



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Friday, October 9, 2020

COVID-19 Fire and EMS Grants Announced; Rules Revised

The Office of State Fire Commissioner will be awarding \$50 million in grants to volunteer and paid departments under Act 26 of 2020, which provides COVID-19 funding for fire and EMS. The list of awardees is [available here](#). These one-time grants are funded by the state using the federal CARES Act.

In addition, grant guidance was updated to incorporate new federal rules that will allow funding to be used to replace money lost due to fundraisers that had to be canceled because of the pandemic. Only nonprofit volunteer fire, rescue, or EMS companies are eligible for **this use**; combination or career departments are not eligible. To view the new grant guidance, [click here](#). For more information about this program, [click here](#).

PUC Modifies Emergency Order Suspending Terminations

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has adopted enhanced consumer protections to safeguard families and small businesses struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Townships that provide qualified services may continue to replicate the PUC practices including collections and grace periods. This includes continued termination protection for certain low-income residential customers, outreach to customers at risk of termination, waiver of connect/reconnect fees, and no late-payment charges. Terminations and collections for customers **able to pay** end November 9 for all electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications, and steam utilities subject to the commission's jurisdiction. For more information, including additional reporting requirements for public utilities, [click here](#).