



# Ohio Township Association

## Legislative Alert

October 9, 2020

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### Legislative Action This Week

#### ***Final Round of CARES Act Funding Goes Out***

As prescribed in [HB 614](#), the Office of Budget and Management has sent out the final round of CARES Act funding. The funds hit county accounts on Tuesday for further distribution by county auditors. An estimate of each local government's total allocation (from all three distributions) is available [here](#).

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### Information on CARES Act Reporting

With the first reporting deadline approaching on October 20th (for activity through September 30th), the Ohio Office of Budget and Management has made several documents available on their [website](#), including a [reporting guidance document](#) and a [reporting training webinar](#).

Please review this important information.

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### AOS Memo on Business, Housing Grants

The Auditor of State has issued an Advisory Memo on the use of CARES Act funds to support small businesses and provide housing assistance. The Memo includes sample program outlines. You can view it [here](#).

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### Firefighter Grant Application Open

#### **AFG-COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S) Round 2 Application Period Opened on Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

FEMA is providing a second opportunity for volunteer and combination fire departments to apply for funding under the Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - COVID 19 Supplemental (AFG-S). Through this AFG-S Round 2 funding opportunity, FEMA will directly award funding for personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies to support coronavirus (COVID-19) response. This includes reimbursement for applicable PPE expenditures made since Jan. 1, 2020. Grants will be awarded, using a competitive process, to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of the AFG-S grant opportunity.

For more information, click [here](#).

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# EPA Webinar

Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance will be holding its fifth installment of a new series of webinars focused on environmental issues that have an impact at the local level. These webinars will occur throughout the year and cover a wide range of topics from how Ohio EPA regulates sources of air pollution, waste management, wastewater, and storm water discharges to include different ways your community can promote environmental stewardship and improve the environment in your local area. For more information, visit their "[In Your Community](#)" web page. Below is a description of the October webinar:

## **Open Dumping of Solid Waste and Scrap Tires in Your Community**

**October 28, 2020 (10 a.m. - 11 a.m.)**

*Presenters:* Kelly Jeter and Kevin Shoemaker, Ohio EPA Division of Materials and Waste Management

*Description:* Hidden dump piles, trash strewn property, abandoned buildings filled with tires, and tire piles left by the roadside - community leaders make discoveries like these all the time and are often left to clean up the mess. Community leaders will want to join this webinar to learn how to recognize open dumping and find out about the tools that are available to help. Attendees will learn when Ohio EPA's open dumping laws apply, who is ultimately liable to address open dumping, and in the case of scrap tires, hear about Ohio EPA's program to provide assistance for victims of scrap tire dumping.

[Register here](#)

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## Cox Report Article

As you may recall, the OTA recently updated the Cox Report, a study on the efficiency and effectiveness of township government. Wendell Cox, the author of the report, wrote an article and summary of the project. You can read it [here](#).

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## BCI Background Check Changes

### **BCI Fee Changes Proposed**

BCI currently administers eight different kinds of background checks in Ohio. The amended rules in question, Ohio Administrative Code Section 109:5-1-01 and 109:5-1-03, raise the initial state background check fee from \$22 to \$35, and increase the fee to enroll and renew an individual in the retained applicant fingerprint database, also known as RAPBACK, from \$5 to \$7. No other fees are affected.

### **Why are these fees being increased?**

Ohio's RAPBACK fee has not been adjusted since its inception in 2008. This is despite the fact that the number of new and existing enrollees BCI is required to track has steadily increased over the last decade. The initial background check fee has also not been updated in nearly 13 years. Those numbers have also grown considerably since 2008, with Ohio processing approximately 880,000 initial background checks in 2019 alone.

### **How did BCI determine the new amounts?**

Both increases are calculated to generate the necessary revenue BCI needs to be able to keep up with the growing demands and technology requirements for these services. In addition to paying for these specific services, BCI also uses revenue generated by these fees to pay for administrative, laboratory, and investigate support to local law enforcement - services BCI typically provides free of charge.

### **Why are they being increased now?**

While BCI began studying adjustments to the fee before COVID-19, they are anticipating an extremely challenging budget process next year. In order to maintain the current operations and be able to continue to provide additional services - like independent investigations for officer involved critical incidents - BCI believes modernizing the current fee for these services is a more stable option in the current budget climate.

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# Federal Update

## ***Congressional Action***

The House was in recess this week and is scheduled to return to Washington on November 16th. The Senate was originally scheduled to be in session this week, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) decided to adjourn the Senate through October 19th after President Trump and three Senators (Mike Lee [R-UT], Thom Tillis [R-NC], and Ron Johnson [R-WI]) tested positive for the coronavirus over the past several days.



Even with the two-week adjournment for the upper chamber, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-SC) on Monday formally scheduled the Committee to start its days-long hearing for Judge Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court nomination on Oct. 12th. The hearing will pave the way for a committee vote on Barrett's nomination on Oct. 22nd. Senate Republicans want to confirm Barrett on the Senate floor during the final week of October.

A deal on another round of pandemic aid is still up in the air. Last week, the House passed their revamped \$2.2 trillion HEROES Act, down from the \$3.4 trillion plan they passed on May 15th. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has proposed a plan of about \$1.6 trillion. House lawmakers could return to Washington for a vote, or vote via proxy, at some date in October if a deal is reached. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said lawmakers will be given 24 hours' notice ahead of a potential vote.

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