



# Ohio Township Association

## Legislative Alert

June 19, 2020

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## Legislative Action This Week

### ***Gov. DeWine Signs HB 481***

On Friday, Governor DeWine signed [HB 481](#) (previously SB 310), which provides a formula for distribution of federal CARES Act funding to local governments, officially making the bill effective.

The Office of Budget and Management now has the go ahead to process payments to county auditors, which will be transferred starting this afternoon. CARES Act revenue should appear in county funds early next week and can then be sent to townships that have elected to receive funds.

For more information on HB 481 and CARES Act funding, please review previous OTA communications on the [OTA's website](#) and other updates below.

### ***General Assembly Starts Summer Break***

The House has begun summer legislative recess and is not scheduled to be back in session until November. The Senate is scheduled to be in session next week and has at least one session scheduled per month during the traditional summer break.

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## Bills Recently Introduced

[HB 703 STUDY, IMPLEMENT PROFESSIONAL POLICE PRACTICES](#) (Plummer, Abrams) - To express the intent of the General Assembly to study and implement professional police practices in Ohio.

[HB 704 COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREAS LAWS](#) (Cross, Fraizer) - To modify the law governing Community Redevelopment Areas and the terms under which property may be exempted in such areas.

[SB 325 BUILDING INSPECTION LAW CHANGES](#) (Roegner) - To make changes to the law relating to building inspections.

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## Additional HB 481 Information

### **Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Assistance Webinar**

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) will be hosting a webinar on June 24, 2020 from 12:30 to 2:00 pm to discuss the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Assistance program as a result of HB 481. This session will provide an overview of the process as directed in HB 481, discuss the fund's requirements and eligible uses, introduce recipients to the Ohio Grants Partnership and available resources, and provide answers to some frequently asked questions that have been received.

You can register for the webinar [here](#).

### **OBM Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance**

OBM has developed a document that contains a summary on HB 481 processes and requirements and includes an FAQ. You may view the guidance [here](#).

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## **Registering for CARES Act Revenue**

### **Townships Must Register & Pass Resolution to Receive CARES Act Funds**

In late March, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provided economic relief to states and local governments, assisting communities with the financial burdens caused by COVID-19. Ohio was allocated approximately \$1.2 billion to pass along to local governments with a population less than 500,000. HB 481 distributes \$350 million to local governments for COVID-19 related expenses.

While the HB 481 disbursements for townships will flow from the state through county auditors, the Office of Budget and Management considers each local government to be a subrecipient of the state and will structure reporting and monitoring that way; therefore, OBM needs to collect contact information and has attempted to create a process that is streamlined and easy to use.

- OBM is now accepting registrations from townships for CARES Act funding so that funds can be quickly disbursed after HB 481 is enacted. The registration portal can be found at <https://grants.ohio.gov/fundingopportunities.aspx>.
- Note that each jurisdiction will need a DUNS number to complete the registration. Directions for obtaining a DUNS number, along with how to register it in the federal SAM, are located at <https://grants.ohio.gov/helpfulresources.aspx#helpful-resources-DUNS-SAM-registration>.
- In the field labeled "project description," OBM has advised that this information can be a generic, such as "costs due to the public health crisis."

Additionally, HB 481 requires each township to adopt a resolution affirming that funds received may be expended only to cover costs consistent with the requirements of section 5001 of the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act," as described in 42 U.S.C. 601(d), and any applicable regulations. The resolution shall be filed with the county auditor and sent to OBM.

- The OTA has worked with OBM on a sample resolution that a township may pass. You may access it [here](#).

Finally, OBM has developed a 42-minute training to provide an overview of grants management for those who are new to managing federal grant funds or for those who would like a refresher.

- That training can be found at <https://grants.ohio.gov/helpfulresources.aspx#helpful-resources-citizen-grant-training>. If you would like to maintain a record of your training, you can register through the Ohio Learn system; if you do not need to maintain a record, you can view the training online through YouTube by clicking the direct link.

Please contact the Ohio Grants Partnership team at OBM at [grants@obm.ohio.gov](mailto:grants@obm.ohio.gov) with questions.

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## **OPWC Update**

### **Status of OPWC Funds**

Our legislative leaders have been working to fund Ohio Public Works projects in a timely manner. HB 481 contains reappropriations or what we call "old money" - previously released/active State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and Revolving Loan Program (RLP) funded projects (Rounds 33 and prior) and all active Clean Ohio projects (Rounds 14 and prior). Late last week, the House amended SB 4 to include one year's worth of funding for SCIP, RLP, and Clean Ohio. This "new money" would fund the previously selected Round 34 SCIP and RLP projects and provide funding for Clean Ohio Round 15 (projects to be selected). This legislation still needs Senate concurrence. The Senate will be reconvening next week. The final step would, of course, be the Governor's signature.

HB 481 permits OPWC to continue to pay bills on existing projects after July 1st. SB 4 will enable OPWC to release the infrastructure SCIP and RLP project agreements on or about July 1st. OPWC will have them ready to go for release with the funded Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) projects. Unlike previous years, considering OPWC continues to telework and the short timeframe, they intend to make all project agreements with project official letters available on their website.

An enacted SB 4 will also permit OPWC to proceed with the Small Government process. The intention is to allow applicants one week to review their individual composite scores, as they have provided historically, soon followed by the Small Government Commission's review and approval for a quick release of those project agreements as well. An enacted bill will also provide \$3.5 million in funding for the Emergency Program. Lastly, the bill will fund a new Clean Ohio round.

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## Ethics Training

Because the Ohio Ethics Commission is currently unable to provide in-house "live" trainings to townships, they are offering webinar and e-course options. For more information on these courses, click [here](#).

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## FCC Wireless Infrastructure Update

On June 9th, the Federal Communications Commission, by a 3-2 vote, adopted a Declaratory Ruling that provides clarification of rules for state and local government review of wireless applications to deploy certain wireless equipment on existing infrastructure. The ruling addresses questions related to the timeline for local government review of wireless applications (i.e. "shot clocks") and modifications to equipment height, concealment elements, cabinet additions, and aesthetic conditions, among others. The Ruling took effect June 10th.

Please review the Declaratory Ruling and update your local wireless siting ordinances and related processes and/or permit forms as needed to comply with the Ruling. You may find additional information [here](#). The Commission also issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comments on changes to its rules regarding excavation or deployment outside the boundaries of an existing tower site.

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## Federal Update

### ***Congressional Action***

The Senate was in session this week, while the House was in recess. However, the House held "Committee Work Days" each day this week, with most hearings being conducted virtually. Numerous committee hearings related to COVID-19 were scheduled for this week in both chambers.

The Senate took a final vote on the Great American Outdoors Act ([S. 3422](#)) this week, which makes available, without separate appropriations, more than \$2.5 billion annually for spending on land acquisition and deferred maintenance for park land and converts money in the \$900 million-per-year Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) into mandatory funding.

Two notable markups took place in the House on Wednesday, including the House Judiciary Committee markup of the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 ([H.R. 7120](#)), which would curtail the transfer of military equipment to police departments, make it easier for an individual to sue police officers for alleged rights violations, criminalize chokeholds by police, make lynching a federal crime, authorize \$750 million over three years for states to set up independent prosecution programs for cases involving an officer's deadly use of force and \$300 million over three years for state investigations into abusive police practices, and authorize funding for a number of reports and the collection of data on use of force and racial profiling. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup of the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act ([H.R. 2](#)), which authorizes



\$494 billion for highway, transit, and rail programs through FY 2025 and includes new infrastructure investment programs and policies to address the environment and boost the resilience of infrastructure against extreme weather and climate change. The full House will vote on H.R. 7120 on June 25th and June 26th and on H.R. 2 from June 30th through July 2nd.

NATaT has created a [Coronavirus Guidance webpage](#) to store NATaT letters, memos and briefs on the outbreak, as well as critical information and guidance released by Congress and the Administration.

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## 2020 Census



### **All Your Information for the Upcoming 2020 Census**

2020 Census Field Operations have resumed in Ohio as of June 3rd. Operations field staff will be hand delivering census packets as part of the Update Leave operation. These are the forms delivered to areas where they do not receive mail at their home address (P.O. Box Delivery). The operation does not require person to person contact. Census field staff will have mask and gloves and will leave the questionnaire packet at the door or on the porch in a plastic bag. They will not knock on doors.

Currently, the planned completion date for data collection for the 2020 Census is July 31, 2020, but that date can and will be adjusted if necessary as the situation dictates in order to achieve a complete and accurate count.

**It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail - all without having to meet a census taker.**

**Learn more about these updates and ways to be counted [here](#).**

[US Census Website](#)

[Ohio Census Website](#)

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### **Ohio Township Association**

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