COVID-19 Education Resource Roadmap

The purpose of the *COVID-19 Education 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:

- Public Health Support
- Facility Modifications
- Virtual Learning
- Operations and Personnel
- Other Services to Children and Families

> "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**

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.

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

[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

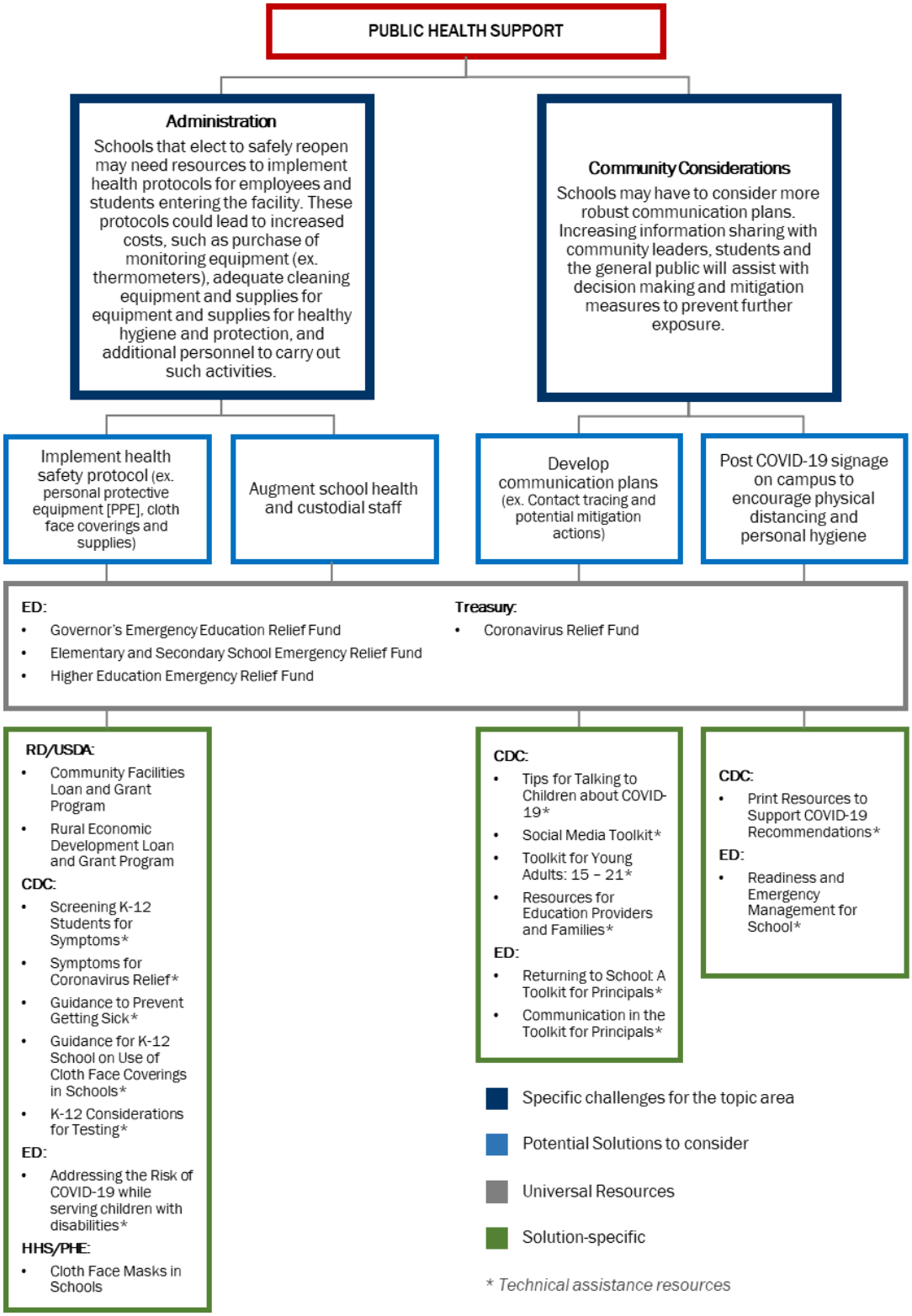
washing, or distancing.[2] Additionally, schools may need to consider extra precautions for students, teachers, and staff who may be considered high risk because of known conditions such as respiratory compromise, diabetes, or advanced age. Finally, entities that use federal funds to support COVID-19 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. Public Health Support



Note: HHS Public Health Emergency (PHE) Cloth Face Masks in Schools program supports safe school reopening by providing cloth face masks to states for distribution to schools.

Figure 2. Facility Modifications

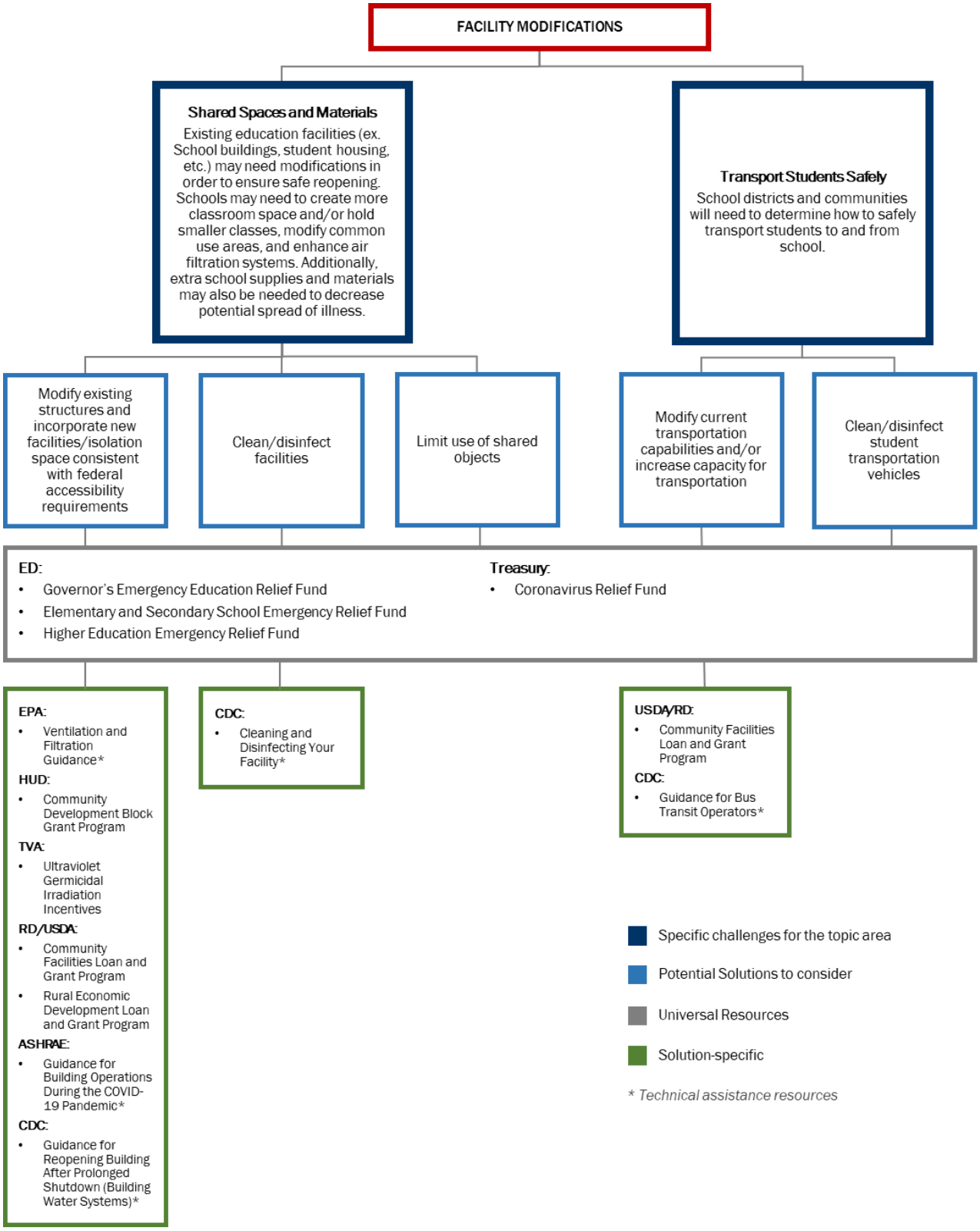
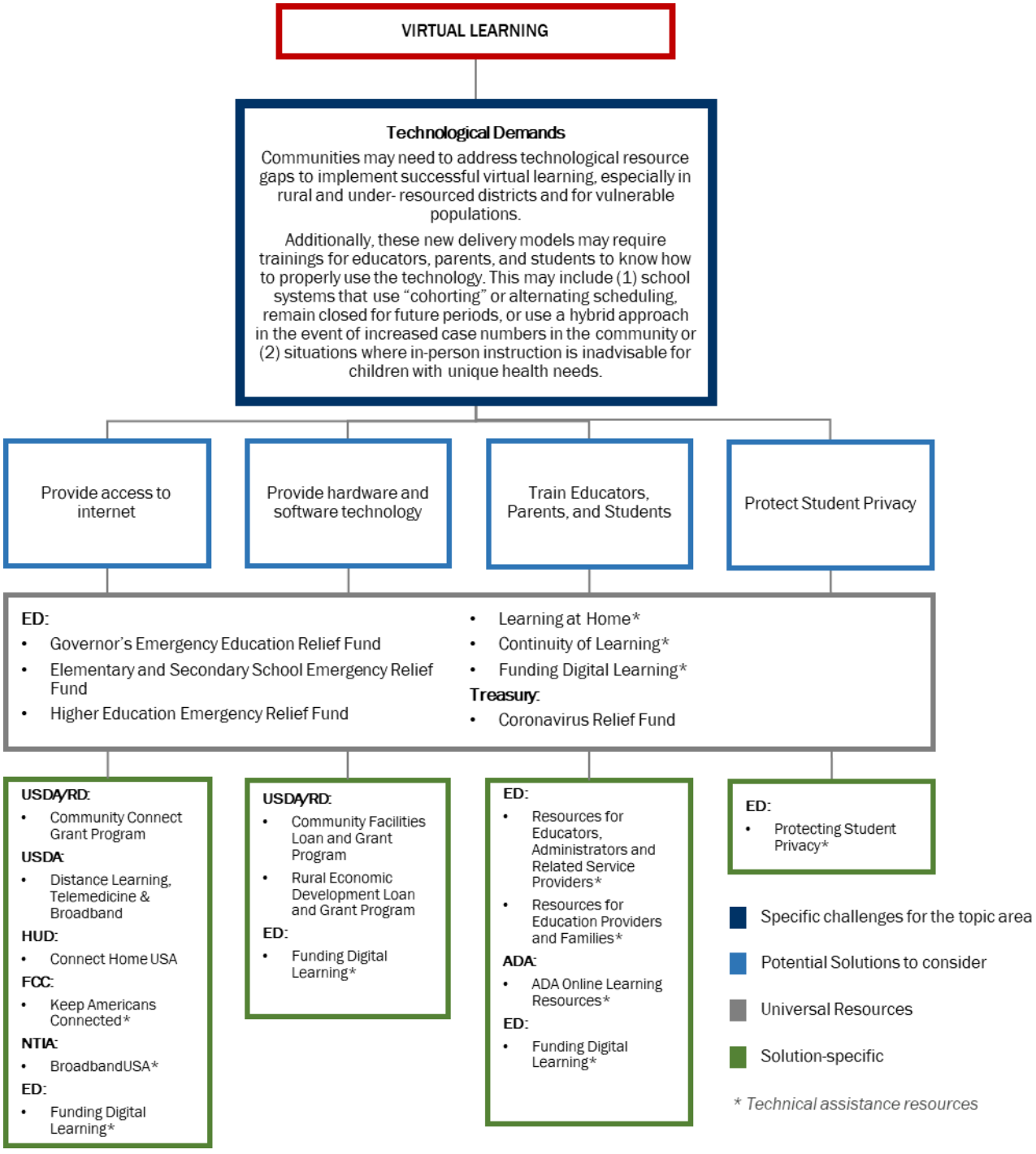


Figure 3. Virtual Learning



Note: The FCC's "Keep Americans Connected" pledging period has passed, but resources are still available.

Figure 4. Operations and Personnel

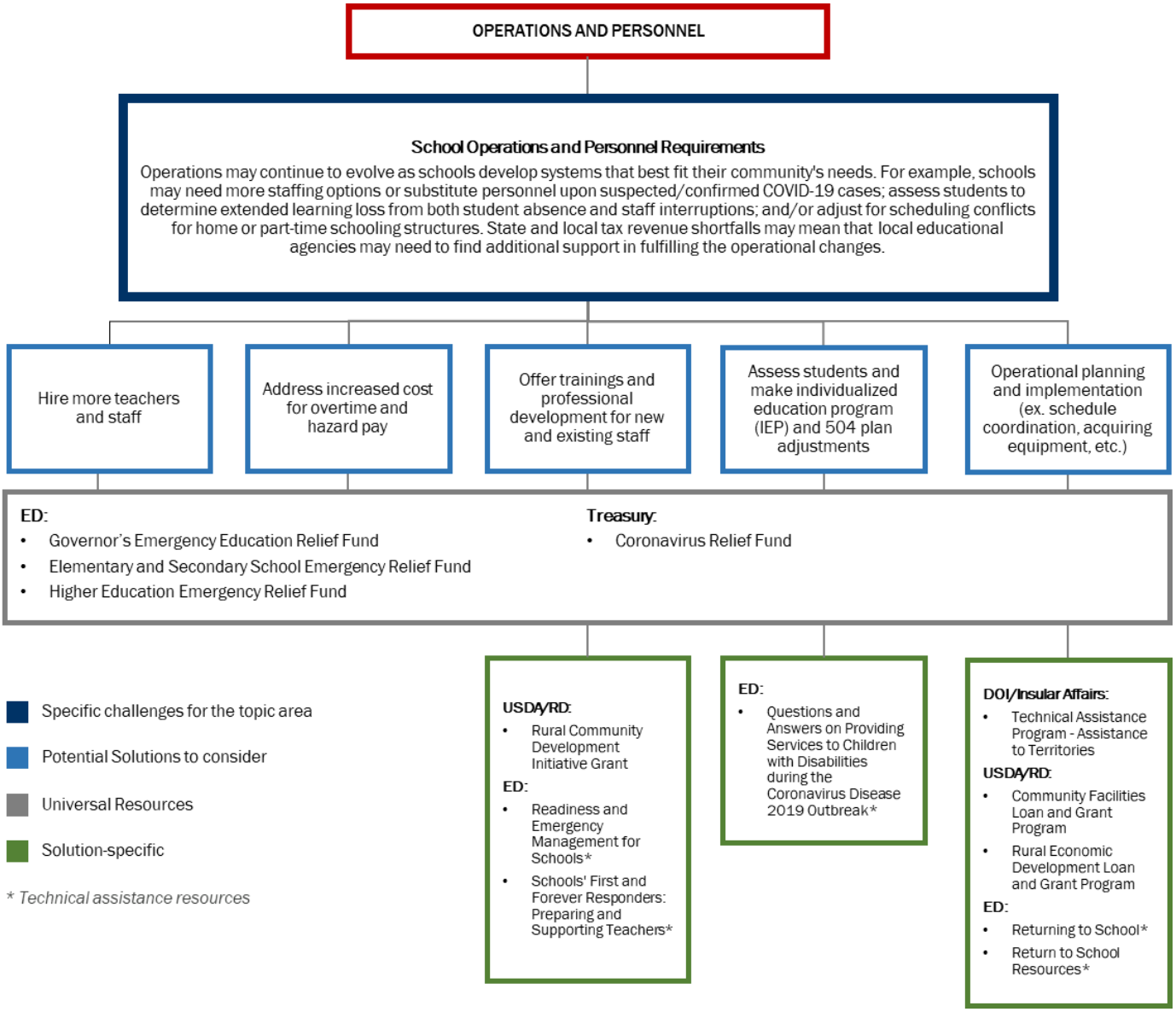
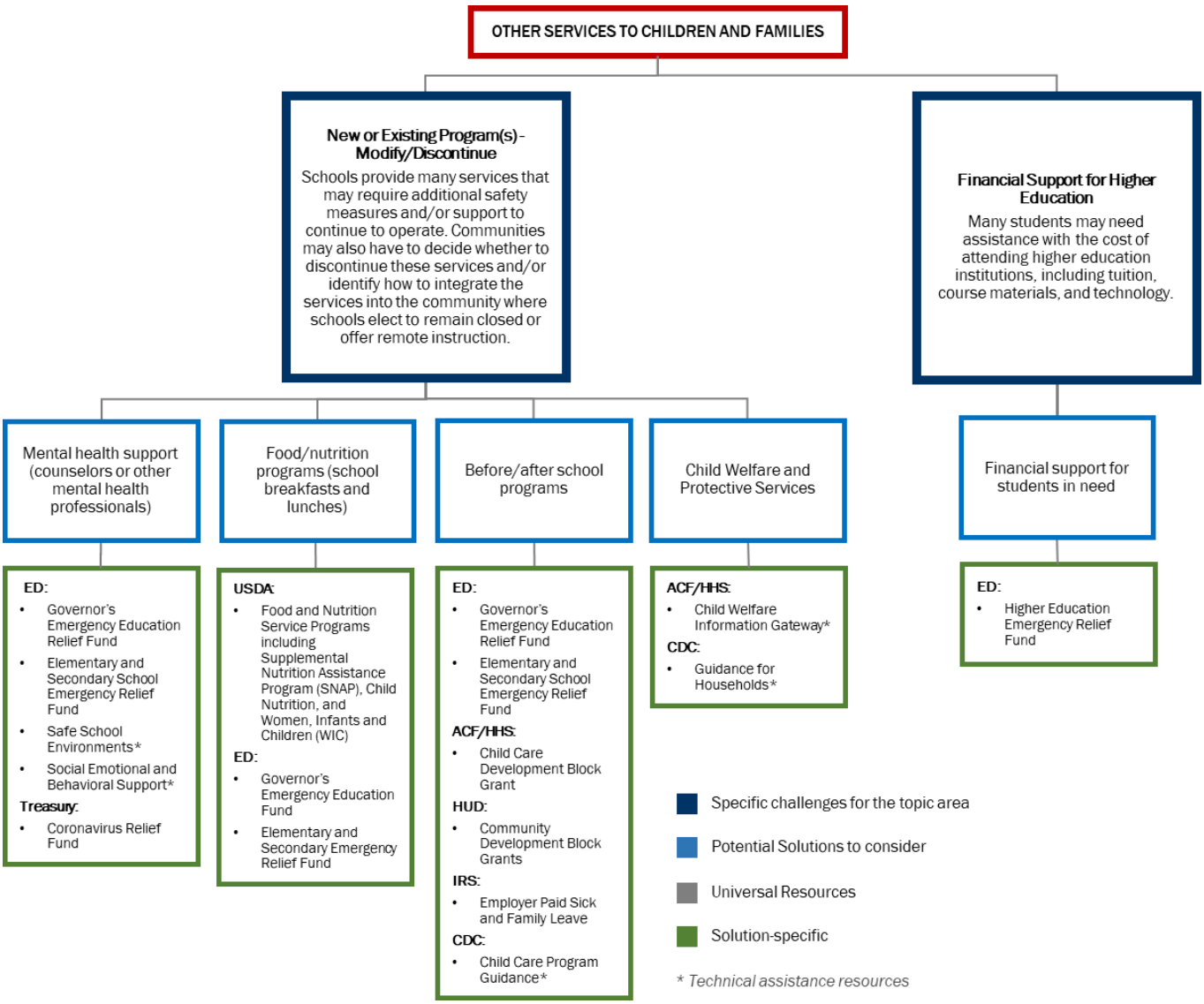


Figure 5. Other Services to Children and Families



Funding Index

Program	Program Delivery			Challenge					Additional Information
	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to SEA/LEA/IHE**	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Public Health Support	Facility Modifications	Virtual Learning	Operations and Personnel	Other Services	Links to Program Websites
Child Care Development Block Grant (HHS/ACF)		✓		✓				✓	ACF Child Care COVID-19 Resources
Community Connect Grant Program (USDA/RD)*		✓		✓		✓			Community Connect Grants Website
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) (HUD)	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	CDBG Website: CDBG-CV Website

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

**State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLLT) organizations (such as State/Local Administration, Local Housing Agencies, etc.) other than State education agency (SEA), local education agency (LEA), and Institution of Higher Education (IHE)

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Connect Home USA (HUD)*		✓		✓		✓			Connect Home USA Website
Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) (Treasury)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			CRF Website; CRF FAQs
Distance Learning, Telemedicine & Broadband Program (USDA)	✓		✓			✓			Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants Website
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) (ED)[3]		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	ESSERF Website; ESSERF FAQs

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[3] ESSERF requires a local educational agency (LEA) that receives funds to provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools. These funds are not intended for all public health costs, but those to help schools and districts (as presented in Figures 1-5). The SEA can set aside up to 10% for state-level activities, which can be awarded to SLTTs.

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	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to SEA/LEA/IHE**	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Public Health Support	Facility Modifications	Virtual Learning	Operations and Personnel	Other Services	Links to Program Websites
Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF) (ED)[4]	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	GEERF Website: GEERF FAQs
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) (ED)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	HEERF Website
IRS Paid Sick and Paid Family Leave-Employer Tax Credits (IRS)		✓		✓				✓	IRS COVID-19 Tax Credits: DOL COVID-19 Paid Leave FAQs

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[4] GEERF requires a local educational agency (LEA) that receives funds to provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools.

Program	Program Delivery			Challenge					Additional Information
	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to SEA/LEA/IHE**	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Public Health Support	Facility Modifications	Virtual Learning	Operations and Personnel	Other Services	Links to Program Websites
Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (USDA/RD)*		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Website
Technical Assistance Program – Assistance to Territories	✓						✓		Technical Assistance Program and TAP COVID-19 page Website
Ultraviolent Germicidal Irradiation Incentives (TVA)*		✓		✓	✓				TVA Incentives Guide

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UPCOMING

Program	Program Delivery			Challenge					Additional Information
	Funds to SLTT**	Direct Assistance to SEA/LEA/IHE**	Funding Allocated as of 7/15/20	Public Health Support	Facility Modifications	Virtual Learning	Operations and Personnel	Other Services	Links to Program Websites
CARES Act Project SERV (ED)		✓				✓		✓	CARES Act Project SERV Website

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*State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLLT) organizations (such as State/Local Administrations, Local Housing Agencies, etc.) other than State education agency (SEA), local education agency (LEA), and Institution of Higher Education (IHE)

Technical Assistance

General

Through collaboration and coordination, State and local educational agencies and schools are able to disseminate critical information about COVID-19 and how it can be potentially transmitted to students, families, staff, and community. The U.S. Department of Education maintains helpful resources for K-12 schools, institutions of higher education, stakeholders, families and others at the following links:

- COVID-19 Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel
- Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Institute of Education Sciences, which provides Evidence-Based Resources and guidance about teaching and learning in a remote environment
- Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
    - Office of Special Education Programs
- Office of Educational Technology
- Student Privacy Policy Office

With respect to specific CARES Act funding, the Department maintains key information here: CARES Act Emergency Relief.

In recent months and in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Department has granted waivers of key provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as well as published FAQs and Responses addressing aspects of the ESEA, the Higher Education Act, and Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Career, Technical and Adult Education, and Civil Rights.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintains important information on how to respond to COVID-19, among other things, through its Considerations for Schools.

With respect to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), it too has developed guidance to support the recovery and opening of schools in tribal communities. The BIE's COVID-19 page provides relevant updates regarding school openings and related matters. The CARES Act page outlines planning for distribution and use of CARES Act funding.

For additional information on schools' civil rights responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights has provided two fact sheets: the March 16, 2020 Fact Sheet and the March 21, 2020 Fact Sheet. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights developed an assistance document for postsecondary education institutions.

Technical assistance centers offer general support, which include:

- Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS)
- National Center on Safe Supporting Learning Environments
- Comprehensive Centers

Public Health Support

The CDC offer several resources to support public health and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

For general COVID-19 information, please visit:

- Symptoms for Coronavirus
- Guidance to Prevent Getting Sick
- Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives

For screenings students and testing considerations, please visit:

- Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19
- K-12 Considerations for Testing COVID-19
- Higher Education Considerations for Testing for COVID-19

For information on cloth face coverings, including challenges that educational settings may face using cloth face coverings, the CDC offers Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on Use of Cloth Face Coverings in Schools.

If schools wish to share CDC information through social media or signage, there is both a Social Media Toolkit and Print Resources to Support COVID-19 Recommendations. Additionally, Tips for Talking to Children about COVID-19 provides messages to help adults have conversations with children about COVID-19.

Facility Modifications

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, schools should consider the following with regards to cleaning and disinfecting:

- Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Against COVID-19 (CDC)
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility (CDC)
- Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19 (EPA)

In addition to cleaning facilities, air ventilation and filtration systems will help prevent the spread of the disease. The Environmental Protection Agency's Ventilation and Filtration Guidance provides information to help reduce risks from the virus that causes COVID-19. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers has also published Guidance for Building Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Given that school buildings may have gone unused for several months, building water systems may need additional evaluation to ensure no microbial hazards are present. By reviewing CDC Guidance for Reopening Building After Prolonged Shutdown (Building Water Systems), building operators can ensure the safety of occupants and building water systems and devices.

In planning student transportation, schools and school bus operations will have additional considerations and may utilize CDC Guidance for Bus Transit Operators, which discusses Workplace Health and Safety planning, hazard controls, administrative controls, and Personal Protective Equipment.

Virtual Learning

The Department of Education has collected resources on Resources for Learning at Home, and the Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO)'s Family Educational Rights and Privacy ACT (FERPA) and Virtual Learning Resource List. The Department of Education will also be releasing a forthcoming Parent and Family Digital Learning Guide.

The Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) has resources for teachers, districts, states, parents and families, and schools on Continuity of Learning despite disruptions. For virtual learning, Learning at Home technical assistance resources are available for teachers, states, parents and families, schools, and colleges. Additional Federal Resources for Learning at Home are also available, with information from a number of Federal agencies.

The Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) IDEAS That Work provides resources to implement initiatives that address provisions from the IDEA and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This includes a database of resources for continuity of learning during COVID-19 such as strategies for online learning during a COVID-19 outbreak, recommendations for parent engagement, and a webinar on online education and website accessibility. In addition, OSEP provides a webinar on Resources and Practices to Support Back to School and Continuity of Learning During COVID-19.

The Federal Communications Commission has announced the Keep Americans Connected initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which promotes broadband and telephone connectivity.

The Keep Calm and Connect All Students blog series, produced by the Department of Education Office of Educational Technology (OET), will share reflection questions, highlight promising solutions, and describe effective practices in a concise, readable, and actionable way.

Operations and Personnel

In preparing to reopen and for continued school operations, planners have several resources and technical assistance centers available to guide their decisions. Please visit Returning to School for more information, as well as the featured technical assistance centers:

- Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools
- Schools' First and Forever Responders: Preparing and Supporting Teachers
- Return to School Resources

Other Services to Children and Families

For stress management information, please visit the CDC resources on coping with stress:

- Guidance on Coping with Stress
- How to Cope with Job Stress

For child care programs that remain open, Child Care Program Guidance offers supplemental guidance for program providers. The Head Start Community can find COVID-19 related resources and updates as well at the Head Start COVID-19 page. Families can also visit CDC Guidance for Households for information on protecting your household from COVID-19. The U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) offers extensive literature on child welfare issues through the Child Welfare Information Gateway.

General information on student and school safety is available at Safe School Environments. Additionally, Social Emotional and Behavioral Support provides resources for parents and families, educations and schools, and districts, as well as technical assistance centers and center collaborations.

The Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), in partnership with the Center for Parent Information and Resources, has developed 4 Resources to Support Students During the Pandemic for teachers and families to support their students and children in distance learning environments to promote students' social and emotional growth and to create safe, predictable, and positive education settings during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The IRIS Center has provided a module based online resource for parents to support their children's learning during COVID-19. Key elements of this resource include an overview of the challenge parents are facing supporting their children's education during COVID-19 and a list of additional COVID-19 education references and resources.

Special Considerations

Students with disabilities may require additional considerations. For additional information, please visit the Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services website in which many of the resources are equally applicable for all children and their families. The OESE also offers information on Supporting Special Populations. The National Center for Systematic Improvement has a COVID-19 Resource Hub, which includes additional information for Birth-Five COVID-19 Response and COVID-19 parent center links. The Office of Special Education Programs provides a repository of several federal resources for stakeholders through the IDEAS that Work website regarding Continuity of Learning During COVID-19 to meet the educational, behavioral, and emotional needs of children and youth with disabilities through remote and virtual learning. The Department of Education provides several guidance documents concerning services for children, students, and individuals with disabilities in the COVID-19 environment including the Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the COVID-19 Outbreak document.

Concerning online education accessibility, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) offers a Short Webinar on Online Education and Website Accessibility Webinar- VIDEO.

For more information regarding English Learners, please see the Department of Education's Fact Sheet on Providing Services to English Learners during the COVID-19 Outbreak, which outlines States' responsibilities to English Learners (ELs) and their parents. In addition, the National Clearing House for English Language Acquisition provides a link for resources to support English language learners (ELLs) through online learning, such as a fact sheet for providing services to ELLs during COVID-19 and critical concepts in distance learning for multilingual learners.

Amidst concerns of potential discrimination against persons perceived to be of Chinese American or Asian descent, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights wrote a letter to education leaders on Preventing and Addressing potential discrimination associated with COVID-19.

For State educational agencies (SEAs) and local operating agencies (LOAs) experiencing challenges in conducting Title 1, Part C – Migrant Education Program (MEP) activities, please see the May 11, 2020 Fact Sheet: Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 While Serving Migratory Children.

Additional ED resources will be provided on COVID-19 Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel as they become available.

For general questions about HEERF funding and resources, e-mail HEERF@ed.gov.

For state-specific ESSERF or GEERF questions, email the Office of State and Grantee Relations at State.OESE@ed.gov (Ex: Maine.OESE@ed.gov).

All other inquiries concerning ED funding and response for the COVID-19 pandemic should be directed to COVID-19@ed.gov .

Acronym and Agency Glossary

504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
COVID-19	Coronavirus
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DOL	U.S. Department of Labor
ED	U.S. Department of Education
EL	English Learner
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
HHS/ACF	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IES	Institute of Education Sciences
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
LEA	Local Education Agencies
LOA	Local Operating Agencies
MEP	Migrant Education Program
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
OCR	Office for Civil Rights
OESE	Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
OET	Office of Educational Technology
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
OSERS	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
PHE	Public Health Emergency
PPE	Personal Protection Equipment
SEA	State Education Agencies

SLTT	State, Local, Tribal and Territorial
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SPPO	Student Privacy Policy Office
Treasury	U.S. Department of Treasury
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
USDA/RD	U.S. Department of Agriculture / Rural Development
WIC	Women, Infants and Children