



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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*Questions?*

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

### COVID-19 Updates:

*SB 310 Included in HB 481  
Receiving CARES Act Funding*

### **SENATE BILL 310 INCLUDED IN HOUSE BILL 481**

*SENATE ROLLS CONTENTS OF SB 310 INTO ANOTHER BILL FOR PASSAGE*

In order to avoid a conference committee on House amendments, the Senate has rolled the original version of [SB 310](#), which provides a formula for distribution of federal CARES Act funding to local governments, into a separate piece of legislation ([HB 481](#)) along with several amendments.

**House Bill 481 is now the vehicle for local governments to receive federal CARES Act funding.** The House has just agreed to Senate amendments on HB 481 (Thursday, June 11th). The bill will be effective immediately upon the Governor's signature.

The Senate *did* include a few amendments in HB 481 that the House had previously put into SB 310. Amendments that may be of interest to townships include:

- Temporarily allowing local governments to furlough employees for up to 160 hours rather than the current 80 hours through June 2021 (note: the House had raised the limit to 480 hours);
- Including SB 316 (capital reappropriations).



The Senate *did not* include the following amendments previously include by the House:

- Temporarily removing the threshold for competitive bidding on COVID-19-related expenses/purchases;
- Allowing townships and municipalities to divert up to 25% of unencumbered TIF funds to be used for police and fire services or road maintenance for up to two years from the effective date of the bill;
- Permissive authority for local governments to issue small business loans with revenue distributed from and in compliance with the CARES Act;
- Requiring a transportation improvement district to comply with prevailing wage law, unless the amount the district expends on contract or project is below statutory thresholds.

All of the previous requirements for use of CARES Act funds still apply to the bill, including passage of a [resolution](#). If you've previously passed a resolution and it references SB 310, you will need a new resolution referencing HB 481. Please refer to U.S. Treasury guidance for eligible expenses. For a reminder on how funding is distributed and links to relevant documents, refer to the [OTA's June 4th email](#) on this subject.

## RECEIVING CARES ACT FUNDING

### *TOWNSHIPS MUST REGISTER & PASS RESOLUTION TO RECEIVE CARES ACT FUNDING*

As previously discussed, the SB 310/HB 481 CARES Act disbursements for townships will flow from the state through county auditors. However, the Office of Budget and Management considers each local government to be a subrecipient of the state for purposes of this funding and will structure reporting and monitoring this 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. 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>.

Additionally, SB 310/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.

**\*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.*