



*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](http://www.ccao.org)

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**May 5, 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:** MAY 5, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

### Key Resources

1. [CAB: COVID-19 Employment Related FAQs](#)
2. [CAB: Layoffs and Furloughs Under Civil Service Law](#)
3. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 4.22.2020](#)
4. [Treasury FAQs 5.4.2020](#)
5. [CAB: COVID-19 and Collective Bargaining Issues](#)
6. [Reopening Information](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

### **Gov. DeWine's COVID-19 Press Conference: Budget Cuts for SFY20**

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine announced that Ohio now has 20,969 COVID-19 cases. There have been 1,135 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH.

Gov. DeWine announced that Ohio is now \$776.9 million below budget estimates for SFY 2020, which ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The governor announced a \$775 million budget reduction in GRF spending for the remainder of this fiscal year in order to balance the budget. The cuts are as follows:

- Medicaid spending (\$210 million),
- K-12 foundation payments (\$300 million),
- Other education line-items (\$55 million),
- Higher education (\$110 million),
- All other state agencies (\$100 million).



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)

The governor decided not to use the rainy day fund to balance the budget for the next two months. He anticipates the state will need those dollars for SFY 2021 and possibly SFY 2022. Gov. DeWine stated that every state agency, except for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, is taking cuts. The state hiring freeze as well as freezes on pay increases and requests for contract services except those for emergency response all remain in place.

Current information regarding reopening can be found at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/responsiblestartohio>.

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).

A video of the governor's May 5<sup>th</sup> press conference can be found [here](#). **The administration will not hold a press conference tomorrow**, but plans to resume press conferences on Thursday at 2 p.m. Press conferences can be viewed on [www.ohiochannel.org](http://www.ohiochannel.org).

### **Senate Introduces SB 310 to Distribute Federal CARES Act Funds to Local Governments**

State Senator Matt Dolan this morning introduced [Senate Bill 310](#), legislation which would distribute federal CARES Act funds to Ohio counties, municipalities and townships not receiving a direct distribution from the U.S. Treasury Department. The bill would allocate \$350 million in federal funds to local governments utilizing the Local Government Fund formula, with a later redistribution of unused funds partially dispersed according to population. The CCAO Executive Committee recently voted to support the legislation, along with several other local government associations. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee tomorrow, and CCAO will continue to monitor the legislative closely.

### **Additional CARES Act Guidance Released by U.S. Treasury**

On May 4, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released additional "frequently asked questions" [guidance](#) about the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in the CARES Act. The state of Ohio is preparing to transfer some of these funds to counties and other local governments (see separate story above). The FAQs mainly clarify or extend earlier guidance. Some of the topics addressed include:

- A reimbursing employer may use the funds for unemployment insurance costs related to COVID-19 if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.
- Eligible expenses include payroll and benefit costs of public employees who could have been furloughed or laid off but were instead repurposed to perform previously unbudgeted functions related to mitigating COVID-19. The guidance also considers the payroll costs for public health and public safety employees to be substantially dedicated to responding to COVID-19, and thus eligible uses of funds.
- CRF payments are not required to be funding of last resort, but payments cannot be used to cover expenditures that will later be reimbursed with other federal funds (no double dipping).
- Increased workers' compensation coverage for first responders and health care workers is an eligible expense.
- Funds may be used to provide grants or short-term loans to private hospitals to the extent that the costs are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 emergency. (note that other CARES Act funds are designed to address lost revenue for hospitals)
- Funds may be used to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families to avoid eviction or foreclosure or to address other unforeseen emergency costs.

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

## **ODH Releases Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance**

As Ohio continues to increase COVID-19 testing, ODH issued [Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance](#). To read the document, click [here](#). The guidance outlines three testing priority groups. Ohio modified the CDC priority groups for testing to meet the specific needs of our state in light of changes in testing availability and evolving knowledge of COVID-19 and its impact on Ohioans. ODH also released a [chart](#) outlining the testing priority groups, which you can find [here](#).

## **ODJFS Unemployment Infographic**

ODJFS released an [infographic](#) that succinctly describes traditional unemployment versus the new federal unemployment programs created by the CARES Act. You can view the infographic [here](#).

## **Summary of ODJFS New Programs and Expansions**

ODJFS released a summary document on new programs and expansions over the past six weeks. You can view the brief status report [here](#).

## **Recording Available for NACo Webinar – Accessing the \$2 Trillion COVID-19 Fund: Navigating Federal Funding Streams and Preparing for Federal Reimbursement**

On May 4, the National Association of Counties hosted a webinar by the Witt O'Brien consulting firm that discussed the dozen federal funding streams available to local governments for COVID-19 aid, including which programs may be used to cover various costs, how they interact with CARES funding and how to prepare to apply for FEMA reimbursement. The recording, slides, and questions and answers are now available on the [NACo website](#). To view the materials, click [here](#).

## **County Reentry and Return to Work Documents**

As counties begin to reopen their buildings and have employees return to work, CCAO wanted to provide some examples of policies for employees and visitors that are being put into place. If you wish to share your examples, please send them to Rachel Massoud at [rmassoud@ccao.org](mailto:rmassoud@ccao.org).

## **[Guernsey County Operations Memo](#)**

## **White House Briefing Call Registration May 6<sup>th</sup>**

On **Wednesday, May 6, at 11:30 AM Eastern Time**, please join Senior Administration Officials for a briefing call on COVID-19 (coronavirus). We will be joined by officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDT), U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and U.S. Department of Education (ED) to discuss ongoing CARES Act implementation and additional resources, guidance, and flexibilities being provided to States, Tribes, and Local government for COVID-19 response efforts. Registration instructions are below.

### **Briefing Call Registration**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 6

**Time:** 11:30 AM Eastern Time (please note start time and time zone)

**Call-In Registration:** [CLICK HERE](#)

**Note:** Please note the following information regarding registration.

- Call-in lines are limited. RSVP's will be allocated in the order they are received. Please register only if you are able to join the call.

- Upon successful registration, you will be directed to a separate webpage with confirmation details and/or receive dial-in instructions to the email address you use to register. Please ensure the email address you register with is correct and check your spam/junk folder after registration. If neither action occurs, you did not successfully register.
- If you are attempting to register but cannot “submit” your information, please try again at a later time.
- Note that multiple people cannot dial-in using the same registration information. This will cause you to be kicked-off the call.
- Registration closes once the call reaches capacity or two hours prior to call start time.

### **CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO COVID-19 Weekly Briefing Call**

CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO are hosting a weekly briefing call during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The calls will be on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.** The next call will be Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Staff from the Department of Taxation will join the call to discuss revenue numbers. The call-in information is:

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

Our goal with these briefing calls is to provide our members with an informative and positive experience. In order to better achieve this goal and due to the volume of callers, we have decided to change the format. We ask that participants pose questions during the call by **texting** Rachel Massoud (CCAO policy analyst) at **513-543-3723**. Rachel will read the questions to our speaker(s) and state the name and title of the person who posed the question. Participants will remain muted throughout the duration of the call. We hope this format will reduce duplication, keep our calls focused and concise, and provide the best experience possible for our participants.

### **Upcoming CCAO Webinars – May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>**

CCAO is sponsoring two webinars next week. Details for each webinar and links to register are below:

#### **Navigating the Workplace Accommodation Process**

**Wednesday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m.**

Public employers must operate under a variety of rules and regulations stemming from a multitude of laws governing the workplace. One such occurrence is when an employee requests a leave of absence or an accommodation for an illness, injury, religious belief or pregnancy. If such requests are not handled properly, an employer could face liability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

This webinar will provide an overview of the accommodation process and discuss management’s responsibilities during the interactive process when faced with an employee’s request for an accommodation. Case law will be reviewed throughout.

Further, the webinar will discuss the legal landscape of workplace accommodations in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Presenter: Brad E. Bennett, Bricker & Eckler

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

## **CCAO and Montrose Group COVID 19 Economic Recovery Webinar Series: County Models and State & Federal Funding Approaches**

**Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

COVID 19's public health impact is just the start. Strategies designed to slow the spread of the virus caused a nearly 5% drop in the U.S. GDP in the first quarter of 2020, sales tax revenues in March for the state of Ohio dropped 8% and the impact on county government from a revenue decline and service expansion will be challenging. Please join the Montrose Group, a Columbus, Ohio based economic development and public policy consulting firm, for a free webinar to learn about how counties can craft a COVID 19 economic recovery strategy. The discussion will include creative county approaches to COVID 19 economic recovery and how state and federal funding approaches can play a role in COVID 19 economic recovery.

[Click here](#) to register to this timely educational opportunity.

### **Correction to Casino Revenue Distribution**

Yesterday's memo incorrectly stated that counties with a population over 80,000 must share half of the casino revenue with their most populous city. This statement should have said that if a county's most populated city, as of the 2000 Census, has a population over 80,000, then 50 percent of the county's distribution will go to that city.

### **Other Resources**

[Weekly Update: DHS Response to COVID-19 5.4.2020](#)

[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 have questions regarding this memo or best practice suggestions relating to COVID-19, please contact Adam Schwiebert, policy analyst, at [aschwiebert@ccao.org](mailto:aschwiebert@ccao.org), or Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at [rmassoud@ccao.org](mailto:rmassoud@ccao.org).