



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

September 15, 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: SEPTEMBER 15, 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 8.28.2020](#)
4. [CCAO Guidance on Using CARES Act Funds](#)
5. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 9.2.2020](#)
6. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 9.2.2020](#)
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: Ohio To Work initiative

During today's press conference, Gov. DeWine announced the "Ohio To Work" initiative to help Ohioans in search of work find jobs. The program is led by JobsOhio, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Office of Workforce Transformation and the Ohio Department of Development. The first initiative is being launched in Cuyahoga County. To learn more, visit OhioToWork.com.

There was an increase of 1,001 total COVID-19 cases statewide from yesterday's data. For more COVID-19 numbers, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor's September 15th press conference can be found [here](#). **The next COVID-19 press conference is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th at 2 p.m.** Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

OBM clarifies eligibility of nonprofits for economic support using CARES Act Funds

Counties and other local governments have raised a number of issues related to their ability to use federal CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Funds to assist nonprofit organizations. US Treasury guidance has not provided a complete answer on this point. On the one hand, Treasury has made it clear that governments may



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



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



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sub-grant funds to or contract with nonprofits to carry out social service programs to assist individuals and families affected by the business interruptions and the economic downturn. It is also clear that nonprofit organizations working in the medical field can be helped with expenses directly related to responding to COVID-19.

When discussing economic support, however, Treasury guidance uses the term “small business” and does not specify whether nonprofits are included in this category.

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) has updated its guidance to address this issue. OBM has taken the position that economic support for nonprofits is allowable because the Treasury guidance does not expressly prohibit it. OBM staff have emphasized to CCAO that these expenses are subject to the three overall limitations for eligible expenditures under the CARES Act. These limitations state that the expenditures:

- (1) are **necessary** expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
 - (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the government; and
 - (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.
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The OBM FAQ reads as follows:

Are non-profits eligible for economic support?

Yes, not-for-profit corporations could be provided relief for business interruptions and/or for direct cost of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic if a local government deems the expenditures to be necessary in response to the public health emergency, in the same manner as a local government may provide assistance to a for-profit business.

OBM staff have emphasized that local governments should exercise caution in this area. Commissioners have the discretion to define the types of nonprofits that are eligible and to ask for sufficient documentation during the application process and after a grant is awarded. When a county sub-grants funds, the county is ultimately responsible in an audit for how the funds are spent, and grant agreements should be drafted accordingly. Recipients should specify which expenses are being covered with CARES Act funds, and they must ensure that they are not receiving other sources of federal support for the same expenses. Counties must be able to show that the economic support is necessary with respect to COVID-19.

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

Upcoming Webinar: Subgranting of CARES Act Funding – September 25th at 1:00 p.m.

The Ohio Township Association, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayors Alliance, and County Commissioners Association of Ohio invite you to join the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) to discuss the processes and procedures of subgranting CARES Act funds to other entities. **The webinar will take place on Friday, September 25th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.** OBM Director Kim Murnieks and Stacie Massey will cover requirements under the CARES Act, how to establish a subgrant, innovative uses of CARES Act funds with other entities, and best practices for local governments looking to share resources or partner with other entities to deliver programs with CARES Act dollars. [Click here](#) to register for this webinar. If you are unable to register using the link, please contact Michael Zaky at zaky@ohiotownships.org.

Lt. Governor Husted COVID-19 Economic Impact Update and Resources

Lt. Governor Husted sent an update today regarding the COVID-19 economic impact and resources. To read the update, click [here](#).

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 9.14.2020](#)

[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.