



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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Questions?

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COVID-19 Updates & Other Relevant Information for Township Officials

COVID-19 Updates:

Call to Action
Emergency PPE
SharedWork Ohio
Ohio Reopening May 1st
U.S. EPA Resources
Message from Ohio's DC Team

CALL TO ACTION

The OTA encourages all township officials to contact their members of Congress **today or tomorrow** and urge them to support funding for local governments in the interim Emergency Coronavirus Package.

Your action is needed immediately as this interim proposal is currently being discussed in Congress. Call your member of Congress and let them know the following:

- Townships cannot wait for the fourth stimulus package.
- Ohio's townships need a direct allocation of federal funds to each and every local government regardless of population.
- Townships need the flexibility to use those funds to replace lost revenues as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19. This package must include loss of revenues as a COVID-19-related expense.
- Ohio's Congressional delegation must show public support for a package that includes funding for small business AND local governments.



Contact your Congressional member **today or tomorrow** and urge them to support funding for local governments in the interim Emergency Coronavirus Package. Click [here](#) to find a list of Ohio's Congressional delegation.

EMERGENCY PPE

PURCHASING FACE MASKS, SHIELDS, ETC.

To combat the spread of COVID-19, the Ohio Manufacturing Alliance has launched the [Ohio Emergency PPE Makers' Exchange](#), an online marketplace where organizations that need PPE and related equipment can find a selection offered by Ohio manufacturers and makers - many of which have retooled to produce in-demand products.

- Please note that this is an exchange; it is more like Craigslist than eBay. The Alliance has screened vendors - to the best of its ability - to include only Ohio manufacturers and makers but cannot vouch for sellers or products.
- This online marketplace is especially well-suited for organizations that have lower-volume needs, including essential employers.
- If you have urgent PPE needs, you're encouraged to visit the Exchange as soon as possible. Supplies are limited.

You may also find the website here: <https://repurposingproject.sharetribe.com/?category=all>

SHAREDWORK OHIO

SharedWork Ohio (SWO) is a voluntary layoff avoidance program that allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity. Under an SWO plan, eligible employers will reduce affected employee's weekly work hours between 10 and 50 percent. Participating employees will work the reduced schedule and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will pay them a prorated unemployment benefit.

SWO allows employers to retain their skilled workforce, eliminate the time and expense of recruiting and training new workers, and maintain existing employee benefits. It may prevent workers from being permanently laid off due to a lack of work or business closure. Participating

SHAREWORK OHIO CONT.

HOW TO APPLY

Ohio employers may apply if they meet the following criteria:

- Have at least two affected employees that do not work on a seasonal, temporary, or intermittent basis;
- Are current on all Ohio unemployment insurance reporting, contributions, reimbursements, interest, and penalties due;
- Agree to the program requirements.

Municipal, county, township, and other political subdivision employers can participate in SharedWork Ohio as long as all the requirements are met under [ORC 4141.51](#).



employees can remain with the employer and do not have to search and train for a new job.

To be considered for the program, employers must submit an application and a participant list.

- An approved SWO plan can be in effect for up to 52 weeks (the weeks do not need to be consecutive).
- Additional program information can be found [here](#) or by calling 866-733-0025, Option 3.

After ODJFS notifies an employer that a submitted SharedWork Ohio plan has been approved, the affected employees may apply for SharedWork Ohio benefits.

To apply for a SharedWork Ohio plan:

- Go to www.unemployment.ohio.gov
- Log in to your OJI Employer Benefits Account
- From the Main Menu, under SharedWork Ohio (SWO), select View/Manage SWO Plans

OHIO REOPENING TO START MAY 1ST

OHIO TO PHASE-IN REOPENING OF BUSINESSES, OTHER SERVICES

On May 1st, Ohio will begin a phased-in reopening of the state economy that will take place over an extended period of time to minimize the health risk to business owners, employees, and their customers. Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, in consultation with Ohio Dept. of Health Director Dr. Acton, will lead the Governor's board of economic advisors to identify best practices to ensure Ohioans health and safety as businesses begin the process of reopening. As Ohio begins to reopen, the Governor stressed the need to balance:

- Compliance with public health measures;
- Implementation of safeguards in business; and
- Protections for the most vulnerable Ohioans.

U.S. EPA COVID-19 RESOURCES

EPA ANNOUNCES RESOURCES FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is updating its coronavirus website to include new resources for state, local, and tribal agencies and intergovernmental associations. These resources will help EPA and its partners continue to provide the environmental protection the nation depends on without interruption during the coronavirus public health emergency. [EPA's COVID-19 Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Agencies and Associations](#) contains important information on grants, enforcement and compliance programs, water infrastructure, and a host of other issues important to effective environmental program delivery. The webpage will be updated regularly with new information.

EPA is also continuing to update resources on its website and add to the list of surface disinfectant products that are effective against SARS-CoV-2. To contact the EPA about any COVID-19 issue, click [here](#).



A MESSAGE FROM OHIO'S WASHINGTON, DC TEAM

The state of Ohio is concerned about the CARES Relief Act Funding (CRF). The Governor's D.C. Office has engaged with several Ohio delegation staff about the challenges (for all of Ohio – state and local government) regarding the implementation of the CRF. Governor DeWine also discussed our issues with Senator Portman.

Delegation staff inquired about how the state of Ohio intends to subgrant a portion of the state's CRF dollars to Ohio's local governments. We explained that we are anxiously waiting for guidance from US Treasury, but we have had several internal policy discussions about the most beneficial method for sub granting to Ohio local governments, who will not be receiving money directly from Treasury.

We communicated that the costs of pandemic readiness and response will differ in each state and in every locality across the U.S. therefore leaders must have the ability to flexibly apply the federal funds to meet our citizen's differentiated needs.

We have discussed that Ohio took decisive actions very early in the pandemic to "flatten the curve" of COVID-19 – ordering the closure of major sporting events, bars, restaurants, and non-essential businesses – all major revenue-generators for our state and for our local governments. We explained that Ohio's most significant and direct financial costs of fighting the coronavirus have been and will continue to be the costs incurred as lost sales and income tax revenues. If the CRF funds cannot be directed to address the cost of lost revenues, states like Ohio will have no recourse but to cut critical programs like subsidies to our local school districts, colleges and universities, and fundamental public protection services like correctional institutions and public safety programs addressing the opiate epidemic. We shared that Ohio counties have already begun to furlough staff and Ohio's General Revenue Fund budget missed estimates in March by 10.5 percent – over \$68 million in sales taxes alone – following just two weeks of our "stay at home" orders being in place. We are projecting revenues to be impacted even more significantly in April.

In addition to flexibility, we discussed the need to be able to spend CRF funds beyond this calendar year and that the CRF would better serve Ohio if there were two separate dedicated CRF funds - one for states and one for local governments.

*Nikki Guilford
State of Ohio Washington D.C. Director
DeWine-Husted Administration*

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

April 20, 2020



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.