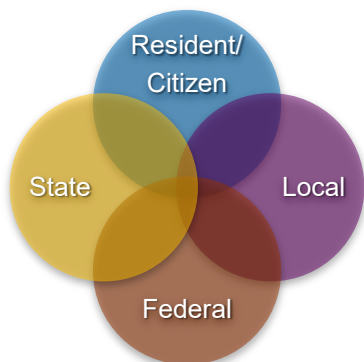# Connecting to Government Resources

E-Government

E-government is the term used for making government information and services available to the public via the internet.

Identifying Legitimate Information

Official U.S. government websites have two key features:

- **.gov** websites belong to official U.S. government organizations

- A **lock** symbol or **https://** (note the "**s**") indicates secure websites

Three Common Search Areas

It is common to search for government resources according to the levels of government – local, state, and federal:

- Local is the most variable in terms of what is available

  - ✓ A good starting place is https://www.usa.gov, then click on "About the U.S. and its government"

- Federal and state resources

Examples of Federal and State Resources

- Social Services

  - o Food assistance - https://www.usa.gov/food-help

  - o Housing and utility assistance - https://www.usa.gov/housing-help

- o Caring for families across the life course - https://www.hhs.gov/programs/social-services/index.html

  - ✓ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) - https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/map/about/help-families
  - ✓ Paying for childcare - https://childcare.gov/consumer-education/paying-for-childcare
  - ✓ Programs for seniors - https://www.hhs.gov/programs/social-services/programs-for-seniors/index.html

- o Telephone and internet access

  - ✓ Lifeline for telephone and internet services - http://www.usa.gov/help-with-phone-internet-bills
  - ✓ Affordable Connectivity Program for broadband internet - http://www.fcc.gov/acp

    - – Emergency services - https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual
    - – Applying for federal benefits - https://www.benefits.gov

- Voter registration - www.vote.gov

Summary

- E-government connects resources and residents

- When looking for resources, make sure you are using legitimate and secure sites

- Recognize that there are multiple levels of government