COVID-19 Updates & Other Relevant Information for Township Officials

COVID-19 Updates:
Registration and Tracking for CARES Act Funding
CARES Act FAQs

REGISTRATION AND TRACKING OF CARES ACT FUNDING
HAS YOUR TOWNSHIP PASSED ITS RESOLUTION AND REGISTERED YET?

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) has provided a tracking sheet of CARES Act resolution submissions and portal registrations. As of July 27th, OBM has received 575 resolutions and approved 567 registrations for local governments in Ohio.

With Congress debating increased flexibility for these funds in the next COVID-19 package, the OTA encourages townships to accept these funds, as townships may face future expenses and/or federal guidelines may change on the use of these funds.

If your township intends to participate in the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program under HB 481, please submit resolutions and registration to OBM ASAP. If your township is absolutely sure that you will not be participating, please also notify OBM of that via email.

Registration is available here under the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program. Resolutions may be submitted to OBM via e-mail at grants@obm.ohio.gov or may also be mailed to their office.

Please note: If a jurisdiction attempted to register on the portal on July 21st or 22nd but did not receive an email notification that the registration was received and are not marked as received on the above list, please register again. An issue occurred with OBM’s database and registrations were not properly saved.

Questions can be directed to the Ohio Grants Partnership at grants@obm.ohio.gov.

CARES ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the deadline to request CARES Act funding?
There's no deadline to request funding in law. However, under HB 481, any unencumbered funds will be reallocated on October 15th. Therefore, a township would need to request their initial allocation before this date or it will be redistributed.

**What does my township need to do to receive CARES Act funding?**
Refer to the OTA's July 16th email.

**What can we spend the money on?**
Unfortunately, the OTA cannot say definitively if an expenditure is eligible unless it is included in Treasury guidance. Townships should review this document (as it has been updated several times) and work with legal counsel. The OTA did give examples of expenditures in the July 16th email referenced above.

**Will we have additional audits associated with this funding?**
The Auditor of State has indicated that CARES Act funds will be audited at the township's next regular audit. Local governments spending less than $750,000 in federal financial assistance in their fiscal year will not be subject to an audit under the Single Audit Act.

**Who do I contact for help?**
*For questions on requirements under the law and general information,* contact OTA Director of Governmental Affairs Marisa Myers at myers@ohiotownships.org.

*For questions on eligible expenditures,* contact your county prosecutor or legal counsel and refer to Treasury guidance.

*For questions on registration and paperwork,* contact OBM's Grants Division at grants@obm.ohio.gov.

*For questions or issues receiving a DUNS number,* contact Dun & Bradstreet through their website or at 1-800-234-3867.

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