



## PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

March 11, 2021

### **Money and Strings**

Yesterday, the U.S. House approved a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package which will now be sent to President Biden who has indicated he will sign the measure into law as soon as it reaches his desk.

The package will provide \$350 billion for state and local governments, with a total of \$13.722 billion coming to Pennsylvania. The state will receive \$7.5 billion (including \$279 million set aside for capital projects), counties will receive \$2.8 billion, and municipalities with populations of more than 50,000 will receive \$2.3 billion. Municipalities in Pennsylvania with a population of less than 50,000, which includes almost all townships, boroughs, and small cities, will have to share \$936 million (*while Philadelphia alone will get in excess of \$1.3 billion*).

[Click here](#) to see the amount your township will receive.

*Note: This local funding will be distributed to the state and then released to townships.*

State and local governments are able to use these restricted funds to cover costs incurred by Dec. 31, 2024, to:

- Respond to the COVID-19 emergency and address its negative economic impacts, including through aid to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and industries such as tourism and hospitality;
- Provide premium pay to essential employees or grants to their employers. Premium pay could not exceed \$13 per hour or \$25,000 per worker;
- Provide government services affected by a revenue reduction during the pandemic (*relative to revenues collected by the local government in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency*); and
- Make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

*Funds cannot be used to deposit into pension funds or to offset revenue resulting from a tax cut.*

*State and local recipients are able to transfer funds to private nonprofit groups, public benefit corporations involved in passenger or cargo transportation, and special-purpose units of state or local governments.*

Additionally, the legislation includes \$125 billion to help K-12 schools reopen for in-person classes; \$48 billion for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing; \$7.5 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's vaccine distribution efforts; \$21.5 billion for rental assistance; \$30 billion for local subway and bus systems and \$8 billion for airports.

Direct payments of \$1400 will be sent to eligible households; individuals who make under \$75,000 with eligibility phasing out at \$80,000 and couples who earn less than \$150,000 will get \$2,800 with eligibility phasing out at \$160,000. Weekly unemployment benefits of \$300 per week are extended through Labor Day 2021.

### **Commonwealth COVID-19 Enforcement: More Restaurants Ordered Closed**

The following state agency reports are for the week of March 1:

[Pa. Department of Agriculture](#): Two more restaurants were ordered closed for violating Covid-19 restriction orders. The Bureau of Food Safety performed 762 total inspections, 31 of which were the result of COVID-19-related complaints, and received 422 food facility COVID-19-related complaints, 33 of which were referred to local and county health jurisdictions.

[Pennsylvania State Police](#): Officers issued 76 warnings and 43 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements after visiting 1,330 licensed liquor establishments.

[Pa. Department of State](#): The Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation performed 549 inspections of licensed professions' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation requirements, opened 17 COVID-19-specific investigations, and distributed 10 warning letters and two compliance letters.