



*Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.*

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**October 22, 2020**

TO: ALL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY EXECUTIVES, COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS,  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS AND COUNTY CLERKS

FROM: CHERYL SUBLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
RACHEL MASSOUD, POLICY ANALYST  
ADAM SCHWIEBERT, POLICY ANALYST

RE: OCTOBER 22, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

### Key Resources

1. [CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources Webpage](#)
2. [Important Deadlines for CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds](#)
3. [OBM Ideas on How to Use Coronavirus Relief Funding](#)
4. [OBM CARES Act Funds Guidance 10.1.2020](#)
5. [CCAO Guidance on Using CARES Act Funds](#)
6. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 9.2.2020](#)
7. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 10.19.2020](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

### **Gov. DeWine's Press Conference: 74 percent of Ohioans living in a Red Level 3 county**

During today's press conference, Gov. DeWine discussed this week's [Public Health Advisory System](#) map. There are 38 Red Level 3 counties (newly Red in bold): Adams, **Allen**, Butler, Clark\*, **Crawford**, Cuyahoga\*, Fayette, Franklin, **Geauga**, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton\*, **Hardin**, Highland, **Lake**, Lawrence, Licking, **Lorain**, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Mercer, Montgomery, Muskingum, **Ottawa**, Pike, Portage, Putnam, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Stark, Summit, **Tuscarawas**, Union, **Wayne** and Warren. Clark, Cuyahoga and Hamilton counties are on the "watch list" to become Purple Level 4.

Gov. DeWine noted that 74 percent of Ohioans are living in a Red Level 3 county while only 1 percent of Ohioans are living in a Yellow Level 1 county. 92.8 percent of Ohioans are living in a Red or high incidence county.

The state's Public Health Advisory System website includes an interactive map detailing indicators in each county, which you can find [here](#). A county by county list of indicators for the week can be found [here](#). A chart of case rates by county can be found [here](#).

There was an increase of 2,425 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday's data. There were 159 new hospitalizations reported in the last 24 hours. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



Fax: 614-220-0209  
[www.corsa.org](http://www.corsa.org)



Fax: 614-229-4588  
[www.cebco.org](http://www.cebco.org)



Fax: 614-221-6986  
[www.ccao.org](http://www.ccao.org)

A video of the governor's October 22<sup>nd</sup> press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

### **Treasury Department issues new FAQs for Coronavirus Relief Funds**

On October 19, 2020, the US Treasury issued a revised set of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for use of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). The new version adds FAQs A57 – A59 and B-13, and revises questions A-42, A-49, and A-53. Highlights of the changes for counties are as follows:

- **FEMA Match** - CRF payments can be used to meet the non-federal matching requirements for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Stafford Act assistance, if they are used for COVID-19-related costs that satisfy both CRF rules and FEMA's determination of eligibility. (Question A-42, revised)
- **K-12 Schools** - CRF payments may be used to cover costs related to school reopening. Treasury created an administrative presumption that expenses up to \$500 per pupil do not have to be documented. The \$500 per pupil administrative presumption applies to the total amount of funds received from all levels of government. If the administrative presumption is used, any additional aid may be used only for the following purposes:
  - expanding broadband capacity;
  - hiring new teachers;
  - developing an online curriculum;
  - acquiring computers and similar digital devices;
  - acquiring and installing additional ventilation or other air filtering equipment;
  - incurring additional transportation costs; or
  - incurring additional costs of providing meals. (Question A-53, revised)
- **Acquisition of Real Property and Equipment** - The expenses of acquiring or improving real property and of acquiring equipment (e.g., vehicles) may be covered with payments from the Fund in certain cases if they are consistent with the CARES Act. The acquisition of real estate or equipment must be **necessary**. In particular, a government must (i) determine that it is not able to meet the need arising from the public health emergency in a cost-effective manner by leasing property or equipment or by improving property already owned and (ii) maintain documentation to support this determination. An improvement, such as the installation of modifications to permit social distancing, would need to be determined to be necessary to address the COVID-19 public health emergency. **Such acquisitions and improvements must be completed and the acquired or improved property or equipment placed in service for the COVID-19-related use for which it was acquired or improved by December 30.** As with all CRF payments, such costs must not have been previously accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. (Question A-58)
- **Grants to Small Business that received SBA PPP Payments** - Receiving a SBA PPP or EIDL grant or loan for COVID-19 would not necessarily make a small business ineligible to receive a grant from CRF payments, but it must be taken into account. If the business has received a loan from the SBA that may be forgiven, the county should assume for purposes of determining the business's need that the loan will be forgiven. In determining the business' eligibility for the grant, the county should not rely on self-certifications provided to the SBA. **If the grant is being provided to the small business to assist with particular expenditures, the business must not have already used the PPP or EIDL loan or grant for those same expenditures.** The local government is responsible for determining the level and detail of documentation needed from the small business assistance to satisfy the CARES Act requirements. There

would need to be some proof that the small business was impacted by the public health emergency and was thus eligible for the CRF funds. (Question A-59)

- **Auditing CRF Beneficiaries** - Individuals and organizations (e.g., businesses, non-profits, or educational institutions) that are beneficiaries of an assistance program established using CRF payments are not considered “subrecipients” under the federal Single Audit Act and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F. These federal audit requirements do not apply to beneficiaries. (Question B-13)

Members with questions should contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, 614-600-8900, [jhoneck@ccao.org](mailto:jhoneck@ccao.org).

**Preliminary Auto County Sales Tax Estimates sent to CCAO members yesterday**

Preliminary auto sales tax estimates from the Ohio Department of Taxation for August sales were emailed to CCAO members yesterday. Please check your inboxes for this information.

**Request for counties to share CARES Act spending plans with CCAO policy team**

With CARES Act funds being distributed to local governments across the state, counties have a number of options for how they may utilize their funds. As your county decides how to spend its CARES Act funds, please share your ideas with the CCAO policy team. Your ideas can serve as valuable examples to other counties considering different funding options. Please send any resolutions or spending plans to Jon Honeck at [jhoneck@ccao.org](mailto:jhoneck@ccao.org).

**Coronavirus Relief Fund: Important Deadlines**

The below chart highlights key deadlines regarding CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars between October 2020 and February 2021. To view a pdf version of this chart, click [here](#).

<b>CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND: IMPORTANT DEADLINES</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
<b>October 20, 2020</b>	First Interim Financial Report due to OBM via the grants portal for activity through 9/30/2020
<b>October 30, 2020</b>	County Auditor must report initial HB 614 distribution to OBM
<b>November 20, 2020</b>	Unencumbered Funds must be returned to the County Auditor
<b>November 25, 2020</b>	County Auditor must redistribute unencumbered funds
<b>December 1, 2020</b>	County Auditor must report November redistribution amounts to OBM
<b>December 30, 2020</b>	Final Date to incur eligible CRF costs (grant “covered period” extends from 3/1/2020 to 12/30/2020)
<b>January 6, 2021</b>	Second Interim Financial Report due to OBM for activity from 10/1/2020 through 12/31/2020

<b>February 1, 2021</b>	Remaining unspent funds must be returned to OBM
<b>February 10, 2021</b>	Final (Close-out) Financial report due to OBM covering grant liquidation activities that occurred between 1/1/2021 and 1/31/2021
<p>Note: This table is intended as guidance for counties that received CRF resources from the State of Ohio through HB 481 and HB 614. Five counties that received direct US Treasury Funding are considered prime recipients and must report to Treasury rather than OBM.</p>	

### **Other Resources**

[ODJFS Director Hall Weekly Call Notes 10.21.2020](#)

[ODJFS Updated Q&A Document 10.21.2020](#)

[Public Health Advisory System Map and Resources](#)

[Ohio COVID-19 Travel Advisory Information](#)

[Current Information Regarding Reopening](#)

[Editable #InThisTogetherOhio Logo](#)

[NACo COVID-19 webpage](#)

Visit <https://ccao.org/resources/coronavirus-updates/> for updates, FAQs and previous memos. Current information from the Ohio Department of Health can be found at [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov). If you want to help Ohio's response to this pandemic, you can contact the state at [together@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:together@governor.ohio.gov). If you have questions regarding this memo or best practice suggestions relating to COVID-19, please contact Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at [rmassoud@ccao.org](mailto:rmassoud@ccao.org).