Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs

The Leader in Municipal Training and Professional Development

PEMA/DCED Update for Government Officials Q & A

April 15, 2020

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Upcoming Webinars

How Covid-19 Impacts Ongoing Business and State Government Operations a Q & A with McNees Wallace and Nurick

Update on Emergency Response and Municipal Finances

April 22

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Upcoming Online Learning

Your Role as a Municipal Secretary/Administrator

May 6  Everything You Need to Know About Meetings
May 7  Basic Government
May 13 Intro to Budgets and Finance
May 14 Other Duties as Assigned
May 20 Best Practices

Police Civil Service Procedures
Establishing a Rental Property Inspection Program
Sunshine Act and Open Records

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Local State of Emergency:
  – Municipalities urged to declare state of emergency
  – Allows municipalities to close facilities and temporarily stop public meetings
  – DCED recommends at least 14-day declaration or follow commonwealth’s to set end date
LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Local political units
  – Not required to suspend in-person operations
  – Should curtail in-person operations
  – Follow guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and PA Department of Health
  – Balance public safety while continuing critical infrastructure services and functions

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Local Earned Income Tax
  – Act 10 of 2020:
    • Directs DCED to coordinate the filing extension and payment deadlines of the Local Earned Income Tax to coincide with State filing extensions.
    • Applies to ALL municipalities
    • INDIVIDUALS: 2019 Individual Earned Income Tax Returns extended to July 15, 2020
      – Applies to both 2019 individual tax returns and payments, and estimated payments for the 1st quarter of 2020
      – All penalties and interest will be waived on 2019 earned income tax payments through the new deadline of July 15, 2020.
    • EMPLOYERS:
      – No extensions for Employer 1st quarter 2020 earned income tax returns or payment of 1st quarter 2020 tax withheld from employees
      – Deadline remains April 30
LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Enforcement Authority Under Governor’s Order
  – Life sustaining business list not intended as authoritative or exhaustive
  – Use best judgement in exercising local authority
  – Balance public health and safety while ensuring critical infrastructure services and functions

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• PA Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Quarterly Permit Filings
  – DCED can no longer accept mailed checks
  – Beginning April 16th— use ACH (TeleCheck) or credit card
LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Municipal Statistics
  – The legislative due date of April 1 to submit the DCED Annual Audit and Financial Report has not changed. However, we will not penalize municipalities if they have not submitted the Audit by April 1.
  
  – 2020 AG-385 & 2019 Act 205 AVR Forms:
    • We are continuing to accept, process, answer questions, and return phone calls related to these forms.
    • Questions related to the 2020 AG-385 form:
      – dpei@paauditor.gov or 
      – comptroller@paauditor.gov
    • Questions related to the 2019 Act 205 AVR form:
      – MPRP@paauditor.gov

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Employees & Workers Impacted
  – Unemployment Compensation Website:
    • https://www.uc.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx
  
  – Unemployment Compensation Benefits FAQs:
    • https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Pages/UC-COVID19-FAQs.aspx
  
  – PA Department of Labor & Industry’s UC team:
    • uchelp@pa.gov
    • https://www.facebook.com/PALaborIndustry/
    • https://twitter.com/palaborindustry
LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Funding & Programs
  – Federal and State Loan Information:
    • https://dced.pa.gov/funding-programs/

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• USDA Rural Development COVID-19 Impacted Communities
  – Opportunities for Immediate Help:
    • Rural Development Guaranteed Loan Programs
    • Rural Housing Service
    • Rural Utilities Service
    • Rural Business-Cooperative Service
  – New and Extended Application Deadlines
    • Rural Business-Cooperative Service
    • Rural Utilities Service

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP)
  – Analyzes community needs
  – Identifies strategies to alleviate poverty
  – Agencies by county:
    • https://dced.pa.gov/housing-and-development/community-services/csbg-agency-list/

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Food Assistance Programs and Resources
  – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
    • Department of Health continuing to process applications
    • Apply online through COMPASS:
      – https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome
  – Emergency Food Assistance (Food Banks or Food Pantries)
    • The Department of Agriculture guidance:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

• Food Assistance Programs and Resources
  – Food Distribution by School Districts
    • Department of Education Guidance:
      – https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/C
        OVID-19/Meals4Kids/Pages/default.aspx

  – 412 Food Rescue (Western PA)
    • Partners with food retailers, volunteer drivers, and non-profit organizations
    • Supplies food to those experiencing food insecurity through mobile app
    • https://412foodrescue.org/about-us/

  – Food Connect (Eastern PA)
    • Pools resources and makes deliveries for hunger relief through mobile app
    • http://www.foodconnectgroup.com/

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

• COVID-19 Housing Guidance
  – Quarantine Sheltering for Homeless Populations
    • Guidance for unsheltered persons
    • https://dced.pa.gov/download/quarantine-sheltering-for-
      homeless-populations-faqs/?wpdmdl=94235

  – Emergency Housing for Isolated & Quarantined Persons In PA
    • Guidance for individuals requiring emergency housing
    • https://dced.pa.gov/download/emergency-housing-for-isolated-
      quarantined-persons-in-pennsylvania/?wpdmdl=94237
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

• COVID-19 & Child Care
  – Child care facilities not considered life-sustaining
  – Child care available for life-sustaining personnel:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

• Other Community Resources
  – Pennsylvania 211:
    • Connect with resources in your community
    • Dial 211
    • Text zip code to #898-211
  – PA Department of Human Services
    • [https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-2020.aspx](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-2020.aspx)
  – Red Cross
  – National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
    • [https://www.nvoad.org/howtohelp/current-responses/](https://www.nvoad.org/howtohelp/current-responses/)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

• Other Community Resources
  – Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations
    • https://pano.org/covid-19-resources/
  – Community Action Association of Pennsylvania
    • https://www.thecaap.org/coronavirus-covid-19/resources/
  – United Way
    • https://www.unitedway.org/recovery/covid19/faq
  – Feeding America
    • https://www.feedingamerica.org/take-action/coronavirus

DCED ROLE IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

• COVID-19 Response and Recovery
  Response
  • Activation of the Commonwealth Response Coordination Center at PEMA
  • Agencies take actions at direction of the Governor
  • Mitigation efforts for stopping the spread of COVID-19 through the Secretary of Health’s guidance to continue as long as necessary
  • Recovery
    • DCED becomes the leading agency
    • Focus shifts to economic recovery and local capacity building
    • Crisis reflection and planning begins
DCED ROLE IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

- Critical Medical Supplies Procurement Portal
  - Developed by DCED, Health, General Services, and PEMA
  - Manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers inform hospitals and medical facilities of personal protective equipment, hospital and lab supplies, diagnostic instruments
  - https://spportal.dot.pa.gov/ppeinventory/Pages/default.aspx

- PA Manufacturing Call to Action Portal
  - DCED can:
    - Match manufacturers and distributors to fill specific supply chain needs
    - Assist manufacturers with workforce needs and aid in identifying skilled workers
    - Identify manufacturers that can innovate to fulfill demand for medical supplies and related products

State Recovery Task Force

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Adjutant General (Dept. of Veterans and Military Affairs-DMVA)
- Secretary of Health (DOH)
- Attorney General (AG)
- General Counsel (OGC)
- Secretary of Community Affairs (Department of Community and Economic Development) (DCED)
- Secretary of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Secretary of Transportation (PennDOT)
- Secretary of Agriculture (PDA)
- Secretary of Public Welfare (DPW-Human Services)
- Commissioner of State Police (PSP)
- Chairman of Public Utility Commission (PUC)
- State Fire Commissioner (OSFC)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives
- President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- Minority Leader of the Senate*
- Minority Leader of the House of Representatives*

*May authorize a member of their respective chambers to be a representative
DCED ROLE IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

- Recovery Support Functions (RSF)
  - RSF 1—Community Planning and Capacity Building
  - RSF 2—Economic
  - RSF 3—Health and Social Services
  - RSF 4—Housing
  - RSF 5—Infrastructure
  - RSF 6—Natural and Cultural Resources

DCED ROLE IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

- Pennsylvania Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Plan—DCED Role and Responsibilities

  Commonwealth Response Coordination Center (CRCC) Participation
  - We maintain a presence at PEMA to assist with local government and business needs.
  - Our presence allows us to respond quickly to partner and stakeholder requests and inquiries.

  Maintaining Relationships with Partners and Stakeholders
  - Communicate with critical organizations such as federal government, local government, private sector and non-profit organizations
  - For COVID-19 Response, primary agencies are the Governor’s Office, Department of Health, Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, State Police, Labor and Industry, Office of General Counsel, and FEMA

  Maintain Economic Stability
  - Manage overall economy of state government at the direction of the Governor
  - For COVID-19 Recovery, primary agencies are the Governor’s Office, Community and Economic Development, Office of General Counsel


DCED ROLE IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

• RSF 1 — Community Planning and Capacity Building

  Mission:  
  • To build state and local capabilities and resources which facilitate holistic pre-and post-disaster recovery planning, effective implementation, and community resilience.

  Scope:  
  • Education, training, workshops – knowledge, skills, and abilities  
  • Whole community engagement and participation  
  • Relationship building, partnerships, coordination, collaboration, and community development  
  • Community-based pre- and post-disaster recovery planning  
  • Integration with other plans, codes, regulations, programs, and development activities  
  • Land use, sustainability, resiliency, hazard mitigation, and risk reduction  
  • Grant management support  
  • Multi-disciplinary recovery tools, best practices, and lessons learned

DCED ROLE IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

• RSF 2 — Economic

  Mission:  
  • To sustain and/or rebuild businesses, preserve or create jobs, and develop economic opportunities that result in sustainable and economically resilient communities that meet local needs.

  Scope:  
  • Business restoration, retention, and growth  
  • Employment, recruitment, workforce development, and job training  
  • Opportunities – adaptability, innovative techniques, and emerging markets  
  • Investment, reinvestment, finance, and tax credits  
  • Branding and marketing  
  • Business continuity planning and disaster preparedness  
  • Sustainability, hazard mitigation, and risk reduction  
  • Tax revenues
DCED ROLE IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

• RSF 4 — Housing

Mission:
• To retain and/or rebuild appropriate shelter and housing resources, including services and supports, for those impacted by the pandemic and to provide sufficient post-pandemic resources to prevent eviction and foreclosure resulting from COVID-19.

Scope:
• Emergency Shelter Capacity for Homeless
• Identify opportunities for respite care facilities for those infected with COVID-19
• Assess needs for short- and long-term transitional housing services
• Identify source for wrap-around housing services including food and case management
• Assess housing inventory – number of persons/families in hotels in need of permanent shelter/housing
• Facilitate transition from hotel/respite care back to shelter or permanent/affordable housing of choice
• Educate survivors on how to guard against future unsafe conditions
• Empower survivors to reach self-sufficiency

Rick Vilello  
Deputy Secretary  
Community Affairs & Development
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

Current Status

• Category B, Emergency Protective Measures
  Eligibility:
  ✓ All 67 counties and state agencies
  ✓ All municipalities, governmental entities (authorities, boards and commissions)
  ✓ Certain private non-profit (PNPs) organizations are eligible applicants

• Eligible applicants who have the authority are urged to enact a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency to ensure that they are not bypassing provisions granted under the law.
Estimated Costs Survey

- A survey was sent to eligible applicants requesting estimated costs (online survey)

- Over 2,400 potential applicants have responded. There is no need to update your survey entry.

- PEMA provided the survey information to county emergency management agencies.

- If you did not receive survey information, contact your county emergency management agency for additional information.

Webinars for Eligible Applicants

- PEMA will host online briefings to assist eligible applicants with:
  - The reimbursement processes
  - Registering in FEMA’s Grants Portal.

- A schedule for the WebEx briefings once they are known. (next week or two)
Submission to the FEMA Grants Portal

- PEMA continues to work with FEMA on refining the assistance request process

- Applicants submit Request for Public Assistance (RPA) and upload costs documents through the FEMA Grants Portal.

Additional Information

- Additional requests for federal assistance are still pending with FEMA and the President and are currently “under review”:
  - These include but are not limited to
  - Crisis Counseling
  - Community Disaster Loans
  - Disaster Case Management
  - Hazard Mitigation funding
Questions?