



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

August 27, 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 27, 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 8.10.2020](#)
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 and Lt. Gov. Husted announced that Ohio's application for a federal Lost Wages Supplemental Payment Assistance grant was approved by FEMA. Ohio will receive \$717 million to provide this assistance to individuals who are eligible. This grant allows Ohio to provide an additional \$300 per week to those receiving unemployment benefits because of COVID-19. Payments will be retroactive to the week ending August 1st for those that qualify. This additional assistance will be available until funding runs out.

The administration will be issuing an order that requires schools to establish a reporting mechanism for parents to report COVID-19 cases and for schools to report those cases to the local health department. The order outlining the procedure will soon be available [here](#).

The administration released this week's [Public Health Advisory System](#) map. There are six Red Level 3 counties (newly Red in bold): Erie, Lorain, Lucas, Mercer, **Montgomery** and Preble. The governor noted that this week there is the smallest number of Ohioans living in a Red county since the system launched.



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Four counties dropped from Red Level 3 to Orange Level 2: Clark, Clermont, Franklin, Trumbull. Four counties dropped from Orange Level 2 to Yellow Level 1: Marion, Muskingum, Perry and Sandusky. 76 counties remained at the same level.

A copy of the new map can be found [here](#). The state's Public Health Advisory System website now includes an interactive map detailing indicators in each county, which you can find [here](#). A county by county list of indicators for the week can be found [here](#). A chart of case rates by county can be found [here](#).

There was an increase of 1,244 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 27th press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

Counties will receive Controlling Board CARES Act Funds Tomorrow

On Monday, the State Controlling Board voted to provide a supplemental appropriation of \$175 million in CARES Act – Coronavirus Relief Funds to local governments. These payments are made under the authority of House Bill 481. The state Office of Budget and Management (OBM) expects these payments to be made Friday, August 28. The amount of payments will be half of the amount that the county received in the first round of payments. It is not necessary to adopt an additional resolution to send to the county auditor and OBM. The funds remain subject to all of rules established by House Bill 481, including the October collection and redistribution of unobligated funds.

OBM staff will respond to questions about eligible expenses, reporting, and administration of CRF funds sent to grants@obm.ohio.gov.

Members can access guidance documents and other information about Coronavirus Relief Funds on the CCAO website at the following address:

<https://ccao.org/cares-act-funds/cares-act-funds-resources/>

Available documents include summaries of eligible expenses created by [OBM](#) and [CCAO](#), and [examples](#) of how counties are using their funding. The site also includes links to US Treasury and OBM guidance. CCAO webinars on this topic can accessed at <https://ccao.org/conferences-and-education/webinars/>.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has explanations of the CARES Act and other pieces of federal legislation that have been introduced on its COVID-19 [Resources page](#). NACo has hosted a number of webinars on how counties are using their CRF resources. Recordings of these webinars and registration for upcoming events are available at <https://www.naco.org/resources/programs-and-initiatives/webinars>.

Members with CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund questions should contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-600-8900.

Legislation to distribute remaining CARES Act funds to local governments introduced

Late this afternoon, [Senate Bill 357](#), legislation to distribute the remaining federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds to local governments, was introduced by state Sen. Matt Dolan. The legislation as drafted would disburse \$650 million to counties, townships and municipalities for COVID-19 relief efforts. Unlike House Bill 481 and the recent distribution from the Ohio Controlling Board, SB 357 would distribute funds on a population basis instead of a Local Government Fund-based distribution.

The policy team will share more information about the bill as it becomes available. We are happy to see momentum building for distributing these remaining funds and putting them to work throughout local communities. If you have questions regarding this legislation, please contact Policy Analyst Adam Schwiebert, aschwiebert@ccao.org.

Ohio Jobless Claims for Sunday, August 16, through Saturday, August 22, 2020

Ohioans filed 18,988 initial jobless claims last week, according to statistics the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) reported to the U.S. Dept. of Labor today. This was 255,227 fewer than – or less than 7% of – the peak earlier this year. Ohioans filed 344,409 continued jobless claims last week, which was 431,893 fewer than – or less than half (44.3%) of – the peak earlier this year. To read more, click [here](#).

Save the Date: CCAO Membership Call with Gov. DeWine and Lt. Gov. Husted – September 9 at noon

CCAO will host a membership call with Gov. DeWine and Lt. Gov. Husted on Wednesday, September 9th at noon. The conference call information is as follows:

Dial: 1-877-273-4202

Room ID: 889-229-624#

Participants will remain muted throughout the duration of the call. We ask that participants pose questions during the call by texting Rachel Massoud at 513-543-3723. Rachel will read the questions to Gov. DeWine and Lt. Gov. Husted and state the name and title of the person who posed the question.

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

[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.