

# Your Member Service Organization



## PSATS TOWN HALL

**JUNE 4, 2020**



*Growing better and stronger with townships for nearly 100 years.*

# Your Member Service Organization



## Agenda

- 2020-21 State Budget
- Acts
- Pending Legislation
- Yellow-Green Phase Guidance
- Miscellaneous



## Short-Term State Budget

### ■ 25.8 Billion 5 month budget

- No tax increases & no new taxes;
- Level agency funding;
- Funds schools, institutions of higher learning, and child care programs for 12 month;
- SERS and PSERS contributions continue;
- Crucial health and environmental programs funded for 12 months.



# Short-Term State Budget

## ■ State Police

- General Government Operations \$172.123 million (\$342.1 million 19-20)
- MPOETC \$712,000 (\$1.716 million 19-20)
- From Motor License fund: \$617.164 million (\$647.395 million 2019-20)

– **No state police tax yet!**



## Short-Term State Budget

### ■ Office of the State Fire Commissioner

- 1.187 million (2019-20: 2.848 million)
- Includes funding for a statewide coordinator and regional advisors to develop, implement, and deliver recruitment and retention training programs and technical assistance to local fire organizations and local governments



## Short-Term State Budget

### ■ Transportation: Motor License Fund

- Appears to be 12-month allocations
- \$10 million for the Municipal Traffic Signal program
- \$28 Million Dirt, Gravel, and Low-Volume (same as 2019-20)
- Liquid Fuels fully funded, but expect decrease for 2021 allocation due to decrease in sales





# Short-Term State Budget

## ■ DCED

- **The Center for Local Government Services** \$1.786 million (5/12 of 2019-20).
- **Municipal Assistance Fund** \$228,000 (5/12 of 2019-20)



## Short-Term State Budget

### ■ 25.8 Billion 5-month budget

#### – Other items of interest:

- Plastic bag ban moratorium extended through 2021 or until end of emergency declaration (*whichever is later*)
- Payment in lieu of taxes payments:
  - State Forest \$7.812 million (same as 2019-20)
  - State Parks \$430,000 (same as 2019-20)





## ■ 2.6 billion from Federal CARES Act

- Supplemental appropriations to agencies to address costs related to COVID-19:
  - \$930 million DCED (*includes \$625 million for counties; \$225 small business assistance*)
  - \$632 million Human Services
  - \$50 million PEMA (*Fire and EMS Grant Program*)
  - \$40 million Agriculture
  - \$20 million DOH



## **\$625 million from Federal CARES Act to 60 counties that did not receive direct aid.**

- DCED to distribute to counties by July 15<sup>th</sup>;
- Distributions are based on population;
- At least \$1 million for each eligible county;
- Prioritized for subgrantees not awarded money from CARES I ;
- Seven allowable uses



## **\$625 million to Counties; Allowable Uses:**

- Offsetting cost of direct county response, planning, & outreach related to COVID-19, including PPE;
- Small business grant programs to support businesses with fewer than 100 employees, priority to those that did not get paycheck protection funds;
- Grants for economic development;
- Assistance to municipalities for response and planning efforts related to COVID-19, including PPE purchases;
- Behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment;
- Nonprofit assistance for 501c3 or c19;
- Broadband internet deployment with priority given to unserved or underserved areas.



## What's next?

- Budget expires November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- \$1.3 Billion in CARES Act funds not allocated.
- Additional federal funds could be allocated.
- IFO predicting \$5 billion revenue loss.



## **ACTS**

- **Act 17 (HB 1869) COVID-19 disability benefits; basic life support staffing waivers**
- **Act 21 (HB 327) Cocktails to go**
- **Act 22 (HB 1522) Junior Firefighter Training**
- **Act 26 (SB 1122) Fire & EMS Grants**



## Pending Legislation

- SB 1030 Alternate Sewage Systems
- SB 1110 COVID-19 Notification
- HB 974 Volunteer Senior Property Tax Credit
- HB 2065 Public-private partnerships
- HB 2506 Temporary Outdoor dining
- HB 2536 Tax Anticipation Notes





## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

- Red No More
- Yellow Phase Review
- Yellow Phase New: Recreation, Outdoor Dining, and more
- Green Phase
- What's next?



## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

### ■ Red No More

- Stay-At-Home order expires at midnight
- All counties will be in yellow or green phase tomorrow
- Wolf renewed 90-day disaster declaration yesterday, urged yellow means caution
- Administration preparing for a fall surge with testing, contact tracing, isolation plan in attempt to avoid shut down in fall



# Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

## ■ Yellow Phase Review

- Reopening:
  - Childcare
  - Retail (50 percent capacity)
  - Businesses not listed on next slide
  - Large gatherings to 25



# Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

## ■ Yellow Phase Review

### – Restrictions Remain:

- Indoor Malls, Health and Wellness facilities (gyms, salons), and Entertainment: closed
- Recreation: waterparks, playgrounds, team sports: closed
- Businesses that can telework must continue
- Social distancing and universal masking



# Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

## ■ Yellow Phase New

- In addition to takeout and delivery, outdoor dining permitted in yellow effective tomorrow
  - Must follow Commonwealth Guidance
  - Must follow Restaurant Guidance: Strict physical distancing, barrier requirements, 50 percent maximum occupancy
  - Must follow LCB Guidance if licensee
  - LCB expediting permit extensions for outdoor dining
  - Considerations



## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

### ■ Yellow Phase New

- Recreation: State Guidance for Summer Recreation
  - Day Camps: childcare and enrichment, follow state and CDC guidance
  - Community Pools: CDC guidance
- Professional Sports (no spectators)





# Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

## ■ Yellow Phase New

### – Education:

- Postsecondary institutions and adult basic education programs may begin in-person tomorrow, after developing health and safety plan
- Elementary and secondary schools may reopen in-person instruction and activities beginning July 1 after developing health and safety plan

### – Dentists: Routine dental healthcare authorized



## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

### ■ Green Phase

- Social distancing, facemasks, hygiene still apply
- Large gatherings to 250
- All businesses resume in-person operations but must follow commonwealth's guidance (same as for yellow zone)
- Businesses open in yellow phase at 50 percent go to 75 capacity



## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

### ■ Green Phase

- Businesses that telework may reopen, telework strongly encouraged, phased reopen
- Personal care facilities (salons, barbershops): open by appointment only, limited to 50 percent capacity
- Restaurants: may reopen at 50 percent capacity, must follow state and restaurant guidance, also LCB if licensee



# Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

## ■ Green Phase

- Recreation may reopen:
  - Team sports: follow CDC guidance
  - Waterparks/playgrounds: follow CDC guidance
  - Indoor recreation/health/wellness (gyms): strongly encouraged to operate by appointment, limited to 50 percent capacity, follow state guidance
- Prisons and hospitals may have visitors
- Nursing homes to remain closed for now



# Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

## ■ Green Phase

- Meetings in the green phase
- What's next?
- Future revisions to yellow/green?
- Until vaccines or effective therapies or treatments are available



# Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

## ■ Green Phase

### – Resources:

- psats.org, choose COVID-19 information
- PSATS Fact Sheets
  - Employee and Resident Safety
  - Employer/Employee Issues (Eckert Seamans)
  - Meetings
  - Park and Recreation
  - Road Department/Work Sites (LTAP)
  - Waste/Sewage Disposal





## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

- **State Guidance: decontamination, employee and public protection**
- **Federal Guidance**
- **Eckert Seamans**
- **Additional resources**



## **Yellow-Green Phase Guidance**

- **Commonwealth Guidance for Businesses Permitted to Operate During the Covid-19 Disaster to Ensure the Safety and Health of Members of the Public**
- Townships not required to follow this guidance, but are encouraged to apply as practicable.



## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

### ■ Decontamination Plans:

- Securing and decontaminating the affected areas
- Closing off areas visited by the person who is a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19
- Opening outside doors and windows and using ventilation fans to circulate air in the area



## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

- Waiting at least 24 hours, or as long as practical, before cleaning and disinfecting the affected area
  - Identifying employees who were in close contact
  - Clean and disinfect all shared areas



## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

### ■ Protecting Employees

- Take each employee's temperature before they enter the building.
  - Send home anyone with a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees
- Encourage employees with symptoms such as cough, fever, or shortness of breath to stay home and contact their doctor for further guidance



## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

- ☞ Rearrange office furniture to promote social distancing
- ☞ Stagger work start times
- ☞ Provide masks and other needed PPE
- ☞ Limit the number of people in employee common area
- ☞ Communicate new procedures to employees





## Yellow-Green Phase Guidance

- Protecting Employees and the Public
  - Conduct business with the public by appointment
  - Modify office hours so there is adequate time to clean and disinfect township building
  - Install shields and other barriers to physically separate employees from the public
  - Require the public to wear a mask when entering the township building



## ***Yellow-Green Phase Guidance***

- **U.S. Office of Personnel Management  
Returning to OPM Facilities  
Preparedness Guide**
  - Strongly consider special accommodations for personnel who are members of a vulnerable population, who are caring for dependents who are members of a vulnerable population, and/or who have childcare or transportation needs.



## ***Yellow-Green Phase Guidance***

- Close employee common areas
- Signage: Increase signage reminding employees to employ recommended hygiene practices and social distancing protocols, to stay home when sick, and to report any COVID-like symptoms.
- Communication Plan: report to all staff on the status of reopening strategy and provide at least one-week notice to all staff of the scheduled reopening date for each facility



## ***Yellow-Green Phase Guidance***

### **■ Eckert-Seamans Labor and Employment Alert**

- How to handle employees who refuse to return to work
  - Fear: Ensure you have adequate plans in place to keep the building clean
  - At-risk: ADA Protections for certain at risk employees
  - Childcare: may be eligible for FMLA under Cares Act.



## ■ Employee Policy Adjustments:

- Doctor's notes required after prolonged absence
- Attendance requirements
- Antibody testing: be careful in relying on antibody testing to make personnel decisions



# ***Yellow-Green Phase Guidance***

## **■ Resources**

- <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20200504-COVID-19-Business-Guidance.pdf>
- <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/covid-19/returning-to-opm-facilities-plan.pdf>
- [https://www.eckertseamans.com/app/uploads/Labor-and-Employment\\_REOPENING-FOR-BUSINESSs-FOR-PA-PUBLIC-EMPLOYERS -May-19.pdf](https://www.eckertseamans.com/app/uploads/Labor-and-Employment_REOPENING-FOR-BUSINESSs-FOR-PA-PUBLIC-EMPLOYERS -May-19.pdf)





## *Miscellaneous*

### ■ 2020 Census

- Some field operations resumed June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Self-reporting deadline: October 31<sup>st</sup>
- Requesting extensions:
  - Final counts to President – 4/30/21
  - Redistricting data to states – 7/31/21



## ***PSATS Resources***

- **PSATS Morning News:** make sure that PSATS has your email address!
- COVID-19 Information Page at [psats.org](https://psats.org)
- PSATS Member Discussion Groups
- PSATS Fact Sheets
  - Employee and Resident Safety
  - Employer/Employee Issues (Eckert Seamans)
  - Meetings
  - Park and Recreation
  - Road Department/Work Sites (LTAP)
  - Waste/Sewage Disposal





THANK YOU!



*Growing better and stronger with townships for nearly 100 years.*