MESSAGE FROM OBM DIRECTOR KIMBERLY MURNIEKS

Thank you to the finance officials and local government partners that attended our Regional meetings: Ohio Dollars and Sense. I also want to express my appreciation to the Ohio Grants Partnership, Ohio Department of Development, and all the presenters at these meetings.

Please join me and the Ohio Grants Partnership at the Second Annual Grants Summit on December 7, 2021. We hope you can make this informative all day virtual event. Registration and event details are down below.

Last week we released the Preliminary Revenue Data. To view the summary, please follow this link to the OBM website.

---

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Current Funding Opportunities

The FY 2021 Assistance To Firefighters (AFG) Grant
The FY 2021 AFG application period opened today at 8:00 a.m. ET and closes on Friday, December 17, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. ET. You can view the FY 2021 AFG grant application now by reviewing the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on the AFG website.

If you are interested in learning how to apply for funding under the AFG program, they are hosting a series of workshops covering the AFG application process. The workshops will cover important information and reminders about cost share requirements, program priorities, eligible costs, how to navigate the grant application, and tips for preparing your application. To learn more, visit: FEMA.gov.

**Fire Grants Help Desk:** If you have questions about the NOFO, call or email the Fire Grants Help Desk. The toll-free number is 1-866-274-0960; the e-mail address for questions is firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The Fire Grants Help Desk is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET.

---

**Ohio Grants Portal**

Did you know the Ohio Grants Portal has some current funding opportunities for local government on their website? Click Ohio Grants website to learn more about the below opportunities:

- Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program through the Ohio Department of Development
- Ohio Broadband Expansion Program

---

**Federal Procurement Requirements for Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

Many local governments may be navigating the world of grants management for the first time. Local governments, particularly smaller ones, may have only one or two federal funding experiences such as occasional support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency after a disaster declaration. If the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) that were provided to local governments from the CARES Act, were your first opportunity to receive and manage grant funds, it is important to note that CRF management emphasizes the key concepts of allowability, tracking, reporting, and monitoring sub-grants. However, many of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200) requirements that follow federal funding were not applicable to the CRF.

Local governments that are now receiving Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF) from the American Rescue Plan Act need to know that most of the federal Uniform Guidance applies to this funding. In particular, recipients should pay attention to those related to procurement (2 CFR 200.318 through 200.327). We should not assume that local laws and regulations surrounding procurement suffice for meeting the federal regulations. A good rule of thumb is to always follow the most restrictive requirements, federal or state.

The Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200.320) requires specific procurement methods based on the dollar amount of the purchase, for example:

**Informal Procurement Methods (under $250K)**
- Micro-purchases ($10k or less) – This requires procurement to be distributed equitably and only requires the solicitation of price or rate quotes.
- Small purchases (above $10k and below the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) of $250k) – This requires price or rate quotes obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources. A good rule of thumb for adequate number of sources is three.

Formal Procurement Methods (exceed $250k)

- Sealed Bids – This requires bids to be publicly solicited, and a firm fixed price contract is awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid conforms materially and is the lowest in price.
- Proposals – This method is used when either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded and is used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bid.

Federal Procurement Requirements for Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - Cont’d

All procurement must be conducted in a manner to provide full and open competition (2 CFR 200.319). Contractors that develop plans, specifications, and/or bids are excluded from competing for that procurement. In addition, competition cannot be restricted through unreasonable requirements, such as requiring unnecessary bonding or experience or specifying a “brand name.”

Furthermore, the Uniform Guidance requires all recipients to have and use documented procurement procedures consistent with state and local laws and regulations.
Local governments are encouraged to review the uniform guidance procurement requirements here prior to committing their CLFRF. Procurement can be a tricky area, especially to those that may be new to managing federal grants. The Ohio Grants Partnership at the Ohio Office of Budget and Management can help navigate the requirements if you have questions. Our July 29 webinar included procurement information. The recording can be found here. Also, feel free to reach out to us at grants@obm.ohio.gov.

Transition from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID

On April 4, 2022, the federal government will transition away from the use of the DUNS Number and toward the new Unique Entity ID as the primary means of entity identification for federal awards government-wide. If you are registered in SAM.gov, you have already been assigned a new Unique Entity ID. It’s viewable in your current SAM.gov entity registration record. Go to fed.gov and select the green Help on UEI Transition button to learn more. Please note: Current grant recipients including those receiving American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds are still required to obtain a DUNS number and register it at SAM.gov.
OHIO GRANTS SUMMIT

To register click this link: grants-summit-winter-2021.eventbrite.com.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES 2021
County Auditors Association of Ohio (CAAO)

The CAAO will be hosting their 2021 Winter Conference, November 17-19, 2021. For more information, please follow the link to the CAAO website.

County Treasurers Association of Ohio

The County Treasurers Association of Ohio (CTAO) will be resuming their in-person Fall Conference & Annual Meeting November 17-19, 2021, at the Dublin Marriott Hotel. There will be 2 1/2 days of continuing education courses, a full slate of vendors looking to interact with county treasurers, along with some fun, social activities. They also will be updating their members on all their advocacy efforts, and the association will be electing their new Slate of Officers for the coming year.

The members are excited to be gathering again and are looking forward to an informative meeting.

County Commissioners Association of Ohio and County Engineers Association of Ohio

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio and County Engineers Association of Ohio invite you to the 2021 Annual Winter Conference on December 8-10, 2021, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43215.

STAY CONNECTED

Did you know the Ohio Council of County Officials has launched their website and it has links to all the county government officials sites? Stay connected by following this link: http://ohiocountyofficials.com/

#YourOhioBudgetAtWork