April 7, 2020

OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION
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Tuesday, April 7, 2020
Questions?
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COVID-19 Updates & Other Relevant Information for Township Officials

COVID-19 Updates:

Stay-at-Home Order Extended, Mask Information
Requesting Assistance from your County EMA
Resources Available on the OTA Website
Facebook Webinar
Online Meetings
Clarification on Open Meetings
NATaT Survey on COVID-19 Impact
Available Grants

STAY-AT-HOME ORDER EXTENDED

Last week, Governor DeWine extended the state's order to stay at home. The current order is now in effect until May 1st. You may read the order here.

Additionally, the CDC has recommended that Americans wear cloth masks in public to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The Ohio Department of Health has issued guidance for use of these masks - you may access it here.

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR COUNTY EMA
RESOURCE REQUESTS BEGIN WITH COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The emergency management system in Ohio is a tiered effort. When a local government or health care facility needs additional resources or supplies to deal with an emergency, a request for resources

should be placed with the respective county Emergency Management Agency (EMA), who will attempt to find resources at the local or regional level.

When an emergency exceeds the capacity of the local government, the county EMA will make a request to the state through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA). If an emergency exceeds the capacity of the state, aid is requested by Ohio EMA through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

When reaching out to your county EMA, be prepared with the following information:
- Details about the incident/situation
- The gap between existing resources and what is needed to handle the incident/situation
- Details about how you have tried to fill that gap locally (asked for volunteers; reached out to the local business community, attempts to purchase goods, etc.)

For more information on emergency management, please click here.

OTA WEBSITE
COVID-19 RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE OTA WEBSITE

The OTA has been compiling resources related to the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to sending out many of the resources via email, we have also included a specific page on our website to house this information.

To access these resources, visit the OTA website. Hover over the "COVID-19" page located on the website's main banner. You will see a dropdown menu of resources related to COVID-19:
- Legislative Information
- Open Meetings Act Changes
- Remote Meetings Tools
- Resources for Constituent Distribution
- Township Resource Links

WEBINAR:
FACEBOOK SERVICES FOR GOVERNMENT USERS

Join the Facebook Politics & Government Outreach Team to learn how government and advocacy partners can leverage Facebook Live during this unprecedented time, and have your questions answered in real time. To sign up for one of the three training sessions being offered, click the corresponding link below:

Thursday, April 9, 2020 2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT
Register Here

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:30 – 2:30 PM EDT Register Here

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:00 – 4:00 PM EDT Register Here

ONLINE MEETINGS
LEARNING TO USE APPLICATIONS FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS

The OTA is working to develop educational resources for townships to assist in setting up virtual meetings over several different platforms.

Additionally, **for OTARMA members**, new resources are available in the e-Library to help townships that would like to set up a tele or web conference for their meetings.

NATaT SURVEY
HELP OTA ADVOCATE FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

The OTA and the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) continue to advocate for additional financial support for local governments at the federal level during the coronavirus pandemic—specifically as discussions have begun for a fourth federal stimulus package.

To assist us with this effort, **we are asking each township to respond to a short survey** that will allow us to gather data to better demonstrate the fiscal impact of the coronavirus on townships and the need for direct funding to local governments.

For your township, this may include unanticipated increases in costs for first responders, conducting township business differently, unemployment increases, or any other unexpected expense. It also includes unplanned revenue losses, such as decreases in state revenues, permit programs, and parks and recreation programs, due to a downturn in the state's economy or the state's "stay at home" mandate.

The deadline for completing the survey is 12:00 noon on Friday.

We greatly appreciate your time in completing the survey as it will help us better advocate for additional funding to assist local governments.

If you are unable to click the link, please copy and paste this URL into your web browser - https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=elb1gj8dHU-CT-BiEplavev1aUjEdY1CrwMFj5c6rbxUMlI0QzNMOUY4UTM5QVNYSzQ1V0dKMjZLSS4u.

CLARIFICATION OF OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Attorney General Dave Yost has addressed clarifications to the Open Meetings Law changes contained in HB 197. You may view information here and a FAQ on these changes here.

AVAILABLE GRANTS
FEDERAL GRANTS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Department of Justice
FY 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program
WHAT DOES IT FUND? The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program provides funding to assist eligible applicants in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. Click here for more information.

April 7, 2020

WHO'S ELIGIBLE? States, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes that are eligible for funding under the FY19 State and Local Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
WHEN'S IT DUE? May 29, 2020

Department of Labor
FY 2020 National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) for Layoffs
WHAT DOES IT FUND? This program supports projects that respond to large, unexpected layoff events causing significant job losses. Awards are currently available to address the emergency response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Click here for more information.
WHO'S ELIGIBLE? States, local workforce development boards, entities determined to be appropriate by the governor of the involved state, and other entities able to demonstrate their capability to effectively respond to the dislocation circumstances
WHEN'S IT DUE? Rolling

FY 2020 National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) for Dislocated Service Members
WHAT DOES IT FUND? This program provides assistance to areas where there is a higher-than-average demand for employment and training activities from dislocated military service members and spouses that exceeds state and local resources for providing such activities. Awards are currently available to address the emergency response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Click here for more information.
WHO'S ELIGIBLE? States, local workforce development boards, entities determined to be appropriate by the governor of the involved state, and other entities able to demonstrate their capability to effectively respond to the dislocation circumstances
WHEN'S IT DUE? Rolling

FY 2020 National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) for Emergencies and Disasters
WHAT DOES IT FUND? This program provides disaster relief and humanitarian assistance employment, as well as employment and training services, as appropriate, to minimize the employment and economic impact of declared disasters and emergency situations in disaster-declared areas. Awards are currently available to address the emergency response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Click here for more information.
WHO'S ELIGIBLE? States, outlying areas, and Indian tribal governments
WHEN'S IT DUE? Rolling

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.