

Weekly Federal COVID-19 Updates

The Federal government continues to take actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, working to ensure the health and wellbeing of citizens across the country. This week, numerous federal agencies have implemented new initiatives to support communities hit hard by the virus.

Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration Work to Strengthen Food Supply

In an effort to mitigate and prevent further disruption to the nation's food supply during the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide collaboration between the two agencies. The MOU is an important step as these agencies work together to ensure operations within the food supply chain, such as processing and packaging facilities, continue to operate smoothly while practicing CDC recommendations for protecting workers and preventing further spread of the virus.

To read the full MOU, [click here](#)

For more information and COVID-19 resources from the USDA, visit their website at usda.gov/coronavirus.

For more information and COVID-19 resources from the FDA, see their [official coronavirus web page](#).

Health Resources and Services Administration Allocates \$225 Million to Rural Health Clinics

This week, the Health Resources and Services Administration announced the funding \$225 million to rural health clinics across 45 states to support COVID-19 testing efforts. Over 4,500 clinics received funds, with each clinic receiving just under \$50,000.

To see the state-by-state breakdown of these funds, visit the [webpage on the HRSA website](#).

For more information and resources from HRSA, visit their website at hrsa.gov.

Centers for Disease Control Announce Funding for Tribes

As part of the funding appropriated under the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has announced noncompetitive grants to support tribal communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are designed to quickly and effectively increase access to public health resources across tribal communities to deal with the virus.

To learn more about these grants, see the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

For more information and resources on COVID-19 from the CDC, [visit their website](#).

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Issue Guidance for Reopening Nursing Homes

As nursing homes and other long-term care facilities still struggle to provide needed services while protecting staff and vulnerable residents, the reopening of many states has created questions about where these facilities fit in these plans. This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have issued new guidance for state governments and care facilities on how to safely reopen under President Trump's *Opening Up America Again* framework.

For more information on nursing home guidance, see the [official CMS press release](#).

To learn more about how CMS has responded to COVID-19, [visit their website](#).

Department of Agriculture Expands Funding for Rural Businesses and Ag Producers

The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program announced an additional \$20,500,000 in available funding for rural businesses and ag producers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds were authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and are designed to support these businesses amid the economic downturn resulting from the ongoing pandemic.

For more information on this funding opportunity, see the [notice in the Federal Register](#).

For more information and COVID-19 resources from the USDA, visit their website at usda.gov/coronavirus.