Legislative Update

The Latest Legislative Issues Affecting Parks, Recreation and Conservation

#38-2020 -- July 1, 2020

TO: IAPD Members

FROM: Peter Murphy, Esq., CAE, IOM, IAPD President and CEO
Jason Anselment, IAPD General Counsel

RE: DCEO Announces Details on Limited CARES Funding

This afternoon, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) **announced some of the details** related to the upcoming application process for a portion of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) designated for local governments by the federal CARES Act. These funds are restricted to reimbursement of eligible costs associated with the emergency response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Eligibility for these funds was a part of our advocacy efforts during the General Assembly's special session in May, and we have continued to advocate behind the scenes for this funding during the past month.

Funding for this program is through the federal CARES Act and cannot be used to replace lost revenues of units of local government.

In the coming weeks, DCEO will administer funds from the Local CURE program to reimburse units of local governments in 97 Illinois counties that did not receive direct funding from the federal government under the CARES Act.

This includes units of local government in counties other than Cook, DuPage, Will, Kane, and Lake counties, which were the five counties that received direct allocations of Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars under the federal CARES Act. Park districts and other member agencies located in Cook, DuPage, Will,

Kane, and Lake Counties may wish to contact their county officials if you have not already done so to see whether your county is electing to allocate any of its federal CARES funding for emergency response costs to other units of government. Unfortunately, nothing in the CARES Act approved by Congress requires those counties to distribute any of their CARES funding to other units of local government, but they may elect to do so.

Under the new DCEO program, most of the Local CURE Program's funding will be distributed to municipalities, county governments, and certified local public health departments. However, some of the remaining funds will be released by application to other units of local government, including park districts. The application-based allotment will prioritize local governments serving disproportionately impacted areas, or DIAs, low-income zip codes that have had a significant number of cases of COVID-19 among residents.To find out whether your local government serves a disproportionately impacted area, check the **Zip Codes that Qualify as a Disproportionately Impacted Area**.

Costs eligible for reimbursement are defined by the US Treasury and are those incurred due to the public health emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These eligible costs include public safety, public health, PPE materials, and more.

Examples of costs which are eligible for reimbursement:

- Medical expenses, including but not limited to: expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, costs of providing COVID-19 testing, and emergency medical response expenses;
- Public health expenses, including but not limited to: expenses for communication and enforcement by local governments of public health orders related to COVID-19;
- Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services were substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19;
- Expenses for actions taken to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures;
- Any other COVID-19 related expenses reasonably necessary for the unit of local government to respond to the public health emergency that satisfies the Local CURE Program eligibility criteria. Local governments must document how expenses are related to COVID-19.

Examples of costs which are ineligible for reimbursement:

- Governmental revenue shortfall replacement;
- Damages covered by insurance;

- Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with COVID-19;
- Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services;
- Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime;
- Severance pay;
- Legal settlements;
- Indirect costs or administrative costs; and
- Incurred expenses that have been or will be reimbursed through another State or federal funding opportunity.

DCEO will start accepting applications at 4:00 p.m. on July 6 through July 17 at 4:00 p.m.

A preview of the application may be obtained by **clicking here**.

What to do in preparation for the program:

- Make sure your unit of local government is registered with **SAM.gov.**
- Start collecting receipts for COVID-19 related expenses & digitize them; the department will seek PDFs and other electronic forms of back-up for reimbursements.
    - In addition, carefully consider descriptions and rationale on how expenditures were necessary in the local government's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Begin organizing year to date expenditures into the categories listed in the "eligible for reimbursement" section above.
- Once they are posted, review the program's administrative rules (once available, IAPD will also post these rules on our **COVID-19 Resource webpage**.

The timeline for the program:

July 1 - Program details are made available on DCEO's website.

July 6 - Open application for other units of local government.

July 17 - Close application for other units of local government.

July 29 - Host technical assistance webinar.

August 1 - Reimbursement period begins.

November 1 - DCEO to conduct an optional reallocation of funds to areas with remaining need.

December 15 - Final day for local governments to submit reimbursement requests to DCEO to close out the program by December 30.

Additional information is available through the **DCEO website**, and more details will be available next Tuesday, July 6, when the application period opens.

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