



Office of the Regional Director

HHS REGION 4

HHS Region 4 Health News – March 16, 2020

For the most current information about COVID-19, please follow CDC on social media and sign up for the newsletter to receive weekly emails about the COVID-19 outbreak.

On COVID-19

COVID-19 Primary Resources for Faith and Community Organizations

- For updates on the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) dedicated website. Also available in Spanish. www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus/2019-ncov
- For local information and for recommendations on community actions designed to limit exposure to COVID-19, check with your state and local public health authorities <https://go.usa.gov/xdFg4>
- For guidance and instruction on specific prevention activities relative to your faith community's tradition and practices, refer to your national and regional denominations.

Additional Resources

- **Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission.**
- **Interim Guidance: Get Your Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**
- **Interim Guidance: Get Your Community- and Faith-Based Organizations Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**
- **Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities** including guidance for homes, schools, and workplaces
- **Track efforts by the federal government**, the following websites have been launched:
 - English: www.U.S.A.gov/Coronavirus
 - Spanish: <https://gobierno.U.S.A.gov/Coronavirus>

Guidance to Prepare Homeless Shelters

People experiencing homelessness are an especially vulnerable population. CDC released guidance on March 9, to help homeless shelters plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19. The guidance can be found [here](#).

Guidance for School Settings UPDATED

CDC's Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) interim guidance for school settings.

HHS Community Health News

The New Nutrition Facts Label: What's in it for You?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has announced the launch of its [educational campaign](#), *The New Nutrition Facts Label: What's in it for You?* FDA has [required changes](#) to the Nutrition Facts label based on updated scientific information, new nutrition research, and input from the public. This is the first major update to the label in over 20 years. Learn about [What's New with the Nutrition Facts Label](#), including details on calories, serving sizes, added sugars, and more.

Connections between Sleep and Substance Use Disorders

Most common mental disorders, from depression and anxiety to PTSD, are associated with disturbed sleep, and substance use disorders are no exception. [Learn more](#) in this blog post by Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Upcoming Webinar

Trauma-Informed Care is Wraparound Care in Communities of Faith Wed., April 1, 2020, 12:00 p.m. EST, Register [here](#)

Trauma-Informed Care is an approach to addressing experiences of early adversity that emphasizes compassion and incorporates the belief that every person has value and should be treated with dignity. It also promotes the understanding that negative behaviors may be typical responses to past traumatic experiences. Join Dr. Andrea Clements, East Tennessee State University, and Pastor Tanner Clements, Uplift Appalachia and Christ-Reconciled Church, Johnson City to learn how the combination of a trauma-informed faith community and a unique, faith-based emphasis on wraparound care may reduce negative outcomes and increase flourishing in individuals with past trauma and/or substance use disorder.

Grants & Opportunities

USDA - Distance Learning and Telemedicine program

This U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant program helps rural communities and medical service providers use telecommunications to connect and overcome the effects of remoteness and low population density. **Closing Date: April 10, 2020**

U.S. Department of Labor- Reentry Project Grants

The [U.S. Department of Labor](#) announced the availability of approximately \$65 million in funding for Reentry Project grants geared toward adults who have been involved in the justice system. The grants are administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). DOL intends to award approximately 50 percent of the

available funds to organizations serving persons incarcerated in state correctional facilities and approximately 50 percent of available funds to organizations serving persons incarcerated in local jails.

Pathway Home

FOA-ETA-20-02: The purpose of this pilot program is to provide eligible, incarcerated individuals in state correctional facilities or local jails with workforce services prior to release and to continue services after release by transitioning the participants into reentry programs in the communities to which they will return. These grants are job-driven and build connections to local employers that will enable transitioning offenders to secure employment. **Eligibility includes:** Community- and faith-based organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit status, including women's and minority organizations, and post-secondary education institutions with 501(c)(3) status; state and local governments; and any Indian and Native American entity eligible for grants under section 166 of WIOA. For more information visit the [DOL site on grants.gov](https://www.dhs.gov/foia).

Previously Mentioned

Nearly \$25M Available to Substance Use Prevention Coalitions in New Partnership Between ONDCP and CDC

The FY 2020 [Drug-Free Communities \(DFC\) Support Program's Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) (FOA), has been released beginning the process of awarding funds to community coalitions focused on preventing youth substance use. **Closing date: April 3, 2020.**

FY 2020 Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative

OJJDP-2020-16930 This program supports the implementation and delivery of mentoring services to youth populations that are at risk for juvenile delinquency, victimization, and juvenile justice system involvement. Mentoring services can be one-on-one, group, peer, or a combination of these types. **Closing Date April: 13, 2020.**

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation

HRSA/HRSA-20-031 seeks applications to reduce the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high risk rural communities. **Closing date: April 24, 2020.**

Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence

OJJDP-2020-17926 – To develop support services for children exposed to violence in their homes, schools, and communities; and to develop, enhance, and implement violent crime reduction strategies that focus on violent juvenile offenders. **Closing Date: April 27, 2020.**

FY 2020 Improving Reentry for Adults with Substance Use Disorders Program

BJA-2020-17106 – This funding opportunity seeks to establish, expand, and improve treatment for people with substance use disorders during their incarceration and reentry into the community. **Closing Date: April 27, 2020.**

FY 2020 Correctional Adult Reentry Education, Employment, and Recidivism Reduction Strategies (CAREERRS) Program

BJA-2020-17104 – The CAREERRS program seeks to implement or expand education and employment programs that emphasize strong partnerships with corrections, parole, probation, education, workforce development, and reentry service providers. **Closing Date: April 27, 2020.**

FY 2020 Second Chance Act Community-based Reentry Program

BJA-2020-17110, BJA is seeking applications to implement or expand on reentry programs that demonstrate strong partnerships with corrections, parole, probation, and other reentry service providers. **Closing Date: May 4, 2020.**

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** at HHS continues to provide updates and insight from medical professionals about how to protect you and your loved ones from COVID-19. It is imperative to stay informed and vigilant. Click [here](#) for the latest updates.

Practice everyday preventive actions such as:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; throw the tissue away immediately after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, as well.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. While it may seem simple, germs often spread this way.
- At the workplace, wash your hands frequently and practice caution when coming into contact with commonly touched surfaces like door handles, handrails, and elevator buttons.

If you are planning to travel, please ensure you have up to date domestic and/or overseas travel information from the [CDC travel advisory website](#). You can also find updates via the [State travel advisory site](#).

***** CDC has launched a new webpage for Travelers from Countries with Widespread Sustained (Ongoing) Transmission Arriving in the United States*****

The full link is: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

The shortened link is: www.cdc.gov/COVIDTravel

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Free and confidential support for people in distress, 24/7 .
1-800-273-TALK (8255) Get Help - We can all help prevent suicide.
The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

***FindTreatment.gov* is an important resource to help Americans looking for substance abuse treatment for themselves or their loved ones find the right type of treatment.**