

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



From: Auditor of State's Audit Administration
To: All IPA Firms
Subject: New Resources on AOS COVID-19 Webpage
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The COVID-19 pandemic has had serious economic impacts for the state and local governments. Among the many consequences, state and local governments may face volatility in the equity and debt markets, reduced revenue, and cash flow challenges. In response to these threats, the CARES Act authorized more than \$2 trillion in federal funds to combat the COVID-19 crisis, including \$150 billion for a new Coronavirus Relief Fund to states and local governments and \$330 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations. The U.S. Congress has also provided additional targeted assistance to public health and safety workers through other legislation, including two additional bills that are being circulated (i.e., the HEROES Act and SMART Act). These Federal grants, financial assistance, and loans frequently come with strings attached and administrative responsibilities, such as required reporting and documentation, cross-cutting federal regulations, and reimbursement procedures. Navigating, accessing, and deploying resources provided in these Acts may further strain local state and local governments already consumed with addressing the COVID-19 public health crisis.

For these reasons, AOS created and aggregated a COVID-19 resources webpage to assist state and local government officials at: http://www.ohioauditor.gov/resources/COVID19_assistance.html. These resources include, but are not limited to:

- A list of Federal programs for which new or increased federal financial assistance, flexibilities, and waivers are available to state agencies or local governments in Ohio (see the *CARES Act and Federal Assistance Spreadsheet* link)
- Deadline extensions across Federal, State, and other organizations (see *Deadline Extension* link)
- AOS answers to frequently asked questions
- Financial reporting considerations for state and local government management
- Free virtual learning opportunities for state and local governments

- AOS advisory and policy updates, including recorded group teleconferences with Audit Faber
- Assistance for local governments experiencing fiscal distress

The AOS Communications Team will be sending an announcement regarding this webpage to clients soon.

The AOS and IPA audit community can send questions or suggestions regarding the new webpage to FACCR@ohioauditor.gov.