

A NEWSLETTER  
CONTAINING  
THE LATEST  
INFORMATION  
ON LEGISLATION  
AND NEWS OF  
INTEREST TO  
TOWNSHIPS

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## New Federal Funds Coming to All Townships

All Pennsylvania townships will receive funding from the **American Rescue Plan**, which was signed into law in March. This \$1.9 trillion federal coronavirus relief package includes \$350 billion for state and local governments, with \$13.722 billion of these funds coming to Pennsylvania. The commonwealth will receive \$7.5 billion, counties will receive \$2.8 billion, municipalities with populations of more than 50,000 will share \$2.3 billion, and municipalities with less than 50,000, which includes nearly all townships, boroughs, and small cities, will split \$936 million based on population. This means that **EVERY township will receive funding.**

Townships can **expect to receive half of these funds in June 2021** and the remainder in June 2022. The funds are being sent from the federal government to the commonwealth, which will distribute these funds to townships. **Townships will then have until December 31, 2024 to spend the funds.**

Townships may use these funds for expenses in four categories:

- Responding to the COVID-19 emergency or addressing its negative economic impacts.
- Providing premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work or grants eligible to employers that have eligible workers.
- Lost revenue replacement for the provision of government services due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Making necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Note that these funds cannot be deposited into pension funds or be used to offset revenue losses resulting from a state tax cut.

The U.S. Treasury is charged with oversight of the act and will provide additional guidance on the allowable uses and required reporting which we will share. All townships will need a valid nine-digit DUNS number to meet reporting requirements. If you need a DUNS number, go to [fedgov.dnb.com](https://fedgov.dnb.com) or call 1-866-705-5711 to begin the process.

For now, township officials should begin to evaluate their options and plan how to use these funds to best benefit their communities. As townships have until December 31, 2024 to spend the funds, this is a process that should be careful and deliberate.

To help its members navigate these new rules, PSATS has developed new guidance, which is available at [psats.org](https://psats.org), under **COVID-19 Info**. Resources include how much each township will receive, recordings of Town Hall webinars, and Q&As. A fact sheet on the funding and uses is enclosed. PSATS will continue to update these resources as new information becomes available. For the latest information, be sure to subscribe to the **PSATS Morning News e-newsletter** by emailing [memberservices@psats.org](mailto:memberservices@psats.org).

In addition, PSATS has two Premier Partners who can assist townships with these funds:

- **Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC**, an accounting firm, is providing discounted pricing to PSATS members for technical assistance on the restrictions and guidelines for the use of the ARP funds. ZA will help you navigate the eligibility standards and compliance reporting. Call 717-561-9200 to learn more. (*see enclosed flyer*)
- **PLGIT** has the experience to work with you on the prudent management of these funds, including investments and record keeping. They offer segregated accounts



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and provide clear reporting to assist with the required tracking and reconciliation processes. PLGIT support comes with no out-of-pocket expenses, unlimited check-writing, and more. Call 1-800-572-1472 to learn more.

## PSATS Virtual

### Conference

### Workshops begin

### April 26!

### For just \$99,

### you can attend

### all of these

### workshops, live

### and on-demand!

## Don't Miss 2021 Virtual Conference Workshops!

Between **April 26 and May 31**, PSATS will host more than 60 of the 2021 Conference workshops through its virtual classroom. Learn from experts from across the commonwealth on a wide variety of township administration, public safety, public works, and planning and zoning topics and gain valuable knowledge and insight that you can immediately put to work to benefit your township. Go to [learn.psats.org](https://learn.psats.org) to view the selection of workshops!

For just \$99, you can attend all PSATS Virtual Conference Workshops, live and on-demand. Log in to [psats.org](https://psats.org) and choose "PSATS Store" to purchase the **PSATS Virtual Conference Workshop** pass! If you were registered for the conference, these passes can be deducted from your refund before May 1, but you still must register. Call Mary Lehane at (717) 763-0930, ext. 107, with questions.

## Sanko Appointed to Transportation Commission

Gov. Tom Wolf created the Transportation Revenue Options Commission to explore comprehensive funding recommendations for Pennsylvania's transportation system. Wolf appointed PSATS Executive Director David M. Sanko to the commission to represent local government.

"There's no magic pot of gold at the end of the rainbow when it comes to paying for roads and bridges," Sanko says. "I look forward to representing local government to explore not only funding options but also cost controls and mandate relief to make projects more affordable."

Wolf proposes phasing out Pennsylvania's gas tax, which he said is becoming an unreliable source for funding Pennsylvania's transportation network. The tax, which is the source of liquid fuels funding, has seen decreases for two straight years due to more fuel-efficient cars and electric vehicles, as well as reduced driving from state COVID restrictions. The commission will meet over the next few months and develop a report by **August 1**.

For more about the commission and the funding ideas under consideration, go to [penndot.gov](https://penndot.gov) and choose "Funding" from the gray bar under the picture.

**PSATS Needs to Hear From the Transportation Experts – YOU!** — As the commission attempts to craft future funding solutions for our transportation network, we need to hear from the local transportation experts – YOU! What are your biggest transportation challenges and needs? What cost savings or mandate relief would be the most beneficial to your township? What are your ideas for funding our transportation system? Send us an email at [roads@psats.org](mailto:roads@psats.org) by **April 30**.

## Capitol Roundup

**PSATS Testifies on Right-to-Know Law** — In March, PSATS testified before the House State Government Committee on the Right-to-Know Law. PSATS' comments, which were delivered by Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes, focused on transparency during the COVID-19 shutdown as well as suggested Right-to-Know Law reforms. To read the testimony, go to [psats.org](https://psats.org) and choose "Legislation & Policy" and then "Legislative Testimony."

HB 606, which would permit local police officers to use radar or LIDAR for speed enforcement, was approved by the House Transportation Committee.

**Electronic Advertising Legislation Introduced** — Senator John DiSanto (*R-Dauphin/Perry*) has reintroduced [SB 252](#), which would give townships the ability to meet legal advertising requirements through a menu of print and electronic options, such as a township’s regularly printed publications or internet website. The bill is before the Senate Local Government Committee and would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

**House Committee Approves Radar Legislation** — In March, the House Transportation Committee unanimously approved [HB 606](#), which would permit local police officers in Pennsylvania to use radar or LIDAR for speed enforcement. HB 606 would fulfill a PSATS resolution. The bill is now before the House.

**Sterling Act Legislation Introduced** — Representative Farry (*R-Bucks*) and Representative Thomas (*R-Bucks*) have introduced [HB 949](#), which would require Philadelphia to reimburse the surrounding municipalities that impose an earned income tax at a rate equivalent to that which would have been collected from commuting workers of their respective municipality. This bill would fulfill a PSATS resolution and is before the House Finance Committee.

**New Chair for House Local Government Committee** — Representative Jerry Knowles (*R-Schuylkill*) is the new chair the House Local Government Committee. Knowles was first elected the House in 2009 and previously served as chair of the House Urban Affairs Committee. The committee’s previous chair, Representative Carl Metzgar (*R-Somerset*), now chairs the House Liquor Control Committee.

**Police Commission Issues Regulations on Background Checks, Mental Health Evaluations** — The Municipal Police Officers’ Education and Training Commission has published temporary rulemakings to implement Act 57 of 2020, which creates a database for background checks for law enforcement officers, and Act 59 of 2020, which provides for mental health evaluations of law enforcement officers. The regulations **take effect July 14**. For more, go to [mpoetc.psp.pa.gov](http://mpoetc.psp.pa.gov) and look for the links in the grey bar under the picture.

**Special Election Scheduled** — Representative Jeff Pyle (*R-Armstrong/Indiana/Butler*) has retired due to health issues. A special election will be held to fill the vacancy on **May 18**, concurrent with the primary.

**Senate Passes Wedding Barn Legislation** — The state Senate passed [SB 191](#), which would exempt Historic Agricultural Buildings used for occupancy by the public for weddings, receptions, and similar social events from the Uniform Construction Code. SB 191 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

To view legislation, go to [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us).

## COVID News

As state orders and guidance change at a rapid pace, go to [psats.org](http://psats.org) and choose **COVID-19 Resources** for the most up-to-date information, including fact sheets, and subscribe to the PSATS Morning News e-newsletter by emailing [memberservices@psats.org](mailto:memberservices@psats.org).

**Vaccine Access Now Open to All Pennsylvanians** — All Pennsylvania adults are now eligible to schedule an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine. For the vaccine provider map, go to [health.pa.gov](http://health.pa.gov) or call 1-877-724-3258 if you do not have internet access.

**Commonwealth Revises Gathering Limits** — The commonwealth’s mitigation orders were amended effective April 4. **Gathering limits** for indoor events are now 25% of maximum occupancy and outdoor events are now 50% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size. Teleworking is no longer required, but strongly encouraged.

## Don't Miss PSATS Training Opportunities

For more information, go to [learn.psats.org](https://www.learn.psats.org)!

**PowerPass-Eligible Webinars** — From document management, to principles of paving and creating sustainable fire and EMS, PSATS has as strong lineup of upcoming webinars.

**Duties of a ZHB Member** — PSATS is offering an in-person (*and virtual!*) class on **April 27** at the PSATS office that is focused on helping ZHB members navigate their way around the MPC, hearings, and more.

**In-Person Flagger Training in April and May** — PSATS will host classes in Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Luzerne, and York counties during April and May.

### This and That...

Be sure to check this section each month, where you will find important reminders and information.

- **PSATS Needs Advisory Board Volunteers** — PSATS is looking for candidates interested on serving on state advisory boards and commissions. If you are interested, please let us know as soon as possible. Current openings include, but are not limited to: 9-1-1, stormwater, UAV (drones), snowmobile, pensions, solid waste, agriculture, transportation, land preservation, sewage enforcement matters, and more. Please send an email with statement of interest to PSATS Executive Assistant Mandy Galletta at [mgalletta@psats.org](mailto:mgalletta@psats.org) and help us represent townships on these important groups.
- **Municipal Elections Underway** — Often referred to as “off year” elections, we know these are the most important and most likely to impact your neighbors’ lives on a daily basis. Make sure your county election board has the correct information for your township. Thanks to those who filed petitions to serve and remember if there are any vacancies on your local ballot, it is still possible to fill them by write-in votes on May 18<sup>th</sup>, Primary Election Day.
- **Do You Have a Great Place in Your Township?** — The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association is looking for nominations for Great Places, which are unique, memorable spaces that display community planning best practices and have exemplary character and a sustainable vision for tomorrow. The deadline to nominate a Great Place is **May 7, 2021**. To learn more, go to [planningpa.org](https://www.planningpa.org) and choose “About” and then “Great Places.”
- **Growing Greener Grants Available** — The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for Growing Greener Plus Grants until **June 25**. Grant priorities are projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution, including nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment pollution from agricultural and stormwater runoff. For more, see the April 17, 2021 edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* at [pacodeandbulletin.gov](https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov).
- **Watershed (Section 319) Grants Available** — The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for Watershed Planning and Restoration Grants until **June 25**. Grant priorities are projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution in targeted watershed with watershed implementation plans. For more, see the April 17, 2021 edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* at [pacodeandbulletin.gov](https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov).
- **Federal Transportation Grants Available** — \$1 billion in federal discretionary grant funding is available through the U.S. Department of Transportation for all size communities. Funding for this highly competitive program is through Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE). Applications are due July 12 and must be submitted through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). To learn more, go to [www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants](https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants).
- **Wildfire Grants Available** — The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is accepting grant applications from communities with less than 10,000 residents for training and equipment to help fight forest and brush fires. Applications are due **May 13**. To learn more, go to [www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/](https://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/).
- **Complete Streets, Active Transportation Plan Grants Available** — WalkWorks is accepting grant applications from municipalities to develop Active Transportation Plans, Complete Streets policies and/or Vision Zero policies. These plans connect people to everyday destinations and opportunities for physical activity. Applications are due **May 14**. For more information, go to [www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/WalksWorks/Pages/Walksworks.aspx](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/WalksWorks/Pages/Walksworks.aspx).