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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

December 21, 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: DECEMBER 21, 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 11.20.2020](#)
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](#)
8. [CAB: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Public Employees](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine Press Conference

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine stressed that it is critical for Ohioans to continue limiting gatherings as we approach the Christmas and New Years holidays. New York Times data showed that Ohioans reduced their travel and contact with others by 60-70% over the Thanksgiving holiday.

The [COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#) is live. For more information about Ohio's COVID-19 vaccination program, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov. Key resources include [COVID-19 vaccine frequently asked questions](#) and a [Phase 1A vaccine distribution fact sheet](#).

There were 6,548 new COVID-19 cases reported today. Additionally, there were 301 additional hospitalizations and 37 additional ICU admissions in the past 24 hours. To view the latest COVID-19 data, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor's December 21st press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Wednesday, December 23rd at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.



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COVID relief legislation pushes back CARES Act spending deadline to 2021

As of this morning, Congressional leaders indicated that they had reached a deal on a COVID relief package with approximately \$900 billion in total spending. The legislation delays the spending deadline for the Coronavirus Relief Fund – CARES Act spending by one year to December 31, 2021. This new date needs a state law change to become effective for the 83 counties that received funding through OBM. Under the terms of Senate Bill 310 (the recently-enacted state capital budget bill), the Ohio Office of Budget and Management is permitted to ask the State Controlling Board to change deadlines from the CARES Act in order to be consistent with federal law. We expect the change to be made in the near future, but until then, February 1, 2020 remains the OBM deadline to return unspent funds.

Other major elements of the federal COVID relief package include:

- Extension of the pandemic emergency unemployment program, which provides additional weeks of federal benefits, and a \$300/week boost to unemployment benefits through March 21, 2020;
- Additional round of economic impact payments to individuals making up to \$75,000 per year or couples making up to \$150,000 per year; payments of \$600 per individual, including child dependents;
- Additional round of funding for forgivable PPP loans for small business, including dedicated funding for live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions;
- Dedicated funding for community development financial institutions;
- Funding for airlines and mass transit agencies;
- Funding for vaccine procurement and distribution;
- Funding for both K-12 and higher education;
- Dedicated rental assistance funds to be distributed by the states and local governments and an extension of the CDC moratorium on eviction through January 31, 2021;
- Increase in SNAP benefits and additional direct payments to farmers and ranchers;
- Emergency funding for the child care development block grant program;
- Dedicated funding for broadband development in low income areas.

CCAO will share additional details of the legislation as they become available. Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org.

CCAO CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund survey sent to CCAO members

CCAO sent a CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund online survey to county commissioners, county executives, county council members, clerks and administrators today. The goal is to understand the programs and services supported with CRF resources. Please check your inbox for the survey link. We ask that you please complete the survey by December 31st. If you have questions, please contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org.

Preliminary Auto County Sales Tax Estimates sent to CCAO members on Friday

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

Deadline Approaching for Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund Grants; Commissioners Asked to Help with Local Outreach

As you know, the hospitality industry has been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. To try and help the industry, Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Husted and the General Assembly set aside approximately \$38.7 million in CARES Act dollars to assist bars, restaurants, and other businesses with on-premise liquor permits. A Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund was established with a \$2,500 grant available to each and every on-premise permit location in Ohio. This fund is not competitive, so if a permit holder is eligible, they will receive a \$2,500 payment. If an owner has more than one business location, each location is eligible for its own \$2,500. **However, businesses must apply for the grant by December 30, 2020.** Funds cannot be distributed after December 31, 2020

In just the last week, so many commissioners, economic development officials, and their staffs made an extraordinary push to make sure all these businesses in their counties were aware and taking advantage of this opportunity. The Administration greatly appreciates your efforts! Here are links to a [one-pager](#) and a [FAQs](#) on the grants. Sample social media posts are available [here](#) and a social media graphic from the administration can be found [here](#). **If you would like a list of establishments who have not yet applied for this grant in your county, please don't hesitate to contact Josh Hahn, Assistant Director with the Ohio Department of Commerce, at Joshua.hahn@com.ohio.gov or 614-312-9719.**

Coalition Communication Fact Sheets

The administration created "coalitions communications" fact sheets 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](#).

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

[Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)

[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.