] State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Organizations.

Technical Assistance Resources

Potential Solutions to Consider	Technical Assistance Resources
Support to community-based organizations	• Food Safety and Emergencies: Preparedness Activities for Schools (ED) • Considerations for Community-Based Organizations (CDC)

Additional Guidance for Meeting 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).

The FEMA fact sheet Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Purchase and Distribution of Food Eligible for Public Assistance provides additional information on COVID-19-related food distribution policy.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025 provides advice on what to eat and drink to meet nutrient needs, promote health, and help prevent chronic disease. This edition of the Dietary Guidelines is the first to provide guidance for healthy dietary patterns by life stage, from birth through older adulthood, including women who are pregnant or lactating.

Additional guidance on nutrition assistance for vulnerable populations supported by the American Rescue Plan Act can be found at:

- USDA Expands Nutrition Assistance for Seniors Amid Pandemic with American Rescue Plan Funding

- USDA to Provide Critical Nutrition Assistance to 30M+ Kids Over the Summer

Additional information on some of the funding programs listed in the table above can be found at the following links:

- Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund FAQs

- FEMA COVID-19 Fact Sheets and Guidance

- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund FAQs

- Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program – Important Home Visiting Information During COVID-19

- WIC COVID-19 Waivers

- Tribal Nation COVID-19 Waivers & Flexibilities

Challenge 2: 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. Food supply interruptions specific to the protein industry are also compounded by carbon dioxide (CO_2) refrigerant shortages associated with idled ethanol plants driven by demand reduction.

For a list of specific federal department and agency names, review the Acronym and Agency Glossary at the end of the document.

The following universal funding resources are broadly applicable to the solutions presented for this topic area:

- Coronavirus Relief Fund (Treasury)
- Economic Injury Disaster Loan (SBA)
- Farmers to Families Food Box Program (USDA/AMS)
- Farm Service Agency Loans (USDA/FSA)
- Paycheck Protection Program (SBA)
- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Treasury)[2]

Solution-specific funding resources are detailed in the table below.

Department/Agency	Program	Program Delivery Details					
		Support to Agricultural Producers and Fisheries	Support to Food Processors	Support for Food Distribution	Funds to SLTT[1]	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory / Regulatory Flexibility Provided
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Pandemic Assistance for Producers	✓				✓	New Program
	Farmers to Families Food Box Program (AMS)	✓	✓	✓		✓	New Program
	Micro-Grants for Food Security Program (AMS)	✓			✓		

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[2] Although guidance for the program is under development, the Roadmap was developed with the assumption that the funding provided will have similar flexibilities provided under the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Visit the Treasury website for the latest information on specific eligible activities and program requirements.

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Department/Agency	Program	Support to Agricultural Producers and Fisheries	Support to Food Processors	Support for Food Distribution	Funds to SLTT[1]	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory / Regulatory Flexibility Provided
	Disaster Household Distribution (FNS)			✓		✓	✓
	Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (FSA)	✓			✓		New Program
	Farm Service Agency Loans[2] (FSA)	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program[2] (NRCS)	✓				✓	
	Federal Crop Insurance Corporation[2] (RMA)	✓				✓	
U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)	Economic Adjustment Assistance (EDA)	✓				✓	
	Fisheries Assistance (NOAA)	✓			✓		
U.S. Department of the Treasury	Coronavirus Relief Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓		New Program
	State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓		New Program
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)	Economic Injury Disaster Loan	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Paycheck Protection Program	✓	✓	✓		✓	New Program

[1] State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Organizations
[2] Items that may provide assistance but are not funded by COVID-19 supplemental appropriations.

Technical Assistance Resources

The CDC's Guidance for Workplaces applies to all solutions presented for this topic area. Additional solution-specific technical assistance resources are detailed in the chart below.

Potential Solutions to Consider	Technical Assistance Resources
Support to agricultural producers and fisheries	• Economic Research Service on Farm Labor (USDA/ERS) • Agriculture Workers and Employers: Interim Guidance from CDC and the U.S. Department of Labor (CDC)
Support to food processors	• Guidance for Meat Poultry Processing Workers and Employers (CDC) • Guidance for Protecting Seafood Processing Workers from COVID-19 (CDC) • Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (CDC)
Support for food distribution	• Resources for Food Loss and Waste (USDA) • Shopping for Food During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Information for Consumers (FDA)

Additional Guidance for Securing the 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 USDA Risk Management Agency COVID-19 Response page provides answers to frequently asked questions on COVID-19 agricultural considerations.

The 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. Additional Assistance FAQs for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provide specific information on eligibility and payment calculations for that program.

The EPA Local Foods, Local Places Toolkit may provide additional information on community resiliency to further strengthen local food distribution systems. EPA also offers resources to address food loss and waste:

- Sustainable Management of Food

- Sustainable Management of Food During COVID-19

Additional information related to businesses and economic considerations can be found in the following resources:

- Coronavirus Relief Options (SBA)

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Frequently Asked Questions (EDA)

Challenge 3: Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets[3]

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. For a list of specific federal department and agency names, review the Acronym and Agency Glossary at the end of the document.

The following universal funding resources are broadly applicable to the solutions presented for this topic area:

- Coronavirus Relief Fund (Treasury)

- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Treasury)[4]

Solution-specific funding resources are detailed in the table below.

Department/Agency	Program	Program Delivery Details				
		Support Business Vitality	Promote Safety to Enhance Dine-In Options	Funds to SLTT[1]	Direct Assistance to Program Providers	Statutory / Regulatory Flexibility Provided
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Pandemic Assistance for Producers	✓			✓	New Program
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	Community Development Block Grant	✓		✓		✓
U.S. Department of the Treasury	Coronavirus Relief Fund	✓	✓	✓		New Program
	State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund	✓	✓	✓		New Program
	State Small Business Credit Initiative	✓		✓		New Program
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)	Economic Injury Disaster Loan	✓			✓	
	Paycheck Protection Program	✓			✓	New Program
	Restaurant Revitalization Fund	✓	✓		✓	New Program

[1] State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Organizations.

[3] Note: "Food Outlet" refers to any business involved in the preparation and/or sale of food and beverages mainly for consumption off-premises.
[4] Although guidance for the program is under development, the Roadmap was developed with the assumption that the funding provided will have similar flexibilities provided under the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Visit the Treasury website for the latest information on specific eligible activities and program requirements.

Technical Assistance Resources

Potential Solutions to Consider	Technical Assistance Resources
Support business vitality	• Food Supply Chain (USDA)
Promote safety to enhance dine-in options	• Workplaces and Businesses: Plan, Prepare, and Respond (CDC) • Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (CDC) • Considerations for Restaurant and Bar Operators (CDC) • Best Practices for Re-Opening Retail Food Establishments During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Food Safety Checklist (FDA)

Additional Guidance for Supporting Restaurants and Other Food Outlets

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.

The EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program recommends that take-out service containers, cutlery, and dishware meet the Biodegradable Products Institute certification to support waste management goals and ensure PFAS-free food contact products.

SBA offers additional Coronavirus Relief Options for businesses.

Additional Resources

The FEMA policy *COVID-19 Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim)* explains current policy details and requirements for determining the eligibility of safe opening and operation work and costs under the PA Program. This program may be applicable to several challenges stakeholders face when addressing food and nutrition needs.

For more information on PA Program eligibility, see *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim)*.

For general information related to food safety and environmental health, see EPA Frequent Questions Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

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