



June 12, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Latest News

[Counties Must Apply for \\$625 million in Block Grants by Tuesday](#)

Townships Should Ask Counties for Funds NOW!

Yesterday, the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) released guidelines and gave the 60 eligible counties just 5 days to apply for \$625 million in county block grants funded by the federal CARES Act. (Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, and Philadelphia received direct CARES Act funding and are not eligible.)

Eligible counties must have been, and remain, in compliance with all relevant laws, orders, and regulations during the COVID-19 emergency, including orders by the governor and the state secretary of health. Funding shares will be population-based, with no eligible county to receive less than \$1 million.

Counties must apply to receive this funding by Tuesday, June 16. Eligible expenses include costs of direct county response to COVID-19, assistance to municipalities for response and planning efforts related to COVID-19, personal protective equipment

purchases, and broadband internet deployment with priority given to unserved and underserved areas.

Counties may also use these funds for grant administration, a small business grant program for businesses with less than 100 employees that did not receive related federal funding, tourism businesses (including state and county fairs), grant programs to economic development entities, behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, and nonprofit assistance programs. Eligible expenses must be incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020. [Click here](#) for the DCED guidelines.

Townships should act now to request funding and ask their county commissioners how to apply and provide documentation of eligible expenses. Township expenses must be for response and planning efforts related to COVID-19 that are not reimbursable through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Eligible expenses could be teleconference or virtual meeting expenses, website and communications expenses, high-speed internet, equipment or software for telework, building alterations and signage (such as installing clear plastic dividers at reception areas or between work areas, temperature screening equipment, additional staffing). Townships must document that these expenses are a direct response or planning effort to COVID-19 and are not otherwise reimbursable.

[Pennsylvania Continues to Grow Greener!](#)

Today, Pennsylvania grows even greener as Adams, Beaver, Carbon, Columbia, Cumberland, Juniata, Mifflin, Northumberland, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, and York enter this new phase of reopening. With Cumberland County's move to green, the full PSATS staff will end remote work and return to working in the office on Monday, June 15.

It is expected that the governor will make a statement today announcing that more counties will move from yellow to green on June 19. Stay tuned for a PSATS alert. [Read full story](#).

FEMA Reports Total Supplies, Support to Pennsylvania

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is reporting that, to date, it has supplied Pennsylvania with the following critical supplies: 4.9 million N95 respirators, 857,846 pairs of gloves, 575,471 face shields, and 919,130 surgical masks. As of June 9, FEMA has obligated \$74.6 million in federal support to Pennsylvania. In addition, FEMA provided a Battelle N95 decontamination unit to the state.

[Department of Agriculture Announces Farmland Preservation Investments](#)

State Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding announced that an \$11.9 million investment has been made in food security by safeguarding 4,432 acres on 48 farms in 25 counties through the state's farmland preservation program. Counties invested an additional \$2 million in the farms preserved, bringing the total investment to \$13.9 million. Pennsylvania

is the leading state in the nation for farmland preservation. [Read full story.](#)

[U.S. EPA Hosts Free Webinar - Disaster Debris Recovery Tool - Materials Management for Debris Planning and Emergency Response - June 18 at 1 p.m.](#)

The U.S. EPA Disaster Debris Recovery Tool provides emergency planners and responders at the federal, state, tribal and local levels with a tool to plan and implement proper recovery, recycling and disposal of disaster debris. The scope of the tool reaches beyond disasters to include green remediation and sustainable materials management technical assistance.

Once a regional tool, EPA has expanded and launched a national version this month. The tool now maps location and contact information of over 20,000 facilities including composters, demolition contractors, transfer stations, landfills, household hazardous waste collection sites, and facilities recycling construction and demolition materials, electronics, metals, tires and vehicles.

EPA experts will present alongside the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management. EPA will give an overview of the new EPA Planning for Natural Disaster Debris Guidance. EPA will also share how the newly expanded national tool can assist responders, recovery staff and planners and will provide a demonstration of the tool. Representatives of the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management will share their experience using the tool during a 2019 disaster debris planning exercise. [Click here](#) to register.

Learn

Missed a Virtual Conference Workshop? No worries. All Conference workshops will be available On Demand after the live virtual workshop date. Simply go to learn.psats.org/virtual-conference to view the workshops.



Balancing Your Insurance Needs Through PSATS - Virtual - 6/15/20

This session will provide information on the medical, life, short-term disability, dental, vision, and Medicare Advantage plans available through PSATS. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet representatives of our various insurance carriers and ask them questions. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.

Flagger Training - Virtual Class - 6/26/20

This instructor-led, virtual class, flagger training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). This virtual training is eligible for 2 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.



PSATS Trustees Insurance and Retirement Services



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