



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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Questions?

Contact Marisa Myers at myers@ohiotownships.org

COVID-19 Updates & Other Relevant Information for Township Officials

COVID-19 Updates:

Final CARES Act Funding Released

OTA CARES Act Informational Packet Available

Treasury Clarification on CARES Act for Safety Services

A Note on Legal Advice from the OTA

Upcoming OTA Webinars

FINAL CARES ACT FUNDING RELEASED

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL WITH FINAL ROUND OF CARES ACT FUNDING

The House and Senate have disbursed the final round of CARES Act funding, previously SB 357. The Senate rolled [SB 357](#) in its entirety into [HB 614](#) for passage. As a reminder, SB 357 distributed the final \$650 million of CARES Act funding to local governments by population (rather than through the LGF formula as previous distributions had been made).

Additionally, this bill extends the deadlines previously outlined in HB 481. Townships now have until November 20th to encumber CARES Act funds (or return them to the county), until December 30th to spend funds, and until February 1st to rectify accounts with OBM. This extension applies to all CARES Act funding, including previously distributed funds through HB 481 and the Ohio Controlling Board. All other previous requirements for CARES Act funding still apply. Again, this will be the final distribution of CARES Act funding to local governments.

Both the House and Senate have now approved HB 614. The bill will become law upon the Governor's signature, as it contains an emergency clause. Questions on this legislation can be directed to OTA Director of Governmental Affairs Marisa Myers at myers@ohiotownships.org.

OTA CARES ACT INFORMATIONAL PACKET AVAILABLE

In response to questions from our membership, the OTA has assembled a packet of information on the CARES Act. This packet compiles important documents and processes for CARES Act funding, and we hope that it will be a useful resource for your township.

CARES Act Informational Packet

This information includes:

- An overview of the federal CARES Act and applicable state legislation;
- Step-by-step guidance on how to receive the funds;
- A sample resolution;
- Examples of eligible uses from across the state;
- Information on how to subgrant funding;
- Information on audit procedures; and
- Where to find additional resources.

Due to the volume of questions received at the office, we ask that you please review this document in its entirety before contacting the OTA on CARES Act issues. This packet was produced based on the consistent questions and concerns from our membership and contains many answers to your questions. If you need additional clarification on the process, please feel free to contact OTA Director of Governmental Affairs Marisa Myers at myers@ohiotownships.org.

As always, the OTA has included all essential information on our [COVID-19 webpage](#) and will continue to keep it updated.

TREASURY CLARIFICATION ON CARES ACT FOR SAFETY SERVICES

U.S. TREASURY HAS ISSUED AN UPDATED FAQ ON REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING

On September 21st, the Department of Treasury Office of Inspector General issued an updated version of the [FAQ Related to Reporting and Recordkeeping for the CARES Act](#).

The OTA has received numerous questions on the procedure for use of CARES Act funding for safety service operations, payments, and salaries. To that end, please review the document linked above, specifically the last four questions.

A NOTE ON LEGAL ADVICE FROM THE OTA

The OTA would like to reiterate that, unfortunately, the Association cannot give an opinion on eligible uses of CARES Act funding - this would essentially constitute legal advice. The OTA can only give feedback on uses that are specifically listed in [Treasury guidance](#), to which OTA members also have access.

The OTA *highly* recommends that townships work with their county prosecutor or legal counsel on the use of CARES Act funding. On that note, the Ohio Office of Budget and Management has indicated that **CARES Act funds can be expended for legal services related to interpreting and administering the CARES Act itself, such as questions on eligible uses, help establishing contracts for CARES Act programs, etc.**

UPCOMING OTA WEBINARS

ADDITIONAL WEBINARS RELATED TO THE CARES ACT SCHEDULED

Subgranting of CARES Act Funding

Friday, September 25th from 1:00-2:00pm

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. This webinar 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.

[Register here](#)

Auditing of CARES Act Funding

Thursday, October 1st from 11:00am-12:00pm

The Ohio Township Association, Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayors Alliance, and County Commissioners Association of Ohio invite you to join Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber's office to discuss the CARES Act, accounting procedures, a review of how funds will be audited, and information on best practices and additional resources.

[Register here](#)

These webinars will be recorded and available on the OTA website for those unable to attend.

AN UPDATE FROM THE "USES OF CARES ACT FUNDING" WEBINAR: A recording of this webinar is available on the [OTA's website](#). Attendees submitted many questions to attorney Greg Beck before and during the webinar. The OTA is compiling answers to all questions and will make those available to members this week. Please check our email communications and website for this forthcoming document.

NOTE FROM THE OTA: Please share this information with your fellow township officials. Thank you!

The Ohio Township Association is a statewide organization dedicated to the promotion and preservation of township government in Ohio. The OTA was founded on June 28, 1928, and is organized in 87 Ohio counties.

OTA has more than 5,200 active members, made up of trustees and fiscal officers from Ohio's 1,308 townships, and more than 4,000 associate members.