



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

June 30, 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: JUNE 30, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources Webpage](#)
2. [CAB: Employees Returning to Work FAQs](#)
3. [CAB: Layoffs and Furloughs Under Civil Service Law](#)
4. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 4.22.2020](#)
5. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 6.24.2020](#)
6. [Reopening Information](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine's Monday Press Conference

During yesterday's press conference, Gov. DeWine announced that he is extending existing health orders through this week as his administration finalizes plans to help local schools safely reopen, as well as plans to keep Ohioans healthy and safe. Details on this new phase are anticipated to be released on Thursday during his 2 p.m. press conference.

Beginning on July 20th, nursing homes are permitted to begin outdoor visitation as long as all safety standards are met. Safety standards and health orders can be found [here](#).

Today's COVID-19 numbers are as follows: Ohio has now had 51,789 COVID-19 cases. There have been 2,863 COVID-19 related deaths. These numbers include both confirmed and probable cases as reported by ODH. Hospitalizations reached 7,839, while intensive care unit admissions totaled 1,994.

A video of the governor's June 29th press conference can be found [here](#). To read the press release from yesterday's press conference, click [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Thursday, July 2nd at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.



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Updated OBM Guidance for CARES Act Funds

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management updated its guidance for the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program (CARES Act funds from HB 481). To view the guidance in full, click [here](#). The guidance takes into account new FAQs issued by the US Treasury related to the use of CARES Act funds for the FEMA local match and how to establish that a public sector employee is substantially dedicated to responding to COVID-19. The new OBM guidance reads as follows:

Are these funds allowed to be used as cost-share or match to other federal grant programs? (updated June 29, 2020)

On June 24, 2020, the U.S. Department of Treasury updated their Frequently Asked Questions to allow for the use of funds to meet the non-federal matching requirements for Stafford Act assistance to the extent such matching requirements entail COVID-19 related costs that otherwise satisfy the CRF eligibility requirements and the Stafford Act. The ability to use funds to match any other grant programs is prohibited.

Can payroll expenses, which are already budgeted, be funded by CRF funds? (updated June 29, 2020)

CRF money can be used for payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19 public health emergency. Further, personnel that were diverted to a substantially different use due entirely to the COVID-19 public health emergency and are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19 are allowable expenses.

On June 24, 2020, the US Treasury updated their Frequently Asked Questions stating CRF money can be used for payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19 public health emergency. OBM recommends the local government Chief Executive Official declare a proclamation in some manner and document the individuals or job positions with the specific duties that meet the substantially dedicated criteria. Please be familiar with the Auditor of State FAQ related to payroll costs and be aware the US Treasury may clarify the payroll expense requirements in the future.

Must jurisdictions keep time sheets or other accounting of the time that an employee spends on COVID-19 related work to document that the employee is "substantially dedicated"? (updated June 29, 2020)

For public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated it is presumed for administrative convenience that personnel costs related to these areas are substantially dedicated unless the chief executive determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise. On June 24, 2020, the US Treasury updated their Frequently Asked Questions further clarifying as a matter of administrative convenience that the entire payroll cost of an employee in these sectors whose time is substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency is eligible. OBM recommends the local government Chief Executive Official declare a proclamation in some manner and document the individuals or job positions with the specific duties that meet the substantially dedicated criteria.

For personnel that were diverted to a substantially different use due entirely to the COVID-19 public health emergency to mitigating or responding to COVID-19 there must be some supporting documentation or evidence which corroborates the substantially different use and the time charged. Time sheets may be useful documentation for audit purposes.

Please be familiar with the Auditor of State FAQ related to payroll costs and be aware the US Treasury may clarify the payroll expense requirements in the future.

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.

New CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources Webpage

The CCAO team created a new page on our website (ccao.org) dedicated to CARES Act funding resources. You can access the page [here](#).

State and Local Coalition sends letter to U.S. Senate regarding federal aid

As a new fiscal year begins for most state and local governments, a coalition of state and local organizations (including NACo), business groups, labor unions and others made a unified appeal to the U.S. Senate to immediately act on aid for state and local governments as public services and jobs are threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Their letter](#) to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer noted that nearly 15 million Americans are employed by state and local governments, whose purchases account for 11 percent of the gross domestic product. To read more, click [here](#).

No CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO briefing calls until further notice

CCAO/CORSA/CEBCO will **not** hold a weekly briefing call until further notice. We are working to provide other educational opportunities for our members and will update you as they are scheduled.

Other Resources

[ODJFS Director Hall Weekly Call Notes 6.29.2020](#)

[U.S. Department of Homeland Security Weekly Update 6.29.2020](#)

[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 Adam Schwiebert, policy analyst, at aschwiebert@ccao.org, or Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at rmassoud@ccao.org.