MCCF EDI Transactions Application Suite (TAS) Design Style Guide

Version 1.0

Standards, Design Principles, Templates, UI, Styles and Branding

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Department of Veterans Affairs

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Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
December 2017	0.1	Draft 0.1	Douglas Weinberg, Halfaker, Inc.
January 2018	1.0	Initial version	Douglas Weinberg, Halfaker, Inc.

Artifact Rationale

The MCCF EDI TAS Design Style Guide is a set of guidelines to help designers and developers build trustworthy, accessible, and consistent government websites. This set of standards will allow agencies to quickly prototype and deploy digital products using a baseline of patterns applicable to TAS project. TAS is an acronym for Transaction Application Suite.

The MCCF EDI TAS portal website was created using a conglomerate of government web standards. Design guides from several existing sources include the VA Playbook, U.S Web Design Standards (USWDS) and 18F. These standards are used to design systems for government websites to provide a richer, robust user experience.

MCCF EDI TAS style guide implements U.S. Web Design Standards as the foundation style for all user interface (UI) component libraries so that the MCCF TAS website will have a similar and common design with other federal portals.

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1 Introduction

This document describes how to apply design and brand user interface (UI) components based on the styles of MCCF EDI TAS. This document is for designers and developers to better understand the design principles to easily implement work on the MCCF TAS framework/system in a consistent manner with a high degree of quality, and a high assurance of successful testing through a test-driven-design method.

1.1 Purpose

The overall purpose of this Design Guide is to provide digital services that improve the user experience to obtain information in a useful and productive manner. By incorporating USWDS along the VA Playbook Design standards, the MCCF EDI TAS portal contains a library of design components to allow developers to quickly provide trustworthy, accessible and consistent digital government services.
The Guide aims to help designers and developers provide websites that improve the user experience in obtaining information in a useful and productive manner. It describes the user experience (UX), styling, and branding standards of MCCF EDI TAS so any web designer/developer/UX-person may understand and apply them to a product, and that all such content is contained within this document.

1.2 Background

In the past, the government has produced many websites created by different teams of developers. Each portal had a different look and feel so there was no consistency within these sites. This became a problem for end users since buttons, navigation, color, fonts and styles would be different. The user experience became more fractured as one navigated through these various portals.

1.3 Mission

By using the same design standards as the VA Playbook, the MCCF EDI TAS Design Guide will help build a single unified digital experience for all veterans.

MCCF EDI TAS portal contains a library of design components that allows developers to quickly provide trustworthy, accessible and consistent digital government services:

- Unify design standards between VA Playbook and USWDS
- Improving customer experience
- Meeting the customer needs
- Creating a responsive platform so users can view information regardless of screen size
- Providing transparency about methods and processes
- Designing efficient end to end processes to allow information to be processed from external systems

1.4 Dependencies

MCCF EDI TAS styles were derived from USWDS, the VA Playbook Design standards and 18F into one complete design standard. The site incorporates a suite of Angular components called PrimeNG. These components will be discussed throughout this document.

1.5 Accessibility

MCCF EDI TAS style includes Section 508 compliance so every asset meets the highest accessibility. The accessibility styles are based upon the USWDS so the MCCF EDI TAS is accessible to all users. All MCCF EDI TAS users regardless of disability status, can access this site. MCCF EDI TAS is compatible with assistive technology including screen readers for those who have vision impairment. See **Design Accessibility** for more details.

1.6 Standards

MCCF EDI TAS Style Guide is a standardized set of UI components which are accessible, responsive, and designed for flexibility regardless of the viewport size. These standards include various elements on a web page including:

- Buttons
- Tables
- Navigation
- Typography
- Forms
- Colors
- Style sheets

1.7 Design Principles

- Understand human need: design for people, rather than VA's systems
- Assume every visitor is new
- Speak clearly, respectfully, and directly
- Help people reach their goals every time
- Connect with customers, including opportunities for feedback and dialog
- Research, observe, test, and continuously improve
- Measure what matters
- Be device agnostic
- Employ modern development practices – be agile

2 How to Use this Guide

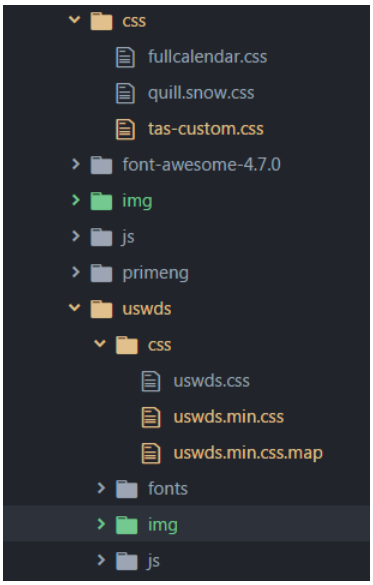
When adding or updating new MCCF EDI TAS pages, refer to this guide to make sure you maintain the correct styling and branding of all UI components that are 508 compliant. All the current CSS classes have been tested and accepted for 508 accessibility and usability.

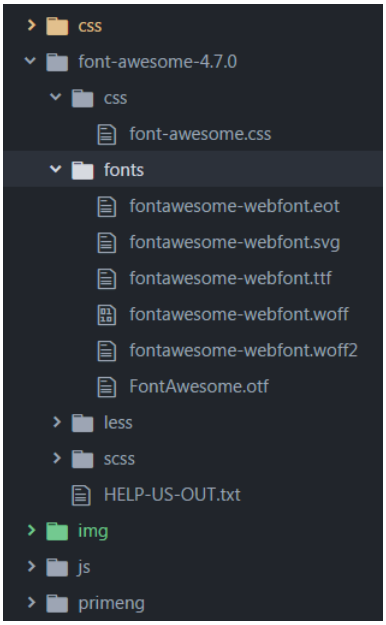
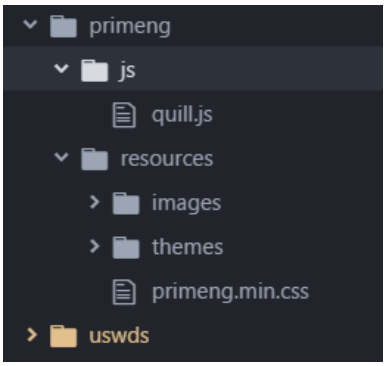
2.1 Developers and Designers

MCCF EDI TAS file and folder structure

The UI components are built using HTML as a foundation so they will render seamlessly across all browsers including IE, Chrome and Firefox. It is a good idea to make sure each browser version is up to date.

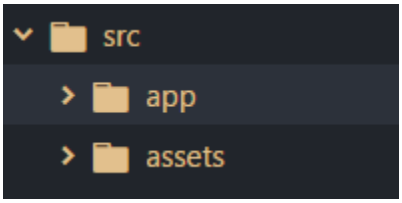
Below is a screen capture of the MCCF EDI TAS folder structure:

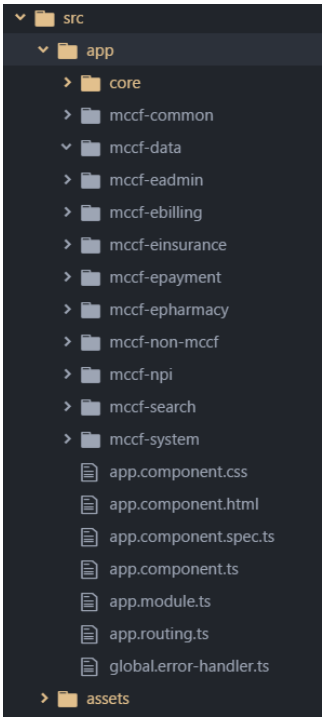
<table>
<tr>
<td> 
</td>
<td>NOTES: The most current version of the USWDS is 1.4.4.
The <code>uswds</code> folder must contain the following subfolders:
• CSS – <code>uswds.css, uswds.min.css</code>
• Fonts (Source Sans Pro, Merriweather)
• IMG – stores. <code>pngs, svg</code> files
• JS – <code>uswds.js, uswds.min.js</code>
The <code>css</code> folder contains MCCF EDI TAS custom CSS files and other CSS files related to PrimeNG Angular controls
• <code>tas-custom.css</code>
• <code>fullcalendar.css</code>
• <code>quill.snow.css</code></td>
</tr>
</table>

	Font Awesome is stored inside `font-awesome-4.7.0` folder • CSS – `font-awesome.css` • Fonts – contains all Font Awesome files `(.eot, .svg, .ttf, .woff, .woff2, .otf)`
	The `primeng` folder contains assets required to render these UI controls: • `js` – stores PrimeNG JavaScript files • `resources` – stores images and themes related to the control

2.2 How do I add a new CSS file?

CSS files can be added to MCCF EDI TAS inside a file called `app.component.ts`.

	The `app` folder contains a suite of folders that pertain to site's navigational structure. These folders contain `ts` (typescript), `css`, `js`, and `html` files. The `assets` folder contains all the site assets including `css`, `img`, `js`, and `ttf` font files.

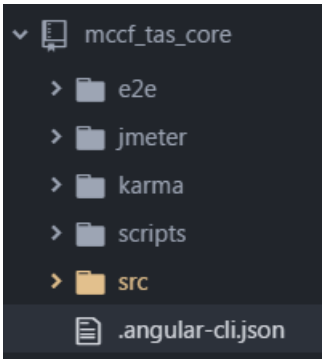


CSS files can be added by updating the component inside the `app.component.ts` file.

```
@Component({
  selector: 'app-root',
  encapsulation: ViewEncapsulation.None,
  styleUrls: [
    '../assets/css/tas-custom.css',
    '../assets/uswds/css/uswds.css',
    './app.component.css',
    '../assets/font-awesome-4.7.0/css/font-awesome.css',
    '../assets/primeng/resources/themes/tas-core/theme.css',
    '../assets/primeng/resources/primeng.min.css',
    '../assets/css/fullcalendar.css',
    '../assets/css/quill.snow.css'
  ],
  templateUrl: './app.component.html'
})
```

2.3 How do I add a JavaScript file?

JavaScript files are added to the `.angular-cli.json` file located in the root directory of the site.



This `json` file would need to be updated by appending a new `js` file under the `'scripts'` key:value pair.

```
"scripts": [
    "assets/js/datetimeclock.js",
    "assets/uswds/js/uswds.min.js",
    "assets/js/switch-sub.js",
    "assets/js/calendar.js",
    "assets/js/calendar.min.js",
    "assets/primeng/js/quill.js"
  ],
```

2.4 How do I test my changes?

Since MCCF EDI TAS was developed using Angular and NodeJS, once you have cloned the repository, you'll need to install its dependencies:

```
npm install
```

To start up the site locally on your machine run the command:

```
npm start
```

To view the site go to the URL : **http://localhost:4200** in the web browser.

To test any changes applied, run the command:

```
npm test
```

This will ensure that any JavaScript and any CSS source files meet USWDS coding standards.

3 UI Components

MCCF EDI TAS style provides a set of UI components that are designed for consistency and simplicity across all VA web sites. The list of components includes all the basic elements of a web page including header, global navigation, footers, fonts, color palettes, search bar, etc. Review each component for more detail.

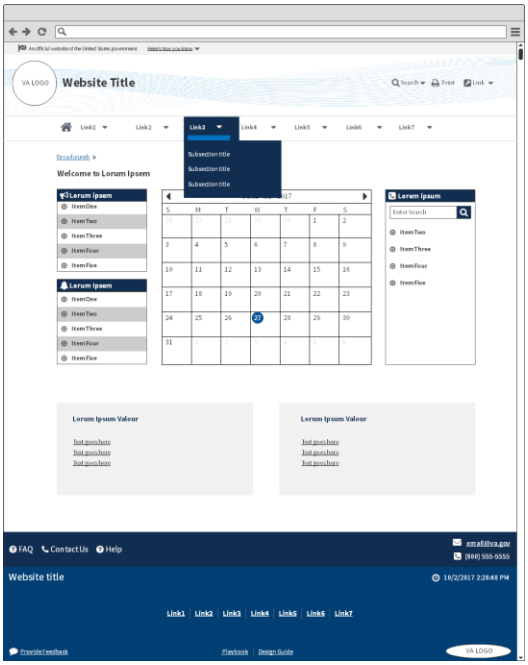


Table 1: List of all UX components for MCCF EDI TAS

ID	Component	Role
1	Typography	Source Sans Pro and Merriweather • Pairing and Styling • Typesetting • Links • Lists

ID	Component	Role
2	Color palette	A family of colors used for styling and branding • Palette • Text Accessibility
3	Headers	Branding, logos, identification of organization • Accessibility rules for 508 compliance • Usability
4	Footers	A set of links at bottom of every webpage • Footer components
5	Side Navigation	Vertical navigation to display other web pages on same website • Single level • Two levels • Three levels
6	Grids	Responsive Design • 12 column grid
7	Buttons	A call to action • Primary • Secondary
8	Labels	Draw attention to content • Style and layout
9	Tables	Display tabular data in columns and rows • Style and layout
10	Alerts/Messages	Keep users informed of specific actions • Style and layout
11	Accordions	Expandable and collapsible control • Style and layout
12	Form controls	Fields where users can input data • Style and layout
13	Form templates	Consistent branding across VA websites • Style and layout
14	Search bar	Input fields to allow users to search data based on keywords • Style and layout
15	Breadcrumb	Allows visitors keep track of their location

3.1 PrimeNG Components

PrimeNG is a suite of rich UI Angular components used throughout the MCCF EDI TAS site. While developing TAS and embedding these components in the site, all of them needed to be re-styled according to the USWDS. Since the components have their own sets of CSS files, developers created a new set of custom CSS files, stored in the aptly named `tas-custom.css` folder.

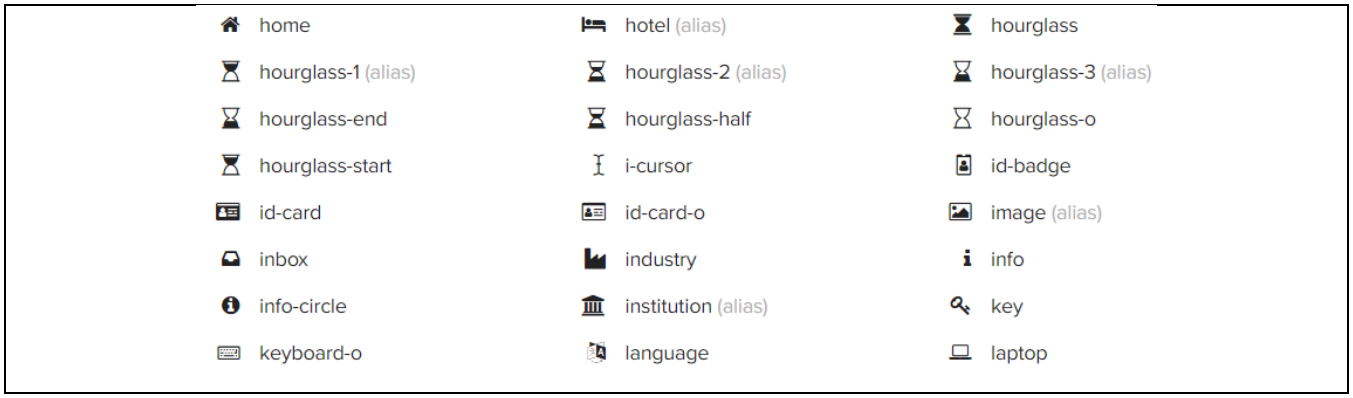
The `tas-custom.css` folder contains classes that overwrite the original classes so that the components will adhere to styles and branding of the USWDS. This guide will explain the classes used to restyle any of the Angular components.

3.2 Typography

MCCF EDI TAS uses 3 font families:

- Source Sans Pro - used in body copy
  - Regular, weight 400
  - Bold, weight 700
- Merriweather – used in headings H1 to H6
  - Regular, weight 400
  - Italic, weight 400
- Font Awesome - icons used in header, footer and body

Source San Pro – san serif font	**Merriweather – serif font**
https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Source+Sans+Pro	https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Merriweather
ABCĆČDĐEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSŠTU VWXYZŽabcčćdđefghijklmnopqrsš tuvwxyzžАБВГҐДЂЕЁЄЖЗSИIЇЙJK ЛЉМНЊОПРСТЋУЎФХЦЧЏШЩЪЫ ЬЭЮЯабвгґдђеёєжзsиiїйjклљмн њопрстћуўфхцчџшщъыьэюяАВГ ΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩαβγδ εζηθικλμνξοπρστυφχψωάΆέΈέΉίϊ ΐΊόΌύΰϋΎΎὰάὲέὴήὶίὸόὺύὼώΏĂÂÊ ÔƠƯăâêôơư1234567890‘?’“!”(%)[#]{@}/&\<-+÷×=>®©$€£¥¢:;,.*	ABCĆČDĐEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS ŠTUVWXYZŽabcčćdđefghijkl mnopqrsštuvwxyzžАБВГҐДЂ ЕЁЄЖЗSИIЇЙJКЛЉМНЊОПРС ТЋУЎФХЦЧЏШЩЪЫЬЭЮЯабв гґдђеёєжзsиiїйjклљмнњопр стћуўфхцчџшщъыьэюяĂÂÊ ÔƠƯăâêôơư1234567890‘?’“!” (%)[#]{@}/&\<-+÷×=>®©$ €£¥¢:;,.*
Font Awesome http://fontawesome.io/icons/	



Font Awesome has its own CSS file linked to the MCCF EDI TAS site called `font-awesome.css`. This file contains all the `.fa` classes to display any Font Awesome icon within the suite. The font is declared in the HTML:

```
<span class="fa fa-commenting-o" aria-hidden="true"></span>
```

Aria-hidden attribute is used so screen readers skip the font from being read out loud.

FAQ Contact Us Help	.fa {
	display: inline-block;
	font: normal normal normal 14px/1 FontAwesome;
	font-size: inherit;
	text-rendering: auto;
	-webkit-font-smoothing: antialiased;
	-moz-osx-font-smoothing: grayscale;
	}

3.3 Pairing and Styles

Merriweather headings used with Source Sans Pro body:

Display	font-family: 'Merriweather' font-weight: 700 font-size: 52px or 5.2rem line-height: 1.3em/68px
Heading 1<h1>	font-family: 'Merriweather' font-weight: 700 font-size: 40px or 4rem line-height: 1.3em/52px
Heading 2 <h2>	font-family: 'Merriweather' font-weight: 700 font-size: 30px or 3rem line-height: 1.3em/39px
Heading 3 <h3>	font-family: 'Merriweather' font-weight: 700 font-size: 20px or 2rem line-height: 1.3em/26px

Heading 4 <h4>	font-family: 'Merriweather' font-weight: 700 font-size: 17px or 1.7em line-height: 1.3em/22px
Heading 5 <h5>	font-family: 'Merriweather' font-weight: 700 font-size: 15px or 1.5rem line-height: 1.3em/20px
HEADING 6 <h6>	font-family: 'Source Sans Pro' font-weight: 400 font-size: 13px or 1.3rem line-height: 1.3em/17px text-transform: uppercase
Lead paragraph	font-family: 'Merriweather' font-weight: 400 font-size: 20px or 2rem line-height: 1.7em/34px
Body copy. A series of sentences together which make a paragraph.	font-family: 'Source Sans Pro' font-weight: 400 font-size: 17px or 1.7rem line-height: 1.5em/26px
Italic body copy.	font-family: 'Source Sans Pro' font-style: Italic font-weight: 400 font-size: 17px or 1.7rem line-height: 1.5em/26px

NOTE: 1rem = 10px

3.4 Typesetting

Readable text to allow users to take in textual information.

3.4.1 The Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon National Park is the United States' 15th oldest national park. Named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, the park is located in Arizona.

75 characters max on desktop. Paragraphs line lengths should be between 50 and 75 characters per line while 66 characters is considered ideal. White spacing used between headers and body copy should be 60px, 30px, 20px or 15px.
See Code Review Exhibit D

<H1> Section Heading .usa-font-lead { Merriweather, font-size:4rem, font-weight:700 }
<H2> Section Heading .usa-font-lead { Merriweather, font-size:3rem, font-weight:700 }
<H3> Section Heading 3 .usa-font-lead { Merriweather, font-size:2rem, font-weight:700 }
<H4> Sub Section Heading 4 .usa-font-lead { Merriweather, font-size:1.7rem, font-weight:700 }
<H5> Sub Section Heading 5 .usa-font-lead { Merriweather, font-size:1.5rem, font-weight:700 }
<H6> Sub Section Heading 6 .usa-font-lead { Merriweather, font-size:1.3rem, font-weight:400 }
<p> Body copy
.usa-content p {Source Sans Pro, font-size:1.7, font-weight:400}

3.5 Links

Hyperlinks are used to navigate to different webpages or websites.

This is a text link on a light background.

This is a visited link.

This is a link that goes to an external website.

This is a text link on a dark background.

Html Code

```
<p><a href="javascript:void(0);">This</a> is a text link on a light background.</p>
<p><a class="usa-color-text-visited" href="javascript:void(0);">This</a> is a visited link.</p>
<p>This is a link that goes to an <a class="usa-external_link"
href="http://media.giphy.com/media/8sgNa77Dvj7tC/giphy.gif">external website</a>.</p>
<div class="usa-background-dark">
  <p><a href="javascript:void(0);">This</a> is a text link on a dark background.</p>
</div>
```

3.6 Lists

Lists are used to organize information in a structural organization like an outline. They come as either an unordered list or ordered list.

UNORDERED LIST <h6>

- font: Source Sans Pro
- font-size: 1.7rem
- line-height: 1.5rem

ORDERED LIST <h6>

1. font: Source Sans Pro
2. font-size: 1.7rem
3. line-height: 1.5rem

HTML CODE with class attributes

```
<div class="usa-grid-full">
    <div class="usa-width-one-third">

      <h6 class="usa-heading-alt">Unordered list</h6>
      <ul>
        <li>Unordered list item</li>
        <li>Unordered list item</li>
        <li>Unordered list item</li>
      </ul>
```

```
    </div>
    <div class="usa-width-one-third">
      <h6 class="usa-heading-alt mt0">Ordered list</h6>
      <ol>
        <li>Ordered list item</li>
        <li>Ordered list item</li>
        <li>Ordered list item</li>
      </ol>
    </div>
  </div>
```

3.7 Color Palette

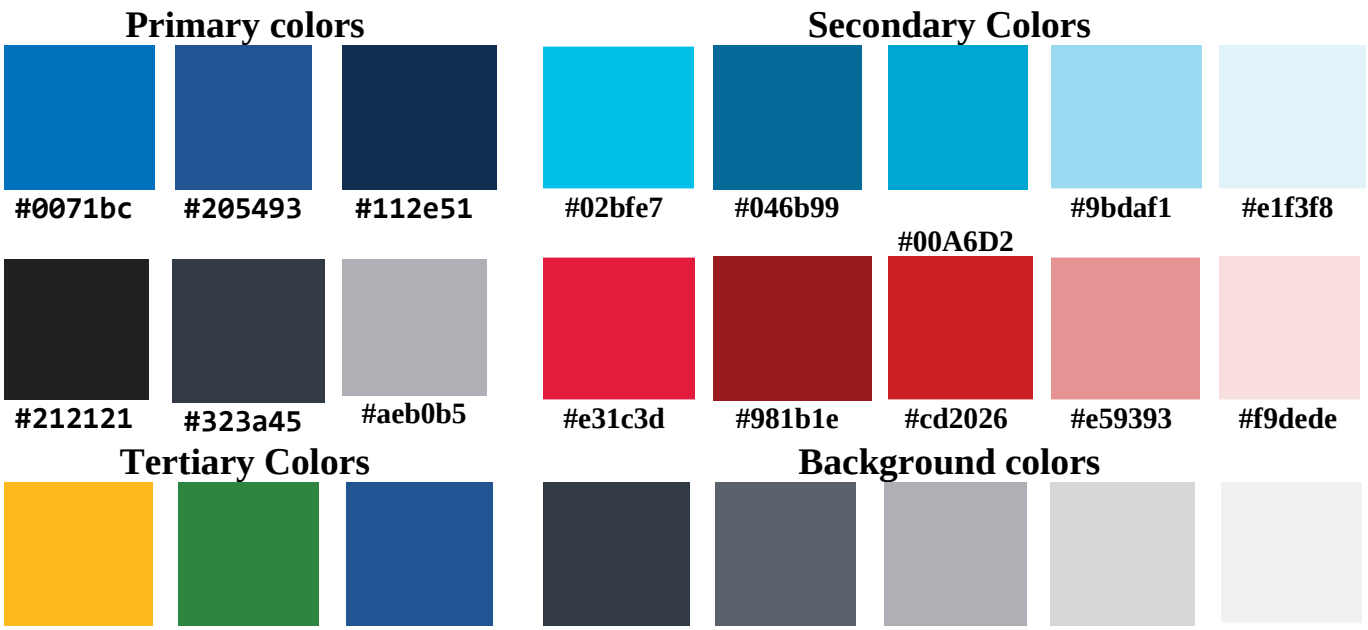
The MCCF EDI TAS color palette is based on palettes used by USWDS and the VA Playbook. These colors support the highest Section 508 color contrast requirements while also promoting trust by invoking a professional look and feel. It is a simple set of colors that use shades of cool blues and grays-combined with definitive styling to allow users to feel welcomed.

The **primary colors** are shades of blue and gray that are the dominant colors of the site. Also, the use of white/white space should be used so content will be evenly spaced. This will promote sincerity, calmness and professionalism.

Secondary colors are used to promote important highlighted features on a page such as buttons and list headers.

Shades of gray are used as **background colors** for larger content areas. Be sure to use enough contrast between adjacent colors.

Lastly, the **tertiary colors** are available for content driven messages and alerts. Use sparingly and do not overpower the primary colors. See color chips below with associated hex values.



3.8 Text Accessibility

By following the styles of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), content on web pages will accessible by everyone regardless of the disability. This set of standards provides a contrast ratio of 4.5 to 1 so text and colors can be readable even by those with color blindness.

To confirm contrast ratio is Section 508 compliant, this **link** will confirm if the contrast ratio is high enough between a text color and background color. The WebAIM site has online tool for testing ratios between the two colors. If the ratio is 4.5 or higher, then the colors are Section 508 compliant.

Below is a chart of color combinations that can be used for text color with background colors. These are all part of USWDS style guides and are all compliant with Section 508 requirements.

Colors on a white background

primary-darkest on white	base on white
primary-darker on white	gray-dark on white
primary on white	gray on white
cool-blue-light on white	gray-warm-dark on white
primary-alt-darkest on white	secondary-darkest on white
green on white	secondary-dark on white
visited on white	secondary on white

Neutrals on a colored background

3.9 Headers

Headers are used to display logos, branding and a horizontal navigation bar. Its primary purpose is allow users to where they are and to navigate across different sections of a website.

3.9.1 Accessibility

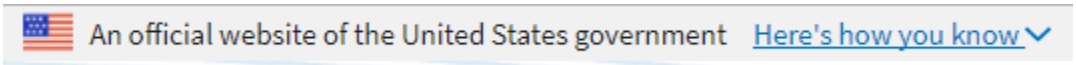
Developers need to follow certain rules when creating headers to maintain Section 508 compliance. Below is a list of accessibility rules that must be followed to achieve compliance:

- Include skip navigation links so screen readers can bypass long navigation lists
- Include Tab focus for all top-level navigation
- Ensure horizontal navigation is keyboard compatible; test using the Tab key
- Avoid using hover to expand dropdown lists, this does not work on touch screens. Drop downs should expand on click or with keyboard navigation
- Use list for navigation links- this helps screen readers better decipher header contents
- Include alt tags for logos in header

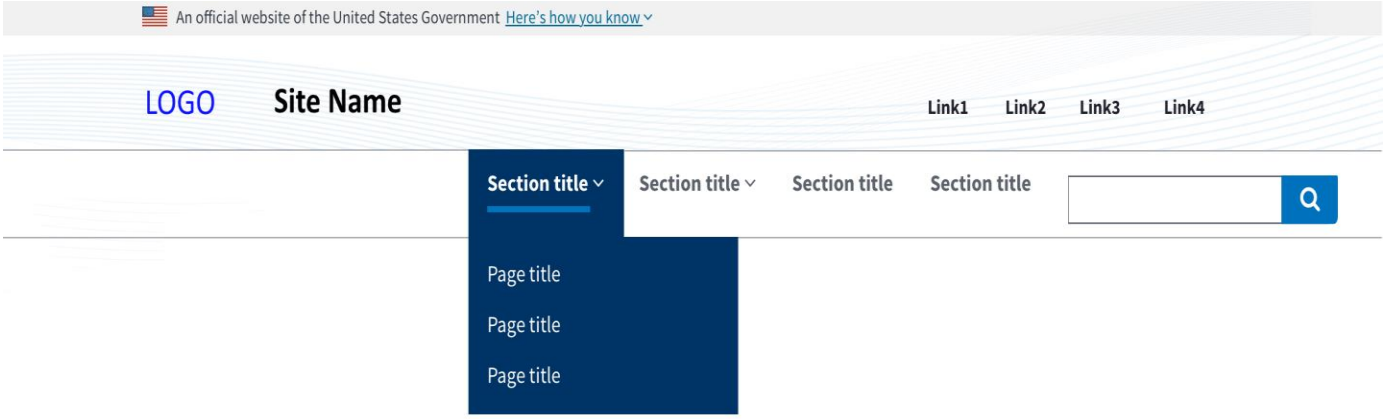
- If the logo is text, use `em` as opposed to `<h1>` markup. In CSS, `em` is relative to the font-size of the element (`2em` means 2 times the size of the current font)

3.9.2 Usability

- All headers should include "Official Government Site" banner and logo and site name. The banner helps to identify the site as a federal while the logo helps visitors understand the organization.



- A horizontal navigation bar is the most useful control to help users navigate through the site.
- Use https protocol for all federal websites that will support security, privacy, and encryption.
- List all website sections as links in the horizontal navigation bar.
- Use dropdown menus for larger size sites.
- Use descriptive, recognizable link labels and keep the text clear and uncluttered.
- Left justify all links.
- Present links in priority order with higher demand links on the left and lesser ones towards the right within the navigation bar.
- Show users where they are within the menu options by highlighting the current selection.
- Review business requirements within your group to better understand the information architecture.



The image above is an example of extended header with background image, navigation bar, search input and quick links.

3.10 Header and MCCF EDI TAS custom styling

	Tas-custom.css

Quick Links
FAQ Contact Us Help eRevenue Resource
	`.usa-nav-secondary-links a:hover,`
	`.usa-nav-secondary-links .usa-header-search-button:hover {`
	`color: #000!important;`
	`text-decoration: underline;`

	}

Logo
 	
	.topVALogo {
	  float:left;
	  padding-right:5px;
	}

WebTitle
eBusiness Solutions
	.usa-logo-text h1 {
	 font-size: 30px;
	 clear:none !important;
	 margin-top: 1.0em !important;
	}

	/* background image for header */
	
	.usa-header {
	  border-bottom: 1px solid #aeb0b5;
	  background-image:url("/assets/img/thread4.png");
	  background-position:left;
	  background-repeat: repeat-x;
	}

3.11 Footers

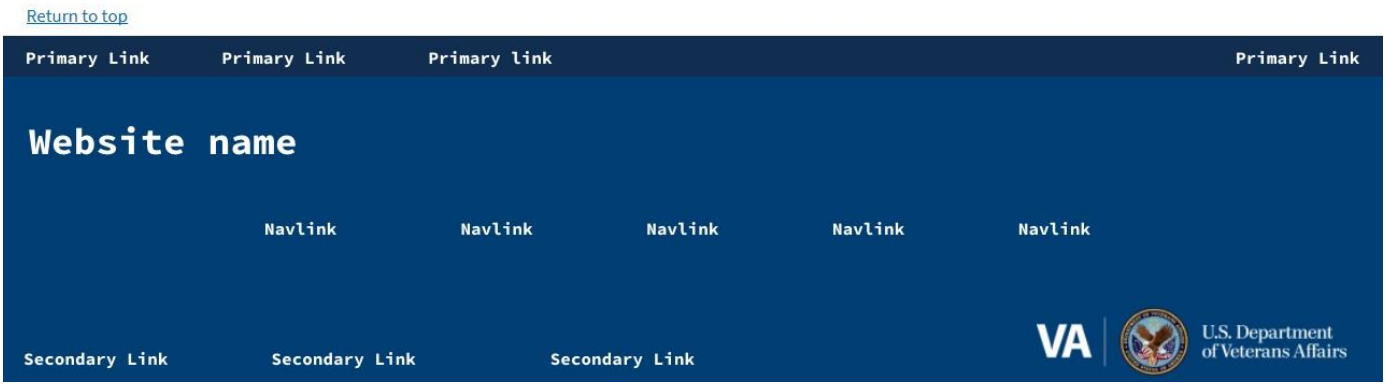
Footers are always located on the bottom of every web page that contains a group of internal and external hyperlinks. It also promotes branding, can include logos of smaller size which are generally located on the bottom right side.

3.11.1 Accessibility

- Users must be allowed to navigate every link in the footer using the tab key.
- On smaller screens, footers should collapse so links are still readable and do not overlap.

3.11.2 Usability

- It's a good idea to include the main global navigation links in the footer.
    - Group footer links when possible into columns.
- Logos should be smaller and located on either the bottom left or right of the page.
- Contact information should point to a general email address; never use a personal email address.
- Use social media links that point only to your agency.
- Include a "Return to Top" hyperlink above the main footer content.
- Top footer uses background color #112e51, bottom background color is #003e73.



Generic footer with primary and secondary links, logo and site name.

	TAS-custom.css

3.12 Side Navigation

Side navigations are vertical links that are used to navigate to subsection of the same website.

SINGLE LEVEL

Current page

Parent link

Parent link

```
<h6 class="usa-heading-alt">Single level</h6>
<div class="usa-grid-full">
  <aside class="usa-width-one-fourth">
    <ul class="usa-sidenav-list">
      <li>
        <a class="usa-current" href="javascript:void(0);">Current page</a>
      </li>
      <li>
        <a href="javascript:void(0);">Parent link</a>
      </li>
      <li>
        <a href="javascript:void(0);">Parent link</a>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </aside>
</div>
```

TWO LEVELS

Parent link

Current page

Child link

Child link

Child link

Child link

Child Link

Parent link

```
<h6 class="usa-heading-alt">Two levels</h6>
<div class="usa-grid-full">
  <aside class="usa-width-one-fourth">
    <ul class="usa-sidenav-list">
      <li>   <a href="javascript:void(0);">Parent link</a></li>
      <li>
       <a class="usa-current" href="javascript:void(0);">Current page</a>
        <ul class="usa-sidenav-sub_list">
          <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a>   </li>
          <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a>  </li>
          <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a> </li>
          <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a>  </li>
          <li><a class="usa-current" href="javascript:void(0);">Child Lin  </li>
        </ul>
      </li>
      <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Parent link</a></li>
    </ul>
  </aside>
</div>
```

THREE LEVELS

Parent link

Current page

Child link

Child link

Grandchild link

Grandchild link

Grandchild link

Child link

Child link

Child link

Parent link

```
<h6 class="usa-heading-alt">Three levels</h6>

<div class="usa-grid-full">
  <aside class="usa-width-one-fourth">
    <ul class="usa-sidenav-list">
      <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Parent link</a> </li>
      <li>
        <a class="usa-current" href="javascript:void(0);">Current page</a>
        <ul class="usa-sidenav-sub_list">
          <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a></li>
          <li>
            <a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a>
           <ul class="usa-sidenav-sub_list">
              <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Grandchild link</a></li>
              <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Grandchild link</a> </li>
              <li><a class="usa-current" href="javascript:void(0);">Grandchild
link</a></li>
          </ul>
          </li>
          <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a></li>
          <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a></li>
          <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Child link</a></li>
        </ul>
      </li>
      <li><a href="javascript:void(0);">Parent link</a></li>
    </ul>
  </aside>
</div>
```

3.12.1 Accessibility

- Each link in the side navigation must be accessible using the Tab key.

3.12.2 Usability

- Must be displayed on the left side of web page under the header and above the footer.
- Include links to subsections of the website.
- Keep navigation links simple and easy to read; do not clutter with too much text.
- Side navigation should not go deeper than three levels otherwise users will get lost.

3.13 Grids

Grids are used for responsive web design. MCCF EDI TAS uses a 12-column grid CSS structure so the web page can be viewable regarding of the viewport size. Web components will collapse in a stackable format as the page size is reduced or the screen size is smaller.

Grids are applied to div elements using the CSS `usa-grid` class.

Grids without any padding on left or right use `usa-grid-full` class.

Grid class are semantic in name by its width.

Grids are at full-width with smaller screens.

`usa-width-one-half` = ½ web page

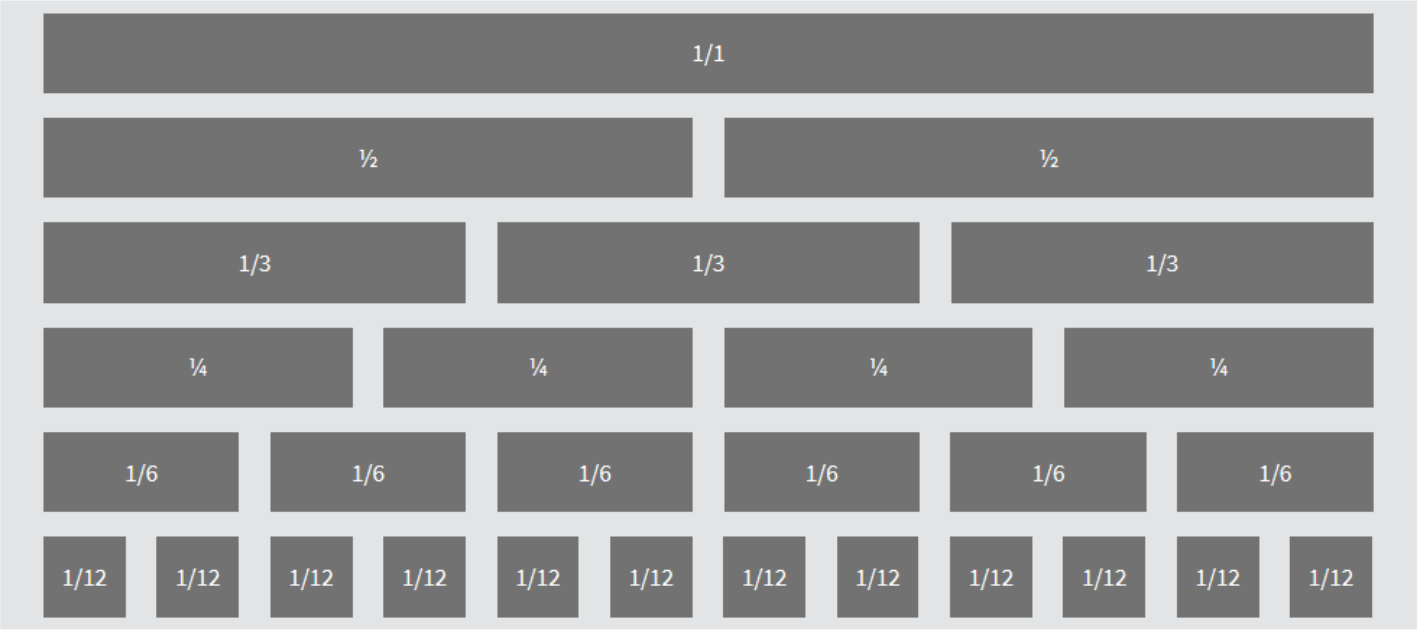
`usa-width-one-third` = 1/3 web page

`usa-width-one-fourth` = ¼ web page

`usa-width-two-thirds` = 2/3 web page

`usa-width-one-sixth` = 1/6 web page

`usa-width-one-twelfth` = 1/12 web page



3.13.1 Accessibility

- Users should be able to increase font size by 200% without breaking the layout.

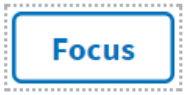
3.13.2 Usability

- The entire web site must use the responsive grid system for the header, main body, global navigation, side navigation and footer.
- Use the 12-column grid with flexible columns widths; padding is dependent on screen sizes.
- Avoid using text longer than **75 characters**. Put text in a smaller grid column to avoid long lines of text running across the page.

3.14 Buttons

Buttons are a call to action that provides functionality to web page. Buttons are categorized into two groups: **primary and secondary**.

Use the `usa-button` class for all buttons.

`usa-button`		`<button class="usa-button">Default</button>`
`usa-button usa-button-hover`		`<button class="usa-button usa-button-hover">Hover</button>`
`usa-button usa-button-active`		`<button class="usa-button usa-button-active">Active</button>`
`usa-button usa-focus`		`<button class="usa-button usa-focus">Focus</button>`
`usa-button`		`<button class="usa-button" disabled="">Disabled</button>`
`usa-button-secondary`		`<button class="usa-button-secondary">Default</button>`
`usa-button-secondary usa-button-hover`		`<button class="usa-button-secondary usa-button-hover">Hover</button>`
`usa-button-secondary usa-button-active`		`<button class="usa-button-secondary usa-button-active">Active</button>`
`usa-button-secondary usa-focus`		`<button class="usa-button-secondary usa-focus">Focus</button>`

`usa-button-secondary`	Disabled	`<button class="usa-button-secondary" disabled="">Disabled</button>`
`usa-button-primary-alt`	Default	`<button class="usa-button-primary-alt">Default</button>`
`usa-button-gray`	Default	`<button class="usa-button-gray">Default</button>`
`usa-button-big`	Default	`<button class="usa-button-big">Default</button>`

3.14.1 Accessibility

- When focused on Tab, button should display visible focus state.
- Do **not** use `<div>` or `<img>` tags to create buttons – they cannot be read by screen-readers.
- Pressing space bar triggers a button; clicking the enter key triggers a hyperlink.

3.14.2 Usability

Buttons should be used for important interactivity on the site such as “Download”, “Submit” or “Log Out” Do not use buttons to navigate web pages; use hyperlinks

3.15 Labels

Labels draw attention to new or important content. NEW

3.15.1 Accessibility

Use ARIA live regions to alert screen readers of the change.

3.15.2 Usability

When to use:

- To draw attention to new or important content
- To filter results with one or more tags
- To indicate the number of new or unread items within a container. Like a badge, to display the number of unread emails as an example.

- Labels are non-interactive, there is no hover, on focus or click function.
- Use sparingly.

Code	New Important 4

3.16 Tables

Tables are used to show tabular data in columns and rows. TAS tables contain bordered styles.

Document title	Description	Year
Declaration of Independence	Statement adopted by the Continental Congress declaring independence from the British Empire.	1776
Bill of Rights	The first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing rights and freedoms.	1791
Declaration of Sentiments	A document written during the Seneca Falls Convention outlining the rights that American women should be entitled to as citizens.	1848
Emancipation Proclamation	An executive order granting freedom to slaves in designated southern states.	1863

3.16.1 Accessibility

- Tables must have two levels of headers. Each header cell should have `scope="col"` or `scope="row"`
- Complex tables should have a unique `id` and each data cell should have a headers attribute with the header's cell `id` listed.
- Use the `<caption>` tag inside the `<table>` element when adding titles.

3.16.2 Usability

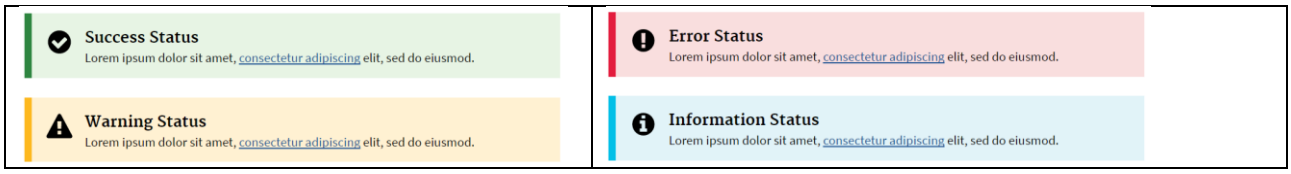
- Use tables to display tabular data.

- Also, consider using lists depending on the content.
- Do not add too many columns – no horizontal scroll bar should appear on browser window.

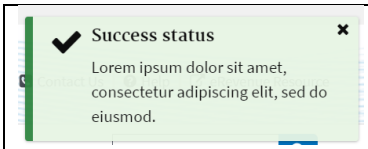
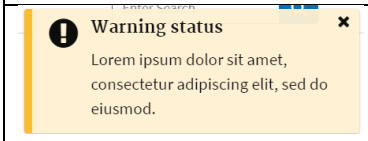
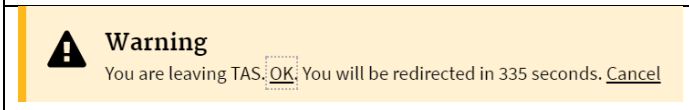
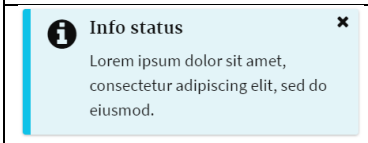
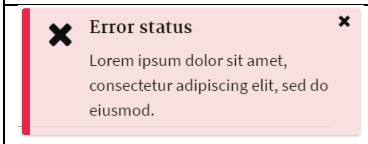
3.17 Alerts

Alerts keep users informed of important and time sensitive changes.
There are 4 types of alerts, each of them color coded accordingly to the alert type:

1. Success - green
2. Warning – yellow
3. Error – red
4. Information – blue



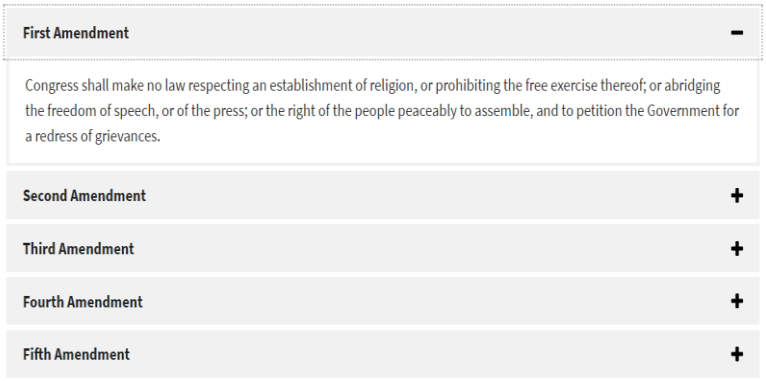
MCCF EDI TAS alerts use **PrimeNG** component called Growl, which is part of the Angular suite of components.
The Growl messages needed to be restyled to meet the USWDS so custom classes were created inside the `tas-custom.css` file.

	`.ui-growl-item-container.ui-state-highlight.ui-growl-message-success { z-index:5000 !important; background-color: #e7f4e4; font-family: "Merriweather","Times New Roman"; border-left: 8px solid #2e8540; }`
	`.ui-growl-item-container.ui-state-highlight.ui-growl-message-warn { background-color: #fff1d2; z-index:5000 important; font-family: "Merriweather","Times New Roman"; border-left: 8px solid #fdb81e; }`
	`.warning-link { position: fixed !important; margin-top: -100px !important; z-index: 999999; left:20px !important; }`
	`.ui-growl-item-container.ui-state-highlight.ui-growl-message-info { background-color: #e1f3f8; z-index:5000 important; border-left: 8px solid #02bfe7; font-family: "Merriweather", "Times New Roman"; }`
	`.ui-growl-item-container.ui-state-highlight.ui-growl-message-error { background-color: #f9dede; z-index:5000 important; border-left: 8px solid #e31c3d; font-family: "Merriweather","Times New Roman"; }`

Message font	`.ui-growl-message-success p, .ui-growl-message-warn p, .ui-growl-message-error p, .ui-growl-message-info p{ font-family: "Source Sans Pro"; }`

3.18 Accordions

Accordions are web controls that can expand and collapse. They provide a way of making content less heavy. Made up of multiple items containing a head/title and a body with expanded content, the accordion is an interactive component that is also responsive.



3.18.1 Accessibility

- Accordion header should be coded as <buttons> so they are read by screen readers and used by the keyboard.
- If accordion item is expanded, the button should be stated with a `aria-expanded=”true”`. Other items in the accordion will have `aria-expanded=”false”` attribute when the accordion is initialized on the page load.
- Each button has unique name `aria-controls=”id”` that associates the control to the region by referencing the element’s `id`.
- Each content area will have its `aria-hidden` attribute set to `true` or `false` depending on the button’s `aria-expanded` attribute. To ensure accessibility, do not set `aria-hidden=”true”`.

3.18.2 Usability

- Information needs to be displayed in a small space.
- Use well-formatted text.
- Users only need a few specific pieces of information.
- Allow users to click anywhere in the header to expand or collapse the content.

```
<h3>Accordion</h3>
<div style="margin-bottom: 1em">
    <button type="button" aria-label="Previous" title="Previous" class="fa fa-chevron-up"
```

```
(click)="openPrev()"></button>
    <button type="button" aria-label="Next"    title="Next" href="#"  class="fa fa-chevron-
down" (click)="openNext()"></button>
</div>

<div role="tablist">
<p-accordion >
    <p-accordionTab header="Godfather I"   role="tab" aria-expanded="true" aria-controls="a1">
      <div id="a1" aria-hidden="false">
         Content goes here.
      </div>
    </p-accordionTab>

 <p-accordionTab header="Godfather II" role="tab" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="a2">
      <div id="a2" aria-hidden="false">
            Content goes here.
      </div>
</p-accordionTab>

<p-accordionTab header="Godfather III" role="tab" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="a3">
        <div id="a3" aria-hidden="false">   Content goes here.
</div>
</p-accordionTab>

<p-accordionTab header="Godfather IV" role="tab" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="a4">
        <div id="a4" aria-hidden="false">   More content goes here.

</div>
 </p-accordionTab>

 <p-accordionTab header="Godfather V" role="tab" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="a5">
        <div id="a5" aria-hidden="false"> Even more content goes here.
</div>
</p-accordionTab>
```

3.19 Form Controls

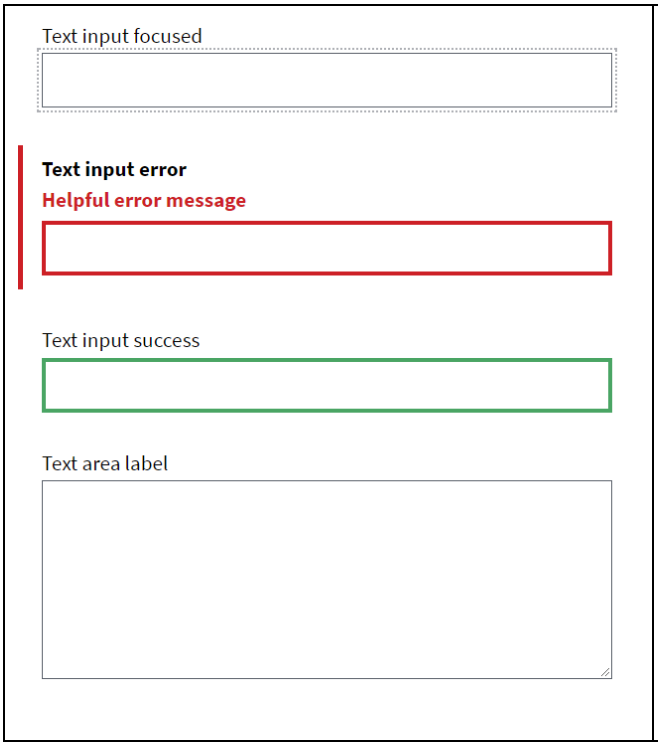
Allows users to enter information on a web page using text input fields, drop downs, checkboxes, radio buttons, date inputs, validation alerts or any other type of UX control that manipulates data.

3.19.1 Accessibility

- Display form controls in same order in HTML as they appear on screen. Screen readers narrate forms in the order they appear in HTML.
- Align validation messages with input fields so people using magnifiers can read them quickly.
- Group related controls in a `fieldset` element. Use the legend element to offer a label within each one. This makes it easier for screen reader users to navigate the form.
- Use a single legend for a fieldset as required. A good example would be a question with radio button options for answers. The question and radio buttons are wrapped in a fieldset while the question itself is inside the legend tag.
- Keep form layout in a vertical layout – this makes it easier to read.

3.19.2 Text Input

Text input allows people to enter any combination of alpha-numeric characters. Inputs can be either single line or multi lines.




```
  <label for="input-type-text">Text input
label</label>
  <input id="input-type-text" name="input-type-text"
type="text">
  <label for="input-focus">Text input focused</label>
  <input class="usa-focus" id="input-focus"
name="input-focus" type="text">
  <div class="usa-input-error">
    <label class="usa-input-error-label" for="input-
error">Text input error</label>
    <span class="usa-input-error-message" id="input-
error-message" role="alert">Helpful error
message</span>
    <input id="input-error" name="input-error"
type="text" aria-describedby="input-error-message">
  </div>
  <label for="input-success">Text input
success</label>
  <input class="usa-input-success" id="input-success"
name="input-success" type="text">
  <label for="input-type-textarea">Text area
label</label>
  <textarea id="input-type-textarea" name="input-type-
textarea"></textarea>
```

3.19.2.1 Accessibility

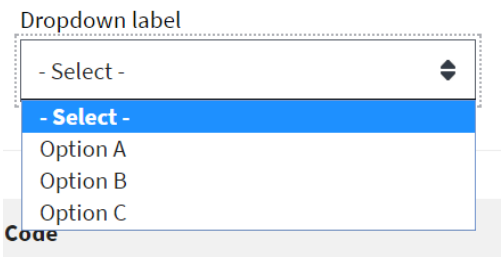
- Avoid using placeholder text. This text does not provide high enough contrast ratio.
- Avoid breaking numbers using separate fields such as SS#, phone or credit card numbers. Use one input field for phone number; not three. Each field needs to be labeled for a screen reader.

3.19.2.2 Usability

- Allow users to paste in a response.
- Use when it's easiest to input data – for example use text fields over date fields when entering a birthdate.
- Use when you can't reasonably predict a user's response to an answer.
- Use single line text fields for shorter answers; use multiline fields for answers that require paragraphs of text.
- Show validation messages after a user has entered data in a field.

3.19.3 Dropdown

A drop down allows a user to select one or more options from a list.




```
<form class="usa-form">
    <label for="options">Dropdown label</label>
    <select name="options" id="options">
      <option value>- Select -</option>
      <option value="value1">Option A</option>
      <option value="value2">Option B</option>
      <option value="value3">Option C</option>
    </select>
  </form>
```

3.19.3.1 Accessibility

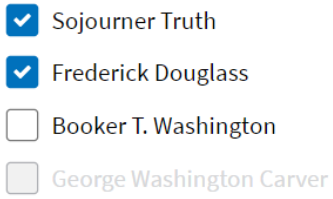
- Dropdown must include a label. Use something like “Select a xxxx” as the default menu option.
- Don’t use JavaScript to automatically submit the form when an option is selected. This disrupts screen readers because they select each option as they are read.

3.19.3.2 Usability

- Use sparingly – no more than 15 possible options if space is limited.
- If the list of options is short use radio buttons instead.
- If the list of options is very long, use input text fields instead.
- Be sure to test the dropdown – this control is used as “UI of the last resort” because many users find them confusing and difficult.
- Use a submit button at the end of the form – do not use JavaScript to automatically submit the form.

3.19.4 Checkboxes

Checkboxes allow users to select one or more options from a visible list.




```
  <fieldset class="usa-fieldset-inputs usa-sans">
    <legend class="usa-sr-only">Historical figures 1</legend>
    <ul class="usa-unstyled-list">
      <li>
        <input id="truth" type="checkbox" name="historical-figures-1"
value="truth" checked>
        <label for="truth">Sojourner Truth</label>
      </li>
      <li>
        <input id="douglass" type="checkbox" name="historical-figures-1"
value="douglass">
        <label for="douglass">Frederick Douglass</label>
      </li>
      <li>
        <input id="washington" type="checkbox" name="historical-figures-1"
value="washington">
        <label for="washington">Booker T. Washington</label>
      </li>
      <li>
        <input id="carver" type="checkbox" name="historical-figures-1" disabled>
        <label for="carver">George Washington Carver</label>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </fieldset>
```

3.19.4.1 Accessibility

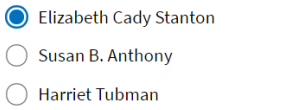
- Surround the set of checkboxes with a `<fieldset>`. Use a `<legend>` element to provide context for the grouping.
- Custom checkboxes are accessible to screen readers because default checkboxes are moved off-screen with `position: absolute; left: -999em`.
- Each input should have an `Id` attribute while the corresponding label should be same value in the `for` attribute.
- The `title` attribute can replace `<label>.`

3.19.4.2 Usability

- When a user can select from a short list of choices.
- "Yes" or "No" toggle when only one option is available. Used to toggle a setting on or off.
- When users need to see all available options at a glance.
- If a user can only select one option, use radio buttons instead.
- Users should be able to select the button or text label to select or deselect an option.
- List options vertically for easier screen readability.
- Avoid using negative language.
- Make sure selections are spaced enough for touch screens.

3.19.5 Radio buttons

Radio buttons allow users




```
<fieldset class="usa-fieldset-inputs usa-sans">
    <legend class="usa-sr-only">Historical figures 2</legend>
    <ul class="usa-unstyled-list">
      <li>
        <input id="stanton" type="radio" checked name="historical-figures-2"
value="stanton">
        <label for="stanton">Elizabeth Cady Stanton</label>
      </li>
      <li>
        <input id="anthony" type="radio" name="historical-figures-2"
value="anthony">
        <label for="anthony">Susan B. Anthony</label>
      </li>
      <li>
        <input id="tubman" type="radio" name="historical-figures-2"
value="tubman">
        <label for="tubman">Harriet Tubman</label>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </fieldset>
```

to select from a list of available choices and only select one option.

3.19.5.1 Accessibility

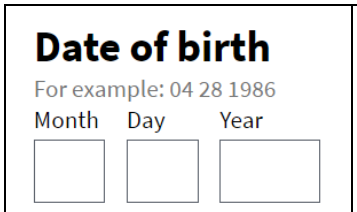
- Group radio buttons inside a `<fieldset>` that describe the group with a `<legend>`.
- Each radio button must have a `<label>`. The `<for>` attribute should match input `<id>`.
- Title attribute can replace `<label>`.

3.19.5.2 Usability

- Use when only one option can be selected from the available choices.
- Use when number of options can fit on mobile device.
- Do not use if users need to select more than one option.
- Users should be able to click label text or the button itself to select or deselect.
- Try to not preset a default value – this leads to confusion.

3.19.6 Date input

Use three input fields for date using a month, day and year fieldMonth Day Year.




```
<fieldset>
    <legend>Date of birth</legend>
    <span class="usa-form-hint" id="dobHint">For example: 04 28 1986</span>

    <div class="usa-date-of-birth">
      <div class="usa-form-group usa-form-group-month">
        <label for="date_of_birth_1">Month</label>
        <input class="usa-input-inline" aria-describedby="dobHint"
id="date_of_birth_1" name="date_of_birth_1" type="number" min="1" max="12"
value="">
      </div>
      <div class="usa-form-group usa-form-group-day">
        <label for="date_of_birth_2">Day</label>
        <input class="usa-input-inline" aria-describedby="dobHint"
id="date_of_birth_2" name="date_of_birth_2" type="number" min="1" max="31"
value="">
      </div>
      <div class="usa-form-group usa-form-group-year">
        <label for="date_of_birth_3">Year</label>
        <input class="usa-input-inline" aria-describedby="dobHint"
id="date_of_birth_3" name="date_of_birth_3" type="number" min="1900"
max="2000" value="">
      </div>
    </div>
  </fieldset>
```

3.19.6.1 Accessibility

- Text fields should follow the accessibility guidelines to input fields.

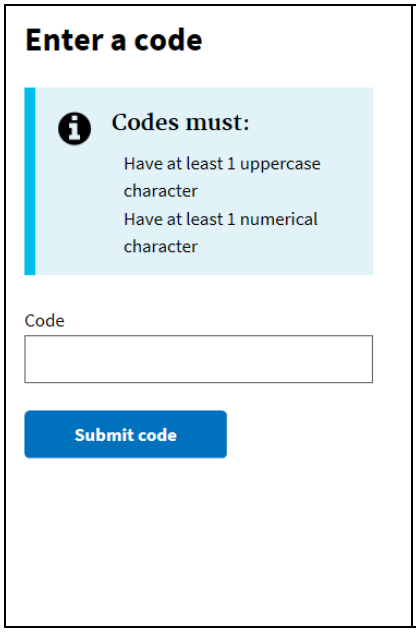
- Do not use JavaScript to advance to next field; this makes it difficult for keyboard navigators to correct mistakes.

3.19.6.2 Usability

- Use this format to enter dates.
- Make sure fields are properly labeled

3.19.7 Validation

Validation is used to give users a notification message on how data should be entered inside input fields.




```
<form class="usa-form">
  <fieldset>
    <legend class="usa-drop_text">Enter a code</legend>

    <div class="usa-alert usa-alert-info">
      <div class="usa-alert-body">
        <h3 class="usa-alert-heading">Codes must:</h3>
      </div>
      <ul class="usa-checklist" id="validate-code">
        <li data-validator="uppercase">Have at least 1 uppercase
character</li>
        <li data-validator="numerical">Have at least 1 numerical
character</li>
      </ul>
    </div>

    <label for="code">Code</label>
    <input id="code" name="code" type="text"
      aria-describedby="validate-code"
      data-validate-uppercase="[A-Z]"
      data-validate-numerical="\d"
      data-validation-element="#validate-code">

    <input type="submit" value="Submit code">
  </fieldset>

</form>
```

3.19.7.1 Accessibility

- Follow all the same 508 compliance rules as regular input fields.

3.19.7.2 Usability

- Input fields with custom validation logic provide helpful feedback to users if assigned a `data-validation-element` attribute set to a CSS selector:

  `data-validation-element="#validate-code"`

- Do not use spaces in the name of the validator: `uppercase`
- Set the data-validator attribute to the name of the validator
  - `data-validator=”uppercase”`
- On input fields, add a field called `data-validate-validator name` and set its value to an expression to represent the validator’s condition.

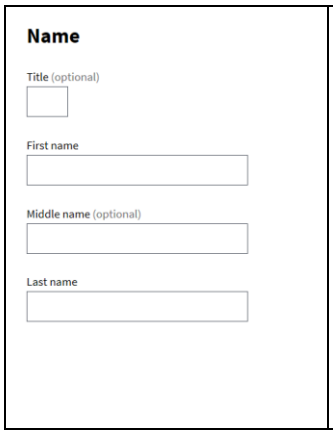
- `data-validate-uppercase="[A-Z]"`

3.20 Form Templates

Forms are a group of web controls used to enter data.

3.20.1 Accessibility

- All form controls must meet the accessibility guidelines for each control.
- Display form controls in the same order in the HTML as they appear on screen. This helps screen readers narrate form controls in the order they appear in HTML.
- Align validation message with input fields so people with magnifiers can read them quickly.
- Group controls inside a `fieldset` element. Fieldset and legend elements make it easier for screen reader user to navigate the form.
- Use a single legend for fieldset – this is required.
- Embed multiple fieldsets and legends for more complex forms.
- Keep form blocks in vertical pattern.




```
<form class="usa-form">
    <fieldset>
      <legend>Name</legend>
      <label for="title" class="usa-input-optional">Title</label>
      <input class="usa-input-tiny" id="title" name="title" type="text">
      <label for="first-name">First name</label>
      <input id="first-name" name="first-name" type="text" required="" aria-
required="true">
      <label for="middle-name" class="usa-input-optional">Middle name</label>
      <input id="middle-name" name="middle-name" type="text">
      <label for="last-name">Last name</label>
      <input id="last-name" name="last-name" type="text" required="" aria-
required="true">
    </fieldset>
  </form>
```

- Each field must follow the accessibility guidelines for all form controls.
- Use this form when collecting the user's full name.
- Do not restrict the types of characters users can enter in the fields.

```
  <form class="usa-form-large">
    <fieldset>
      <legend>Mailing address</legend>
      <label for="mailing-address-1">Street address 1</label>
      <input id="mailing-address-1" name="mailing-address-1"
type="text">
      <label for="mailing-address-2" class="usa-input-optional">
        Street address 2</label>
      <input id="mailing-address-2" name="mailing-address-2"
type="text">
      <div>
        <div class="usa-input-grid usa-input-grid-medium">
          <label for="city">City</label>
          <input id="city" name="city" type="text">
```

```
        </div>
        <div class="usa-input-grid usa-input-grid-small">
          <label for="state">State</label>
          <select id="state" name="state">
            <option value>- Select -</option>
            <option value="AL">Alabama</option>
            <option value="AK">Alaska</option>
            <option value="AZ">Arizona</option>
            <option value="AR">Arkansas</option>
               …
            <option value="VA">Virginia</option>
            <option value="WA">Washington</option>
            <option value="WV">West Virginia</option>
            <option value="WI">Wisconsin</option>
            <option value="WY">Wyoming</option>
            <option value="AA">AA - Armed Forces Americas</option>
            <option value="AE">AE - Armed Forces Africa</option>
            <option value="AE">AE - Armed Forces Canada</option>
            <option value="AE">AE - Armed Forces Europe</option>
            <option value="AE">AE - Armed Forces Middle
East</option>
            <option value="AP">AP - Armed Forces Pacific</option>
          </select>
        </div>
      </div>
      <label for="zip">ZIP</label>
      <input class="usa-input-medium" id="zip" name="zip" type="text"
pattern="[\d]{5}(-[\d]{4})?">
    </fieldset></form>
```

- Each field must follow the accessibility guidelines for all form controls.
- For the ZIP field, make sure to include pattern attribute so a hyphen is entered before the four digit extension.

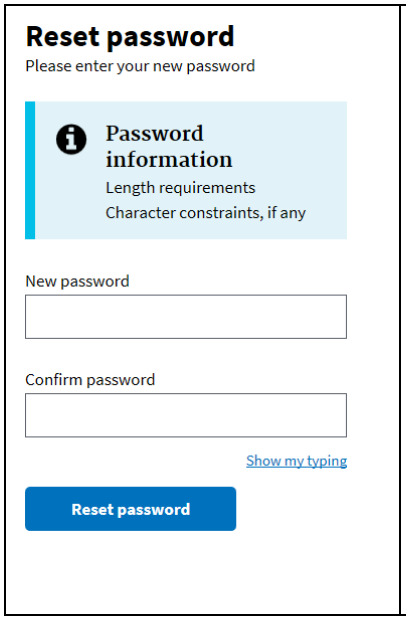
```
o <label for="zip">ZIP</label>
  <input class="usa-input-medium" id="zip" name="zip"
  type="text" pattern="[\d]{5}(-[\d]{4})
```

- Label the optional inputs.
- Let users type in state abbreviation on the drop-down menu.
- Support both 5 and 9-digit ZIP codes.

Use **Politspace** as a way to implement input masking zip code input fields.

- Each field must follow the accessibility guidelines for all form controls.
- Do not sign out users without giving them 20 second's notice to request more time.
- Use this form when authentication and authorization are required to access private data.
- Less is more – keep it simple and use less intrusive text.
- Allow users to use their email address to sign in.

- Allow for a “Remember Me” check box on trusted computers so it’s easier to sign in next time.
- Make it easy for users to retrieve a forgotten username or password.
- Allow users to see their passwords using a hyperlink to display password. Avoid complete password masking.

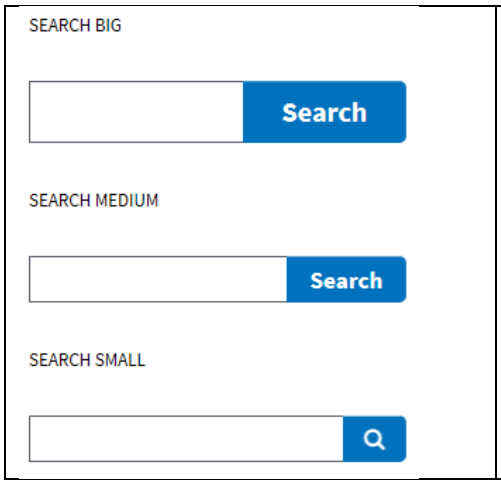



```
<form class="usa-form">
  <fieldset>
    <legend class="usa-drop_text">Reset password</legend>
    <span class="usa-serif">Please enter your new password</span>
    <div class="usa-alert usa-alert-info">
      <div class="usa-alert-body">
        <h3 class="usa-alert-heading">Password information</h3>
        <p class="usa-alert-text">
          Length requirements
          <br>
          Character constraints, if any
        </p>
      </div>
    </div>
    <label for="password-reset">New password</label>
    <input id="password-reset" name="password" type="password">
    <label for="confirmPassword">Confirm password</label>
    <input id="confirmPassword" name="confirmPassword" type="password">
    <p class="usa-form-note">
      <a href="javascript:void(0);"
        class="usa-show_multipassword"
        aria-controls="password-reset confirmPassword">Show my typing</a>
    </p>
    <input type="submit" value="Reset password">
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

- Each field must follow the accessibility guidelines for all form controls.
- Offer a way to easily reset a password if a user forgets the username or password.
- State any password requirements up front.
- See [NIST’s strength of memorized secrets](#).

3.21 Search Bar

An input field that allows users to search for specific content using keywords and/or phrases or if content cannot be found in the main navigation.




```
<h6>Search big</h6>
  <div class="usa-grid">
    <div class="usa-width-one-half">
      <div role="search">
        <form class="usa-search usa-search-big">
          <label class="usa-sr-only" for="search-field-big">Search big</label>
          <input id="search-field-big" type="search" name="search">
          <button type="submit">
            <span class="usa-search-submit-text">Search</span>
          </button>
        </form>
      </div>
    </div>
  </div>
  <h6>Search medium</h6>
  <div class="usa-grid">
    <div class="usa-width-one-half">
      <div role="search">
        <form class="usa-search">
          <label class="usa-sr-only" for="search-field">Search medium</label>
```

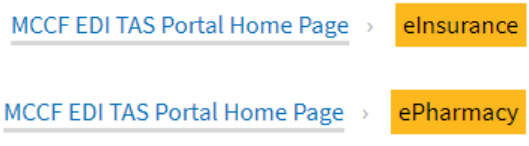
	<input id="search-field" type="search" name="search"> <button type="submit"> Search </button> </form> <h6>Search small</h6> <form class="usa-search usa-search-small"> <label class="usa-sr-only" for="search-field-small">Search small</label> <input id="search-field-small" type="search" name="search"> <button type="submit"> Search </button> </form>

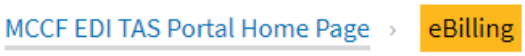
3.21.1 Accessibility

- Each field must follow the accessibility guidelines for all form controls.
- Always include the word "search" inside the `<button>` element for screen readers. The text can be hidden using the CSS class `usa-sr-only.`
- Always a good idea to include a search box on the home page, especially if web site has a lot of pages
- Allow search bar to be wide as possible using a minimum of 27 characters wide.
- The magnifying glass is the best indicator icon for search.
- Be sure screen readers can read the search field.
- Include a search bar on the search results page.
- The search input field should be located on a home page.
- Don't offer advanced search as default option.
- Be sure a label is present in the form field for screen reader users.

3.22 Breadcrumbs

Breadcrumbs are links that appear in the header of each content page to help visitors keep track of their location on the portal. CSS styles for the breadcrumb will be found in the `tas-custom.css` file.

	.va-nav-breadcrumbs--playbook a {
	border-bottom: 2px solid #d6d7d9;
	text-decoration: none ;
	color: #0071bc;
	}
	
	.va-nav-breadcrumbs--playbook a:visited {

	text-decoration: none ;
	color: #0071bc;
	}
	
	.va-nav-breadcrumbs--playbook a:hover {
	text-decoration: none;
	background: rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.05);
	border-bottom: 2px solid #fdb81e;
	}
	
	.va-nav-breadcrumbs--playbook li {
	text-transform: none;
	padding: .1em;
	display: inline-block;
	line-height: 1.15em;
	font-size: .8em;
	}

A. Template Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
January 2018	1.0	Initial Draft	TAS Design Team