



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

March 23, 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: MARCH 23, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Gov. DeWine Press Conference

Today, Gov. DeWine held another press conference regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Ohio now has 442 confirmed cases in 46 counties. There have been 6 COVID-19 related deaths.

Today the governor announced that he is ordering a hiring freeze in state government, except for personnel that are directly helping with COVID-19. He is also ordering a freeze on new contract services at the state. Cabinet agencies are being asked to make cuts in spending, up to 20%.

A video of the governor's March 23rd press conference can be found [here](#). The administration plans to continue daily press briefings at 2 pm. Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

Register for Friday's HR Webinar: Employment Law FAQs and Update on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

CCAO will host another webinar on Friday, March 27th at 1:00 p.m. As the issues relating to the coronavirus change and update, there are more employment-related questions. This webinar will provide an update on these issues along with the latest information concerning the application of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Presenter: Marc A. Fishel, Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLP

Click [here](#) to register for this timely educational opportunity. If you are unable to register to the link above, please email Nedra Benson, nbenson@ccao.org, CCAO administrative professional, and provide her with your email address.

TANF COVID-19 Response Funds

CCAO, the County Auditors' Association of Ohio and the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association sent [this letter](#) to our members today regarding TANF funds that have been repurposed to aid in the COVID-19 response. The letter outlines anticipated workflows to ensure these funds are injected into your communities as quickly as possible.



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



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



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

BWC announces workers comp premium installment payments deferred until June 1, 2020

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) has announced that workers comp premium installment payments due for March, April, and May for the current policy year may be deferred until June 1, 2020, at which time the matter will be reconsidered. This includes public employers. The BWC will not lapse (cancel) coverage or assess penalties for amounts not paid because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

To view the BWC's COVID-19 FAQs, click [here](#).

Supreme Court of Ohio Guidance for Local Courts

The Supreme Court of Ohio released COVID-19 guidance for local courts which can be found [here](#).

NACo Advocacy Request and Resources

NACo sent out [this communication](#) last night asking members to contact their senators regarding the emergency supplemental bill related to COVID-19. The three main items they are asking counties to pay attention to are provisions relating to the state stabilization fund, the Municipal Bond Emergency Relief Act and the paid sick leave provision.

The National Association of Counties' COVID-19 webpage

<https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/coronavirus-disease-2019> includes nationwide information about county response as well as information about federal relief packages relating to COVID-19.

Materials from OCCO Webinar on COVID-19 and Employment Law issues

Jonathan Downes, Attorney, Zashin & Rich, sent the following materials following the Friday webinar on COVID-19 and Employment Law:

[Zashin & Rich FAQs following the webinar](#)

[Public Employer Summary of H.R. 6201 – Family First Coronavirus Response Act](#)

These materials, along with the powerpoint and recording of the webinar, are available on the "Webinar" section of CCAO's website (<https://ccao.org/resources/coronavirus-updates/>). Thank you again to Jonathan Downes for presenting.

ODSA Releases Guidance for CDBG Administrators during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs allow communities to issue low-interest, gap financing for fixed assets to local businesses, and loan packages may include working capital up to a percentage of program income received in one year. Given the recent mandated shutdowns of many industries statewide, the Ohio Department of Development Services announced that it will allow the following flexible financing terms for new and existing loans during the State of Emergency:

- 0% interest loans
- Working capital loans will not be capped at 30% of program income (principal, interest, and bank interest) received in one year
- Working capital loans may be approved without accompanying fixed-asset investment
- Deferred principal and interest for new and existing loans for up to 6 months with a 6-month renewal option as deemed appropriate and documented by the local Revolving Loan Fund board

New Economic Development and Revolving Loan Fund projects are still required to meet the low- and moderate-income (LMI) job creation and/or retention requirement. At least 51% of jobs created and/or retained must qualify as LMI. Applicant businesses may use current economic conditions to evidence that Ohio will imminently lose jobs to support a job retention claim.

Local governments must continue to submit Economic Development pre-applications and RLF applications for new loans via email for review. ODSA will attempt to expedite approval given the current business climate. Local governments must also notify Jared Jodrey at jared.jodrey@development.ohio.gov of any changes made to rates and terms for existing borrowers. Include the business name, loan initiation date, outstanding balance, loan modification terms, and RLF board approval. Local governments will also be required to report modifications on their semi-annual RLF reports.

If you have any questions or concerns during this time, please email Jared Jodrey at Jared.Jodrey@development.ohio.gov for Revolving Loan Fund questions and Ben Kepple at Ben.Kepple@development.ohio.gov for Economic Development questions. We are here to support you and the work you do. For updates on COVID-19, visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov> or call the Ohio Department of Health hotline at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

Ohio Realtors Association Letter

The Ohio Realtors Association sent a letter to Executive Director Subler regarding real estate transfers and county government during COVID-19. You can view the letter [here](#).

CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO Bi-weekly COVID-19 Briefing Call

CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO will host a biweekly COVID-19 briefing call for members every Monday and Thursday at 3:30 p.m. The next call will be Thursday, March 26th. Lt. Governor Husted is expected to be a guest on the call on Thursday. The call-in information is as follows:

Dial 1-877-273-4202
Access code 889-229-624

These calls will serve as a way for us to share information and answer questions from counties, as well as provide a space for our members to discuss their best practices if they wish. If you know you have a question that you would like answered, please send it to Adam Schwiebert (aschwiebert@ccao.org) in advance to give staff some time to research the answer.

Other Resources

Visit <https://ccao.org/resources/coronavirus-updates/> for updates, FAQs and previous memos. As a reminder, current information from the Ohio Department of Health can be found at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. If you have questions regarding this memo or best practice suggestions relating to COVID-19, please contact Adam Schwiebert, policy analyst, at aschwiebert@ccao.org, or Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at rmassoud@ccao.org.