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July 19, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's Coffee and the Capitol | Russell Redding, Pa. Secretary of Agriculture

In this month's Coffee and the Capitol, PSATS Director of Government Relations Joe Gerdes interviews Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding on Avian flu developments in Pennsylvania and how labor shortages are affecting the commonwealth's agriculture industry.

Latest News

Reminder to Continue Tracking COVID-19 Costs, Submit for Reimbursement

On March 30, 2020, the [president declared](#) a major disaster for Pennsylvania as a result of COVID-19, which began on January 20, 2020, and is still in effect. FEMA has numbered the disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as [FEMA-4506-DR-PA](#).

Deadlines: Townships wanting to submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) for their eligible expenses incurred from January 20, 2022, to July 1, 2022, **must submit their RPA to FEMA via the [Grants Portal website](#) by December 31, 2022.** Select “Register Your Organization for Public Assistance” and “DR-4506” as the disaster event. *(For more information on the portal, read the [Applicant's Quick-Guide to the FEMA Grants Portal Account and Request for Public Assistance](#) for instructions. Please note this account is not connected to login.gov.)*

These applications must include sufficient documentation for FEMA to determine whether the work is eligible for reimbursement. For a list of frequently asked questions about FEMA's COVID-19 program, including eligible costs for reimbursement, click [HERE](#).

Eligible Costs: As a result of the COVID-19 emergency declaration, townships that take eligible emergency protective measures to respond to the disaster at the direction or guidance of public health officials may be reimbursed for eligible expenses as per FEMA's "[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Public Assistance Programmatic Deadlines](#)" guidance document, which states the following:

1. FEMA will apply 100% federal funding to all eligible COVID-19 costs below for work performed and items used from the beginning of the incident period through July 1, 2022.
2. Eligible Costs:
 1. **Employee Labor:** Costs for hours worked prior to July 2, 2022.
 2. **Purchased Supplies:** Costs to purchase supplies used prior to July 2, 2022. As described in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) policy, FEMA only provides PA funding for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies projected to be used in the next 60 days. Any PPE or other supplies purchased for a 60-day timeframe prior to July 2, 2022, are eligible for 100% federal funding only if the items were also used prior to July 2, 2022.
 3. **Purchased Equipment:** Costs to purchase equipment that the Applicant used prior to July 2, 2022, and the cost for usage prior to July 2, 2022.
 4. **Leased Equipment and Facilities:** Lease costs prior to July 2, 2022. FEMA may calculate the cost based on a proration of time. FEMA only provides funding for storage necessary to store 60 days of PPE and other necessary supplies.

5. **Contract Costs:** Costs for work performed prior to July 2, 2022. If costs cannot be distinguished by date performed, FEMA may prorate costs based on the percentage of work completed prior to the deadline versus the percentage of work remaining.
3. The deadline for townships to apply for reimbursement of such costs *after* July 1, 2022, is still to be determined as discussed in the [FEMA guidance document on COVID-19 Requests for Public Assistance and RPAs](#).

Note: The federal COVID-19 disaster declaration is unrelated to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. For more information on the American Rescue Plan, click [HERE](#) to reach the PSATS American Rescue Plan informational page.

Today in History...

On July 19, 1848, the Seneca Falls Convention convened at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. The woman's rights convention—the first ever held in the United States—convened with almost 200 women in attendance. The convention was organized by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, two abolitionists who met at the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention in London. As women, Mott and Stanton were barred from the convention floor, and the common indignation that this aroused in both of them was the impetus for their founding of the women's rights movement in the United States.

Legislative & Policy



[Act 95 of 2022](#) (SB 814) creates a new offense of evading arrest on foot and an offense of harming a police animal while evading arrest or detention. Causing harm or death while fleeing will result in a higher grade offense. Act 95 takes effect September 16, 2022.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

PSATS 2022 Regional Forums

This series of full-day educational sessions is scheduled for multiple locations statewide. Learn more about issues that matter to your community, discuss common interests with other local leaders, earn PMGA and other professional credits, and attend specialized workshops designed for township officials. This educational event will be the perfect opportunity to hear from experts on the **local issues** that matter to you and your municipality.



PSATS Northwest 2022 Regional Forum - 8/4/22 - Erie
PSATS Southcentral I 2022 Regional Forum - 8/31/22 - Lancaster
PSATS Northeast 2022 Regional Forum - 9/22/22 - Tannersville
PSATS Southwest 2022 Regional Forum - 9/29/22 - Cranberry Township
PSATS Southeast 2022 Regional Forum - 10/6/22 - Plymouth Meeting
PSATS Southcentral II 2022 Regional Forum - 10/11/22 - Gettysburg
PSATS Centre Regional 2022 Regional Forum - 10/25/22 - State College
PSATS Lehigh Valley 2022 Regional Forum - 11/1/22 - Allentown

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Developing Your Township Budget

This class will provide proven and effective methods and techniques to help new and veteran township supervisors, secretaries, treasurers, managers, road masters and public works officials develop budgets that work.

[8/8/22 - Franklin County](#)
[8/9/22 - Washington County](#)
[8/10/22 - Clarion County](#)
[8/11/22 - Luzerne County](#)
[8/24/22 - Chester County](#)



Basic Training For Secretaries And Administrators - 8/23/22 - Lackawanna Co.

Topics covered will range from budgeting, purchasing, advertising and meeting management all the way to human resource issues and public engagement.



2022 PSATS Fall Solicitors Seminar

This seminar will cover a wide variety of emerging and important trends and issues vital to the practice of every municipal solicitor.

[9/20/22 - Cumberland County](#)

[11/10/22 - Montgomery County](#)



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