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April 7, 2021

Latest News

More Details of Federal Funding Support

While there have been no guidelines issued by the US Treasury Department to date, yesterday we introduced a new PSATS Premiere Partner, Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC, an accounting firm, to help interested parties through the eligibility and compliance process. Last year, ZA performed similar functions for 30 plus counties with excellent results and no requests for repayment by the federal government.

There is special PSATS member pricing set by ZA based upon the amount of your federal grant. Please see the below chart to assist:

Total Grant Amount	ZA consulting fee
\$1 - \$100,000	\$3,000 per entity
\$100,000.01 - \$250,000	\$7,500 per entity
\$250,000.01 - \$500,000	\$11,000 per entity
Above \$500,000	Contact ZA for Individual Price

[Click here](#) to learn your total grant amount which will be split into 2 equal payments. This fee is an eligible expense under the program, so will not have any direct impact on your general fund budget. The prices listed above are for the entirety of the ARP spending program (The program runs through 12/31/2024). Members of this program are permitted to pay either their entire fee in 2021 or 50% in 2021 and 50% in 2022 as they receive the funds. Contacts are Pat Kirk (pkirk@zallc.org) or Cory

Johnson (cjohnson@zallc.org). Both can be also reached by phone at 717-561-9200.

PA and 4 Other States Account for Nearly Half of All New Cases

According to Johns Hopkins University, nearly half of new coronavirus infections nationwide are in just five states — a situation that is putting pressure on the federal government to consider changing how it distributes vaccines by sending more doses to hot spots.

Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania together reported 44% of the nation's new COVID-19 infections, or nearly 197,500 new cases, in the latest available seven-day period, according to state health agency data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Total U.S. infections during the same week numbered more than 452,000. As of Tuesday, 31 states were reporting seven-day averages of fewer than 1,000 new daily cases.

Talk of sending extra shots to states struggling with outbreaks comes at a time when the number of daily infections in the U.S. has fallen dramatically compared to a January spike following the holiday season. President Joe Biden's administration has shown no signs of shifting from its policy of dividing vaccine doses among states based on population.

Vaccine Supply Expands as Pennsylvania Moves into New Phases

The commonwealth moved into Phase 1B of the vaccine distribution this week, which includes law enforcement and firefighters, both volunteer and career. On Monday, April 12, all other municipal employees and elected officials will be eligible for vaccinations as Phase 1C will begin.

The supply of vaccines continues to increase as we move into the new phases. This week, Pennsylvania will receive 442,310 first doses and single doses, a 57% increase from two weeks ago and 20% increase over last week, and 268,010 second doses of vaccine.

More than 2 million Pennsylvanians are now fully vaccinated, and an additional 1.76 million Pennsylvanians have received the first dose of a two-dose vaccine series. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania remains at 22nd for total doses administered per capita. [Click here](#) for state numbers and [here](#) for national numbers.

DCNR Warns of Spring Wildfire Danger, Provides Maps with Wildfire Risks

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is warning residents of the risks of spring wildfires and is urging property owners to consider conditions before burning outdoors. Burning should be postponed if it is windy or dry.

To help track the current and expected risks across the state, the department is providing online wildfire danger maps that are updated daily. To view the maps, [click here](#).

Reminder: Township Officials Should Participate in PennDOT Survey

PSATS is urging township officials to take a few minutes to complete a survey by [clicking here](#) and telling PennDOT which priorities are important to you. The survey is collecting feedback on the department's long-term planning efforts, including its 12-Year Program, Long-Range Transportation Plan, and the Freight Movement Plan. These plans help PennDOT develop its funding and project priorities for the future. Responses are due **April 14**.

One Day Left!

Be sure to join us tomorrow, **April 8, at 2:30 p.m.** for a PSATS Transportation Town Hall to discuss township transportation challenges and share your input and ideas on cost-saving opportunities, mandate relief requests, and future funding options for transportation. This input is critical to local governments' voices being heard on Gov. Tom Wolf's Transportation Revenue Options Commission, which includes PSATS Executive Director David Sanko as its local government representative. [Click here](#) to register. And remember, you can also offer input by emailing roads@psats.org. And don't miss our new Transportation Tools page on the PSATS website!

National Bookmobile Day

National Bookmobile Day in April recognizes the mobile access to information and resources our nation's bookmobiles make available to our communities. For more than 100 years, bookmobiles have been bringing library access to those who might otherwise go without them.

Bookmobiles are mobile libraries designed to travel from neighborhood to neighborhood. They hold a variety of books, periodicals and usually run on a schedule. Books can be returned at the next scheduled stop or at the associated library. While many of us visit libraries all the time, the bookmobile makes it convenient for those who don't live close to one or who find it difficult to schedule the time to go visit the library.

Legislation & Policy



The House will be in session today, April 7. Watch session live [here](#).

House Passes COVID-19 Limited Liability Bill

Yesterday, the House passed HB 605 which would provide limited civil liability protections to local governments, health care providers, schools, small business owners, farmers, restaurants, and others that operated or provided services during the COVID-19 emergency. Under this legislation, these entities would have their general liability limited for damages or personal injury related to actual or alleged exposure to COVID-19, absent a showing, by clear and convincing evidence, of gross negligence, recklessness, willful misconduct or intentional infliction of harm. HB 605 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

House Passes Private Road Law Legislation

Yesterday, the House unanimously passed HB 523 which would clarify the maintenance responsibilities of property owners with respect to private roads. Specifically, when more than one person enjoys a common interest in a private road, each person would be required to contribute in proportion to the amount of the road utilized to the cost of maintaining the road at the current level of improvement. A person would be exempt from contributing if they do not use the private road for primary access to their property. This legislation would not apply to private roads that are covered under a written maintenance agreement, are within a common interest ownership community or are established by the Commonwealth or by a municipality via eminent domain. HB 523 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

Learn

The education section of the morning news is getting an update. Webinars will be listed every Monday and each PMGA track will get its own day of the week. For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org/>.

[2021 PAAZO Spring Virtual Educational Forum - 4/23 & 30/ 2021](#)

This two-day virtual program explores issues that zoning officers, planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them. [Click here](#) for agenda and to register.



[Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board - 4/27/21 - Cumberland County \(Live and Virtual\)](#)

This class is being held as a live classroom course, or you can attend virtually. From making decisions on contentious public issues to learning the ins and outs of the Municipalities Planning Code, being a member of a zoning hearing board can be a challenge. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Land Use and Zoning Law Update - Virtual - 4/28/21](#)

Attend this session to learn about significant land use and zoning cases in Pennsylvania and changes and developments in related laws. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[Development Disasters and How to Defend Against Them - Virtual - 4/30/21](#)

This session will explore how an approved, compliant land development can fail and what townships can do to protect themselves. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



[New Uses & Zoning Regulations: What We Learned From 2020 - Virtual - 5/5/21](#)

This workshop will encourage participants to consider new uses that have evolved and their impact on townships. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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