



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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*Questions?*

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# COVID-19 Updates & Other Relevant Information for Township Officials

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### COVID-19 Updates:

*Governor's Announcement: Ohio Begins Its Reopening May 1st*  
*Township Preparations for Ohio's Reopening*  
*Guidance for CARES Act Revenue*  
*Emergency PPE*

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### OHIO BEGINS ITS REOPENING MAY 1ST

GOVERNOR DEWINE ANNOUNCES PHASED IN APPROACH

Yesterday, Governor DeWine announced the first phase of his plan to reopen Ohio amid the COVID-19 outbreak - [the Responsible RestartOhio plan](#). The plan includes the following:

- **May 1st:** Medically necessary procedures that do not require an overnight stay in a healthcare facility or do not require inpatient hospital admission may move forward, including dental and veterinary services.
- **May 4th:** Manufacturing, distribution, and construction businesses and general office environments may reopen if these businesses can meet mandatory safety requirements (see below).
- **May 12th:** Retail establishments may open if they can meet mandatory safety requirements (see below).

All businesses must follow general [safe business practices](#) as they reopen, which include:

- requiring face coverings for all employees and recommending them for clients and customers at all times;
- conducting daily health assessments or self-evaluations of employees;
- maintaining good hygiene and social distancing;
- cleaning and sanitizing workplaces; and
- limiting capacity to meet social distancing guidelines.

All nonessential businesses not listed above are to remain closed. For a list of continued closures, click [here](#).



## TOWNSHIP PREPARATIONS FOR OHIO'S REOPENING

With the Governor's announcement, here are some ideas/best practices to prepare your townships going forward:

- Utilize electronic submissions of forms/records permanently;
- Installation of plexiglass barrier or wall to separate the public from township employees at township buildings (similar to what you would see at a restaurant or store);
- Cloth masks worn by all employees and public that are interacting with township employees;
- Hand sanitizer available in all buildings and in township parks;
- Signage in every building and park reminding patrons to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, wash hands, and, if sick, to stay home;
- Routine daily cleaning of township properties;
- Offering early retirement packages for people of age 60 or older to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19;
- Limiting recreational activities to only open air, non-contact activities, such as hiking, walking, running, and fishing.

## GUIDANCE FOR USE OF CARES ACT REVENUE

As shared in previous communications, Ohio has been allocated \$4.5 billion for COVID-19 related relief under the federal CARES Act; local governments under 500,000 in population are eligible for up to \$1.2 billion of this funding. This funding will ultimately need to be distributed according to the Ohio General Assembly. The OTA is communicating with state leaders on a plan for this distribution.

The U.S. Treasury has previously released guidance regarding how the funds may be used. A few key points include:

- The Fund covers necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- The expenditures covered are those not accounted for in the budget approved as of March 27, 2020;
- The expenditures covered are those incurred from March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020;
- While the guidance (under the FAQs) states that state governments are able to transfer funds to other local governments, it does not specifically direct states to do so;
  - It also does not appear that local governments who receive direct payments can transfer the funding to other local governments;
- Some unbudgeted payroll expenses are allowed under the fund;
  - However, it appears to apply only for employees who are dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 emergency. It does not appear that emergency sick or FMLA leave would qualify for reimbursement under the Fund unless it was provided to an employee dedicated to the COVID-19 response;
- Any unspent funds must be returned to the Department of the Treasury.

At this time, **funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue** to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify under the statute.

For more information, please review the Treasury's [FAQ](#) and [local government guidance](#). You may also find additional information on the Treasury's [website](#).



## SO, WHAT MAY BE INCLUDED IN CARES ACT FUNDING?

While funding may not be used to fill general revenue shortfalls, below are examples of expenses that may be included if related to COVID-19:

- Emergency medical response;
- Communication and enforcement of public health order(s);
- Acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies;
- Disinfection of public areas and facilities;
- Payroll and expenses of public safety and public health professionals;
- Improvements of telework capabilities;
- Provision of required paid sick or FMLA leave; and
- Unemployment insurance costs.

For a more comprehensive list of examples, please review the Treasury local government guidance linked above. The OTA encourages townships to begin thinking now about these expenses and what might be eligible for your township, as well as preparing for revenue shortfalls.

## 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>

**\*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.*