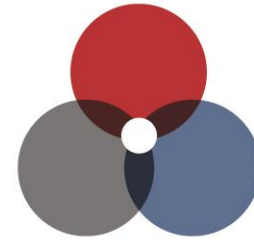


# How COVID Has Impacted Local Governments and Services

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September 11, 2020



THE CENTER FOR EST. 1913  
**COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS**  
RESEARCH • ANALYSIS • ACTION



# The Center for Community Solutions

We are a non-partisan, nonprofit that aims to improve health, social and economic conditions through nonpartisan research, policy analysis, communications and advocacy.

[www.communitysolutions.com](http://www.communitysolutions.com)

Twitter: @CommunitySols

## Our Priorities



Advancing Wellbeing of Older Adults



Enhancing Behavioral Health Access



Improving Maternal and Infant Health



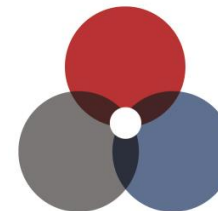
Promoting Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education



Strengthening Health and Human Services Safety Net



Supporting Sound Medicaid Policy



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# Advocates for Ohio's Future

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonpartisan coalition of over 500 Ohio organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.

[AdvocatesForOhio.org](http://AdvocatesForOhio.org)

**Kelsey Bergfeld, Coalition Manager**

[kbergfeld@communitysolutions.com](mailto:kbergfeld@communitysolutions.com) | 175 S. Third Street, Suite 350 | Columbus, OH 43215

# Our Panel Today

Slides and a recording will be available after the webinar at  
**[CommSols.com/WebinarCOVIDLocalGovernment](https://CommSols.com/WebinarCOVIDLocalGovernment)**



**Michael Corey**  
Human Service Chamber of  
Franklin County



**Rachel Massoud**  
County Commissioners  
Association of Ohio



**Joel Potts**  
Ohio Job and Family Services  
Directors' Association





# Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association

September 11, 2020



# An Increased Need for Services

## Increased Demand in Tough Economic Times

- SNAP, Medicaid and OhioWorksFirst Caseloads are increasing while flat funding remains best case scenario
  - Large spikes of new applications in March, April and August (with expiration of \$600/week)
  - Next four months will be challenging with SNAP renewals – those due March – May were deferred for six months; new applications accepted in those months will be due at same time, along with those typically due September – January.
  - This increased workload will mean longer wait times and slower processing. Significant overtime will be needed to complete necessary work.

## Clients Will Face Evictions and Utility Shut-Offs

- Regular Prevention, Retention and Contingency program will help some, but won't meet the sudden demands once moratorium ends.



# Employment & Training Challenges

## **Work and training programs must be expanded**

- State and federal work requirements must continue to be met (including possibly Medicaid Work Requirement)
- While meeting requirements, our services must be expanded to meet both client and employer needs

## **Clients Will Face Evictions and Utility Shut-Offs**

- Regular Prevention, Retention and Contingency program will help some, but won't meet the sudden demands once moratorium ends.

## **Child Care: Access is a Universal Workforce Challenge**

- Needed by clients and county workers for young and school-aged children

## **TANF Block Grant Sustainability**

- OWF caseloads; PRC; child care



# Opportunities Within the JFS System

- Willingness to pursue and approve waivers to streamline service delivery
- Remote Work
- Expanded use of call centers and county shared services
- Opportunities with equipment and technology
- New ways of doing business



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# COUNTY BUDGET CHALLENGES AND IMPACTS OF COVID-19

September 11, 2020

Rachel Massoud

Policy Analyst

County Commissioners Association of Ohio



# COUNTY BUDGETS PRIOR TO COVID-19

## Cuts over the years:

- Reductions to LGF - \$145 million
- Medicaid MCO Sales Tax Elimination - \$166 million
- Loss of Internet Tax Freedom Act Grandfather Clause - \$40 million

## Recent successes:

- Increase in indigent defense reimbursement
- Implementation of *South Dakota v. Wayfair* – internet sales nexus
- Increase in state child protection funding



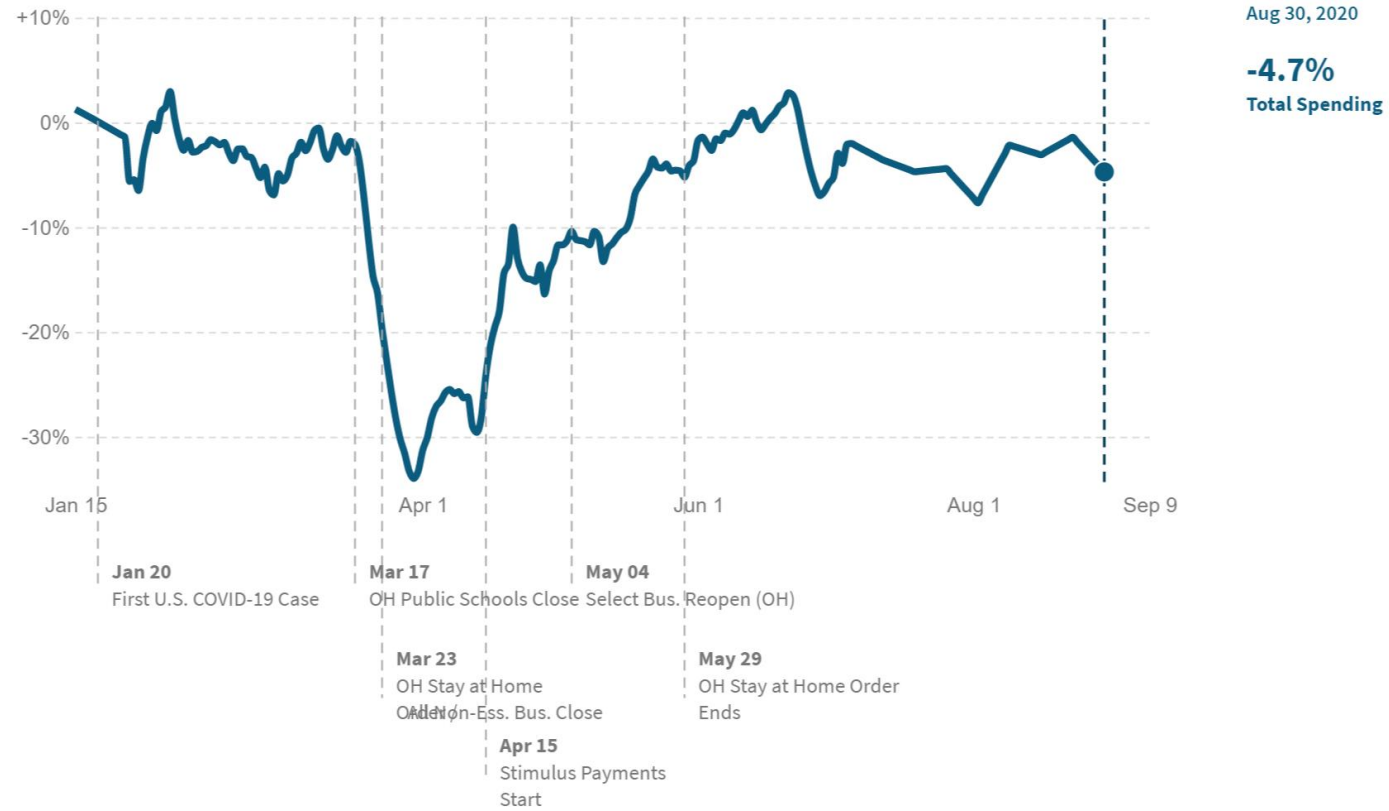
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## **COVID-19 IMPACT ON SALES TAX REVENUE**

**Sales tax is the largest county revenue source and has been the primary concern since the start of the pandemic.**

## Percent Change in All Consumer Spending\*

In **Ohio**, as of August 30 2020, total spending by all consumers decreased by **4.7%** compared to January 2020.



\*Change in average consumer credit and debit card spending, indexed to January 4-31, 2020 and seasonally adjusted. This series reflects daily data through July 5th, 2020 and weekly data after July 5th, 2020. This series is based on data from Affinity Solutions.

last updated: **September 08, 2020** next update expected: **September 15, 2020**

Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker, [tracktherecovery.org](http://tracktherecovery.org)



# IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY REVENUE STREAMS

- Gross casino tax revenue
- Property tax collections
- Interest income
- Gas tax revenues
- State budget cuts – indigent defense reimbursement

# WHAT ACTIONS ARE COUNTIES TAKING?

The response varies from county to county, but examples of actions counties have taken include:

- Furloughs
- Hiring freezes
- Delaying capital projects
- Budget reductions

Counties are in the process of setting their budgets for next year. The county fiscal year lines up with the calendar year (January to December).



# CARES ACT – CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

The federal CARES Act passed in late March and distributed money to states and large local governments for specific pandemic related purposes through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF).

- Counties have received roughly \$754 million from the CRF
  - 5 largest counties received most of this through direct distribution
  - Other counties received through the passage of HB 481 and a Controlling Board request last month (distributed based on LGF formula)
- Potential for approximately \$260 million more to flow to counties through SB 357
  - Currently drafted to be distributed on a per capita basis
- Funds **cannot** be used for revenue replacement
- The US Treasury Guidance & FAQs and Ohio OBM Guidance largely guide how funds can be spent.



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# **Michael Corey**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Human Service Chamber of  
Franklin County

# Questions?

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