



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

August 11, 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: AUGUST 11, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources Webpage](#)
2. [OBM Ideas on How to Use Coronavirus Relief Funding](#)
3. [OBM CARES Act Funds Guidance 7.16.2020](#)
4. [CCAO Guidance on Using CARES Act Funds](#)
5. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 6.30.2020](#)
6. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 7.8.2020](#)
7. [CAB: Employees Returning to Work FAQs](#)
8. [CAB: Layoffs and Furloughs Under Civil Service Law 7.15.2020](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine's Press Conference

During today's press conference, Gov. DeWine focused his remarks on schools reopening. He invited three physicians, Dr. John Barnard of Nationwide Children's Hospital, Dr. Patty Manning of Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Dr. Adam Mezoff of Dayton Children's Hospital to discuss the prevalence of COVID-19 among children, spread of COVID-19 among children and options for schools if they do have COVID-19 cases once returning.

There was an increase of 1,095 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday's data. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor's August 11th press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Thursday, August 13th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

OBM releases summary of suggested CARES Act funds uses

In order to assist local governments in their planning, the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) has released a two-page list of suggested uses for Coronavirus Relief Funds. The list is available [here](#) and will be



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posted to the CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources [page](#). The list includes ways that counties can improve their own internal operations and ways to help individuals and organizations in their communities. For example, counties may improve court operations by enhancing remote capabilities such as:

- technology enablement projects;
- technology to enable public access to online hearings/trials;
- online dispute resolution technology;
- online notarization technology;
- digital scan fingerprinting technology;
- guardianship and estate technology solutions;
- minor building modifications to ensure the safety of the public and staff (plexiglass or glass barriers, disinfecting services).

Local governments can also consider purchasing thermo scanning equipment for screening in public facilities. The OBM list is not meant to be comprehensive, so counties should also consult federal and state guidance, as well as CCAO's summary of eligible uses on the CCAO CARES Act web page.

Members with questions should contact Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-600-8900.

July tax revenues strong, but uncertainty on the horizon

July tax collection [figures](#) released by the Ohio Office of Budget and Management show very strong revenue performance for the past month. Total General Revenue Fund tax receipts for the month finished 8.2 percent above estimate. Showing particular strength for the month was the sales tax, with non-auto sales tax coming in 11.4 percent above estimate and auto sales tax beating estimates by 36.3 percent.

While the strong revenue figures are welcome news, the duration of these strong revenue figures remains in question. OBM Director Murnieks noted the following, "State and national consumer data indicate that both categories of our sales tax were influenced by federal stimulus, including \$1,200 stimulus payments to individuals and increased unemployment payments of \$600 per week. June and July sales tax receipts were also influenced by pent-up consumer demand for goods and by significant increases in online sales. OBM will continue to closely monitor economic indicators; uncertainty and trepidation about the future economic course due to the COVID-19 pandemic continues."

The full monthly financial report can be access [here](#).

Ohio will participate in new unemployment compensation bonus

On August 8, the White House announced that President Trump had issued four [new executive orders](#) in response to the breakdown of negotiations with Congress over the next round of coronavirus relief legislation. The four executive orders cover the extension of unemployment benefits, actions by federal agencies to prevent evictions, deferral of federal payroll taxes, and continuing student loan payment relief.

The CARES Act, passed in March, authorized an additional \$600 per week boost to each recipient's unemployment benefits. This bonus expired at the end of July. The President's executive order authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency to use up to \$44 billion from the Stafford Act Disaster Relief Fund to pay for additional unemployment benefits. These funds are typically subject to a 25 percent local cost share.

The intent of the executive order was to provide each unemployment benefit recipient with a \$400 per week bonus, with \$300 paid by the federal government.

The executive order urges the states to use a portion of their Coronavirus Relief Funds to pay for their share, however, the US Department of Labor is allowing states to request the federal share even if they are not making a contribution of their own. The DeWine Administration has signaled its intention to accept federal funds that would allow each recipient to receive an additional \$300 per week, but it is not committing CRF funding at this time. The allocation of these funds at the state level probably would require legislative approval.

Unemployment benefit recipients will probably have to wait several weeks before seeing the extra funds while the state reconfigures its benefit system.

The executive order pertaining to payroll taxes directs the Treasury Department to find ways to allow employees making less than \$104,000 per year to defer their social security through the end of December. The deferral would not be subject to interest or penalties. The Treasury must issue guidance to implement the directive.

NACo Webinar: How Counties are Investing CARES Act Dollars in Social Safety Net Services – August 19, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Join [NACo for a webinar](#) to hear from county leaders about how their CRF plans are working towards supporting individuals most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar will take place Wednesday, August 19, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. To register, for this webinar click [here](#).

Each year, counties invest \$58 billion in federal, state and local dollars on human services while serving as the frontline social safety net. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, counties are investing in critical public assistance services and programs to better support our residents and communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the authorization of the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the CARES Act, many counties are using these dollars towards child care support, nutrition assistance and services to older Americans.

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

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

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.

Other Resources

[ODJFS Director Hall Weekly Call Notes 8.10.2020](#)

[Public Health Advisory System Map and Resources](#)

[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.