



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986
Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • www.ccao.org

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

October 27, 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 27, 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

During today's press conference, Gov. DeWine asked local leaders including county commissioners, executives, and council members to organize and discuss ways to beat the virus in their counties. The governor and Ohio Department of Health attribute the increasing cases and hospitalizations to community spread. COVID-19 positive ICU utilization has doubled from the beginning of the month. Today, 82 counties are classified as high incidence (more than 100 cases per 100,000 residents).

Gov. DeWine will meet with leaders in the counties that are on the "watch list" to become Purple Level 4 or are the highest of the high incidence to work together to beat the virus. These meetings will include the president of the county commission or council and/or the county executive, as well as other local officials.

There was an increase of 2,509 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday's data. There were 198 new hospitalizations reported in the last 24 hours. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor's October 27th press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 29th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.



Fax: 614-220-0209
www.corsa.org



Fax: 614-229-4588
www.cebco.org



Fax: 614-221-6986
www.ccao.org

Controlling Board Approves Additional CARES Act Distribution

Yesterday, the Ohio Controlling Board approved an additional \$419.5 million in CARES Act funding to provide economic relief to individuals and organizations around the state. Gov. DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted announced the details of this allocation along with Speaker of the House Cupp, Senate President Obhof, and members of both chambers. The applications for funds will be available on November 2nd. The Ohio Development Services Agency has established a website, www.businesshelp.ohio.gov to receive applications from small businesses.

Funding will be allocated in the following manner:

- \$50 million for Home Relief Grants to individuals who have fallen behind on rent, mortgage, or water and sewer utility payments. Individuals can apply through their local community action agency. The funds are intended to prevent eviction, foreclosure, and utility shut-offs. For eligibility and other information, click [here](#).
- \$125 million for Small Business Relief Grants to companies with 25 or fewer employees. Eligible businesses will receive up to \$10,000 to cover the costs of rent, mortgages, utilities, salaries, supplies or equipment. An initial amount of \$44 million will be set aside for the first 21 days to ensure that at least 50 businesses in each county have an opportunity to receive funding. To learn more, click [here](#).
- \$37.5 million for restaurants and bars that have active on-site liquor consumption permits. The business does not have to be open but the permit must be active. The grant amount is designated as \$2,500 per business in order to reimburse for the cost of the liquor permit. These businesses are also eligible to apply to the small business grant program. To learn more, click [here](#).
- \$62 million for rural and critical access hospitals to assist with increased costs.
- \$100 million for higher education to assist with the costs of testing and mental health services for students.
- \$45 million for nonprofits and arts organizations that have not received CARES Act funding from other sources. This program will be administered by ODJFS.

During last week's press conference, the governor and legislative leaders indicated that the state is not spending its entire CARES Act allocation on the expectation that Congress may act to extend the deadline for the grant beyond December 30.

Members with questions should contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-600-8900.

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.

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](#).

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND: IMPORTANT DEADLINES	
DATE	ACTIVITY
October 20, 2020	First Interim Financial Report due to OBM via the grants portal for activity through 9/30/2020
October 30, 2020	County Auditor must report initial HB 614 distribution to OBM
November 20, 2020	Unencumbered Funds must be returned to the County Auditor
November 25, 2020	County Auditor must redistribute unencumbered funds
December 1, 2020	County Auditor must report November redistribution amounts to OBM
December 30, 2020	Final Date to incur eligible CRF costs (grant "covered period" extends from 3/1/2020 to 12/30/2020)
January 6, 2021	Second Interim Financial Report due to OBM for activity from 10/1/2020 through 12/31/2020
February 1, 2021	Remaining unspent funds must be returned to OBM
February 10, 2021	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 10.26.2020](#)

[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. If you want to help Ohio's response to this pandemic, you can contact the state at 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.