



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

November 10, 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: NOVEMBER 10, 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 10.29.2020](#)
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 Monday Press Conference: Rising Hospitalizations; Address to Ohioans scheduled for Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Yesterday, Gov. DeWine held a press conference with leaders of the Ohio Hospital Association to discuss hospital capacity in Ohio as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to rise. To read more, click [here](#).

Gov. DeWine will deliver a statewide address to Ohioans on Wednesday, November 11th at 5:30 p.m.

The event will be streamed live on the [Ohio Channel website](#) as well as local news stations.

There was an increase of 6,508 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday's data. There were 386 new hospitalizations reported in the last 24 hours. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor's November 9th press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Thursday, November 12th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.



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Reminder: Please complete CARES Act Utilization Survey

Last week, CCAO sent a brief survey link to members to gather information on what percentage of their CARES Act funds each county plans to encumber by November 20th. Please respond to this survey if you have not already done so. This information will help guide CCAO's advocacy efforts in the days to come.

Using CARES Act funds to support child care programs

Like many counties around the state, the Warren County Board of Commissioners utilized its initial allocation of CARES Act funding to pay for the direct costs associated with required sanitation measures and infrastructure to accommodate social distancing guidelines, to provide county employees, first responders and school districts with much-needed PPE, to support the increased costs of our jail operations and unemployment compensation due to the pandemic, and to assist our struggling small businesses as they adapt to new operating procedures. But as the Board worked with the community towards recovery, it recognized that one area needed special consideration, our child care programs that provide essential service to our kids, our families and our businesses alike.

Child care is needed now more than ever to support families going back to work and keeping children safe and learning. As private businesses in the local community, child care programs are among the many industries suffering but are THE industry on which all others rely. They need urgent financial support from county leadership to cover the increased cost of operations during the pandemic, provide an essential service to our local business community and economy, and maintain capacity to serve working families now and into the future.

Even despite additional support and effort from the state made with other CARES Act dollars, in August of this year, the State of Ohio served 27,606 fewer children in its publicly funded child care system than it did at the same period of time in 2019. Our youngest children and our Black children disproportionately represent this substantial loss.

Given the grim reality these small businesses and the families that depend on them face, the Board created the ***Warren County CARES Act Grant Program*** to assist both center-based and family child care programs to assist with the financial impacts of their COVID-19 response. Type B family-based childcare providers could apply for a maximum grant of \$2,500 and any center-based childcare provider could receive \$10,000. The grants can be used to reimburse any costs associated with providing personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, payroll costs, utilities, rent or mortgage payments. Nineteen child care programs made applications, with an estimated distribution of \$182,000. More applications are expected.

October tax revenues remain stable, sales tax exceeds estimates

According to preliminary tax revenue data released by the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, tax revenues remained stable and actually exceeded estimates for the month of October. Over the past month, total General Revenue Funds exceeded budgeted estimates by nearly \$85 million, or 4.3%.

Strong sales and use tax collections were the primary revenue drivers for the month. Non-auto sales and use tax collections exceeded estimates by 10.1% while auto sales exceeded collection estimates by 5.3%. One weak spot in the numbers was personal income tax, which came in 2.3% below estimate for the month.

OBM cited growing concerns about rising coronavirus case numbers and waning federal fiscal stimulus on tax revenues for the months ahead. Read the full preliminary report [here](#).

Preliminary Non-Auto County Sales Tax Estimates sent to CCAO members yesterday

Preliminary non-auto sales tax estimates from the Ohio Department of Taxation for September sales were emailed to CCAO members yesterday. Please keep an eye out for this information.

Coalition Communication Documents

The administration created “coalitions communications” documents to aid different groups in communicating with their constituencies about the coronavirus. The documents include helpful talking points, sample social media posts, resources, updated COVID-19 data and more.

Each fact sheet has a designated communications point of contact who can provide support in drafting newsletters, op-eds, etc. The administration will update these documents each week.

You can find the documents at the following links: [Local Government](#), [Law Enforcement](#), [Business](#), [Agriculture](#), [Manufacturing](#), [K-12 Education](#), [Higher Education](#), [Tourism & Arts](#), [Healthcare](#), [Faith Based Organizations](#), and [Philanthropy](#).

White House Briefing Call Registration – Nov 18

In observance of Veterans Day, the White House has rescheduled its November 11th briefing call for November 18th. Registration information is below.

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern (please note start time and time zone)

Call-In Registration: **if you previously registered for the 11/11 call, you do not need to re-register** [CLICK HERE](#)

Note: Call-in lines are limited. RSVP's will be allocated in the order they are received. You must register to join the call.

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 |

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| 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 11.9.2020](#)

[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.