

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

PSATS

recommends

waiting for the

final rules from

Treasury before

spending ARP

funds.

American Rescue Plan Update

To date, **more than 1,350 townships have applied** for their share of the federal American Rescue Plan funds, including every township in the following counties: Adams, Allegheny, Beaver, Blair, Bucks, Butler, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Indiana, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Snyder, Somerset, Union, Venango, Washington, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York.

The Pennsylvania Department of Treasury is regularly releasing funds as applications are approved. DCED recommends using 352.53 or 352.530, Federal Entitlements to Governmental Units, from the Chart of Accounts for this new revenue source. It is recommended that the funds be transferred into a separate interest-bearing account.

Don't leave your community's money on the table! If your township has not yet applied with the state Department of Community and Economic Development using the Single Application website, **the final deadline is now close of business on August 2.** After August 2, any unclaimed or declined funds will be allocated (*based on population*) to municipalities that did apply. Call PSATS at (717) 763-0930 if you need any assistance or go to psats.org and choose the COVID-Info page. Note that you do NOT need to list how you plan to use the funds on your application. Do not wait for SAM.gov approval before applying to DCED.

PSATS submitted comments to Treasury on the ARP Interim Final Rule. The Association included a lengthy list of needed clarifications and desired changes. These include allowing funds to be given to any nonprofit, expanding allowable infrastructure projects to include road and bridge infrastructure, and authorizing the purchase of fire trucks and ambulances. To view the comments, go to psats.org and choose "Legislation & Policy" and then "Letters to Agencies."

Treasury will now finalize the rules for the use of the funds, as well as reporting. At this time, PSATS recommends waiting for the final rules before spending the funds, which is expected to be in August or September. To read the Interim Final Rule, an FAQ document, and reporting information, go to home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds

Capitol Roundup

Townships required to post agendas 24-hours before meetings — Beginning August 29, [Act 65 of 2021](#) will require all township boards and commissions to post agendas on a website, if they have one, and at the township building and meeting place at least 24 hours before the meeting. Action items may still be added to the agenda at the meeting by majority vote after first stating the reason for the change. An amended agenda will need to be posted on the website, if the township has one, and at the township building and meeting place on the first business day after the meeting. See the enclosed fact sheet for details.



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Act 50 provides
for the regulation
of small wireless
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5G Legislation Enacted — Act 50 of 2021 (*formerly HB 1621*) provides for the regulation of small wireless facilities in municipal rights-of-way. This act authorizes municipalities to charge an annual fee (*up to \$270*) for the use of the right-of-way, sets the maximum permitted height of the pole and small cell facility at 50-feet, requires small cells to comply with restrictions in place in underground utility districts, and allows municipalities to develop reasonable design guidelines to minimize aesthetic impact.

Act 50 only applies to small cell wireless facilities and poles within the right-of-way; zoning outside of the right-of-way and other local ordinances are preserved. The act provides municipalities with the maximum allowable authority and control within the confines of the FCC order. Act 50 takes effect August 29 and townships have until October 28 to update their ordinances. PSATS will provide sample ordinance language soon.

Municipal Indemnification for Special Events — Act 36 of 2021 (*formerly HB 765*) prohibits the state Department of Transportation from requiring municipal indemnification for third party special event permits. Act 36 took effect June 30, 2021.

2021-2022 State Budget Approved — The General Assembly approved and Gov. Tom Wolf signed the \$40.8 billion 2021-2022 state budget, which includes \$2.2 billion in federal stimulus funds. The budget does not include any State Police fees, or new taxes.

Many line items are the same as the 2020-2021 budget, while gaps for some programs, primarily in education and health and human services, were filled with stimulus funds. The budget package includes allocations for rental, utility and water assistance, and childcare stabilization for those struggling from the pandemic.

The Pennsylvania State Police received a net increase of \$14.6 million. As expected, the PSP budget received less funding from the Motor License Fund than in previous years, with the increase coming from the General Fund.

The state Department of Transportation's allocation from the Motor License Fund for traffic signals was restored from \$10 million to \$40 million.

The state Department of Community & Economic Development received a slight increase of \$2 million while the Governor's Center for Local Government Services and the Office of Open records received level funding. \$20 million from federal stimulus funds is allocated for broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas.

To learn more, check out the recording of PSATS' Summer Legislative Update Town Hall. [Click here](#) to view the recorded webinar or go to psats.org and look under Latest News.

Senate Passes Radar Bill — The Senate passed **SB 419**, which would permit local police officers in Pennsylvania to use radar or LIDAR for speed enforcement. Municipal police would be required to follow the same standards as the Pennsylvania State Police. The bill is now before the House Transportation Committee.

New Acts — The following new acts take effect August 29 unless indicated otherwise:

Act 34 of 2021 prohibits a municipality from requiring a license for a business that a minor operates occasionally and makes a profit of less than \$5,000 per year.

Act 43 of 2021 allows owners of multiple rental properties served by a single meter to request a billing adjustment from a municipal authority by showing at least five consecutive years of actual usage and usage exceeds the bill by at least 30 percent.

Act 70 of 2021 moves administration of the Floodplain Management Act from the state Department of Community and Economic Development to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Act 70 took effect July 9.

Registration
for PSATS
Centennial
Celebration
Dinner and
2021 Annual
Business
Meeting
opens August 2.

Register For Business Meeting, Centennial Celebration

Registration for PSATS' Centennial Celebration Dinner and Annual Business Meeting opens August 2! If you're going to the Business Meeting, register at voting2021.psats.org. If you're going to the Centennial Celebration, register at PSATS100.mypli.org. If you're attending both, start at one site and finish at the other. You will find a button at the end of the one to go to the other.

You can also make hotel reservations during the registration process. The HOTEL RESERVATIONS link will appear at the end of either registration. Do not go to Hotel Reservations until you have finished other registrations. You will only need to go through the hotel reservation process once. The rates have been discounted for PSATS.

Details were mailed to member townships in June. To learn more, go to the websites listed above or call PSATS.

While pandemic restrictions forced the cancellation of PSATS' 2021 Annual Educational Conference, where we planned to celebrate our 100th birthday, we now have these two events scheduled for the Hershey Lodge in the fall to make up for the canceled celebration and to take care of lots of business.

Business Meeting: On **Friday, October 15**, delegates (*especially voting delegates*) are invited to the Hershey Lodge to conduct **PSATS' 2021 Annual Business Meeting**, hear committee reports, elect PSATS leadership, and most importantly, adopt resolutions that will guide state association policy in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. All are welcome with priority registration going to voting delegates.

The meeting will start at 8 a.m. with a continental breakfast and include resolutions voting, bylaws amendments, election of officers/board members, award presentations, a few speakers, punctuality prizes, and a hot lunch. Adjournment will be around 1:30 p.m.

Centennial Celebration Dinner: The night before, **Thursday, October 14**, the Pennsylvania Leadership Institute will host a **Centennial Celebration of PSATS' First 100 Years** at the Hershey Lodge. This fun-filled historic evening, complete with dinner and light entertainment, is not to be missed! A reception will begin at 6 followed by dinner at 7.

While these events will not replace our Annual Conference, you will not want to miss them!

Complete Salary Survey by August 18

Be sure your designated township staff (*PSATS Salary Survey Plus processor*) **enters your township's wage and benefit data by August 18** to ensure the earliest access to all PSATS Salary Survey Plus reports, including comparisons to 2018-2020 results, question by question comparisons, and reports by region, population, budget size, union status, benefits, and more!

Townships that participate in this secure survey enable their township supervisors, managers, secretaries, and other township-authorized employees to view the data entered and run real-time reports and comparisons with townships most like yours. To protect anonymity, results are only provided for questions that receive responses from at least five townships.

To access Salary Survey Plus, log onto psats.org and look under "My PSATS" for "Salary Survey Plus." If you need to change the township official designated to enter data (*the PSATS Salary Survey Plus processor*), contact memberservice@psats.org or (717) 763-0930, ext. 112. Questions about the survey? Need help with a report? Email salarysurveyplus@psats.org or call (717) 763-0930.

Don't Miss PSATS' Live Training

PSATS live is back! Checkout the sessions coming to you soon! Go to learn.psats.org for details.

- **PSATS' Regional Forums:** Learn about issues that matter to your community. Coming **August 5** to Williamsport, **August 17** to Grantville, and **August 24** to Canonsburg. Learn more at regionalforum.psats.org!
- **Developing Your Township Budget:** Learn proven methods to develop budgets that work. **August 5** in Butler County, **August 6** in Crawford County, **August 12** in Montgomery County, **August 13** in Lancaster County, **August 19** in Bradford County, and **August 24** in Cumberland County.
- **CDL Probably Cause Training and CMV/CDL Records Management:** These separate classes will help townships follow federal requirements for CDL personnel and records management. Attend one or both on **August 11** in Crawford County, **August 12** in Clearfield County, **August 18** in Beaver County, **August 19** in Fayette County, **August 25** in Blair County, and **August 26** in Warren County.
- **HR Institute:** Slated for **September 23 & 24** in Dauphin County, this is a must-attend for anyone responsible for HR and personnel management in their township. Don't miss the new interactive format spread over two days!

This and That...

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

- **See Your Township in the 2022 PSATS Calendar!** — Township public works crews operate year-round, and we'd like to see your crew in action. Get creative and show us the many ways that your public works crew keeps your township running smoothly throughout the year. Photos should be in color, must have a resolution of at least **300 dpi** at a size of **4 inches x 6 inches**. Photos taken with a smartphone are fine but be sure to send them to us as "actual size" to ensure full resolution. Email photos as jpeg attachments to kacri@psats.org by September 17, 2021, Provide your name, position, township, county, and daytime telephone number. Identify everyone in the photo left to right, their titles, and a brief description of what they are doing.
- **Municipal Recycling Grants Available** — The state Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for Municipal Recycling Program Development and Implementation Grants (*Section 902 Grants*) **until September 24, 2021**. Eligible recycling program development and implementation costs are eligible for 90% funding. Municipalities that did not receive a Section 902 grant award in 2020 will receive additional consideration during this solicitation period. For more information, go to dep.pa.gov and choose "Businesses" and then "Recycling and Waste Reduction."
- **Keystone Communities Grant Program Accepting Applications** — [The Keystone Communities program](#) supports local revitalization initiatives for the growth and stability of the community. Keystone Communities is accepting applications **until August 31** for a variety of grant opportunities. These include planning grants, revitalization, public improvements, and more. Townships are eligible to apply. To learn more, go to dced.pa.gov and choose "Programs and Funding" and then "Search for Funding." Scroll down to find Keystone Communities.
- **National Award Honors Small-Town Civic Volunteers** — Communities depend on civic volunteers, especially firefighters and emergency medical services personnel. Townships rely on residents to serve on volunteer boards, commissions, and committees. If your township has a **population under 25,000**, you can nominate outstanding civic volunteers through the national Small Town America Civic Volunteer Awards. Municipalities represented by the top three winning honorees will receive cash awards of \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000, respectively. To nominate an outstanding volunteer in your township, go to www.civic-volunteer.com. The deadline is **October 15**.