



July 16th, 2020

**Updated Information Regarding Coronavirus Relief Funds
Catharine M. Hornby - Undersecretary, Executive Office for
Administration & Finance**



In this edition:

- Updated Information Regarding Coronavirus Relief Funds
- DLS Online Resources Provide Helpful Information | Tutorials on the Roles of Local Officials

**Important Dates &
Information**

With assistance from the Division of Local Services, the Executive Office for Administration and Finance is nearly finished distributing the first round of federal Coronavirus Relief Fund money to cities and towns. A&F is pleased to report that approximately \$80 million has been distributed. Only a few applications remain under review. We appreciate the careful planning work of hundreds of local officials as they budget for unanticipated costs incurred in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The second round of funding distribution will follow this fall.

In an update to A&F's original approach, we are now making funds available for small capital projects. Initially, federal guidance that costs must be incurred directly in response to the COVID-19 outbreak made it hard to see why investments in long-term capital assets would be an allowable use. However, subsequent federal guidance has indicated that certain smaller capital projects, aside from their long-term value, can also be critical to meeting immediate needs. By contrast, in virtually all contexts, the purchase of ambulances and other vehicles are not permissible uses as they are not necessary expenditures in response to coronavirus. For more information on this and other frequently asked questions, see

New IGR Regarding Applications to the Commissioner for Authority to Abate Taxes

The Division of Local Services' Bureau of Municipal Finance Law has issued [Informational Guideline Release \(IGR\) 20-10](#) containing guidance regarding Applications for Authority from the Commissioner of Revenue to Abate Local Taxes and Charges Under G.L. c. 58, s. 8. Please also see [this webpage](#) for more information on "8 of 58" applications.

To review other recent DLS Bulletins and Informational Guideline Releases, please see [this page](#) on the DLS website. For more helpful information, please visit and bookmark the DLS [COVID-19 Resources and Guidance for Municipal Officials webpage](#).

New Bulletin Related to FY2021 Budget Issues and Other Related Matters

The Division of Local Services' Bureau of Accounts has issued [Bulletin 2020-10](#) containing guidance relating

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/cares-act-faq-for-municipal-officials/download>.

DLS Online Resources Provide Helpful Informational Tutorials on the Roles of Local Officials **Frank Gervasio - Director of Special Initiatives**

Are you curious about the roles that local elected, appointed and other municipal staff play in managing a community? Do you expect to have a vacancy in your community's financial management team soon? If so, would you benefit from additional information that might assist your hiring process? Our [Municipal Management video](#) provides an overview of the various duties and responsibilities of city and town officials. In addition to this [video](#), DLS has summarized the responsibilities of certain officials below:

- [Accountant/Auditor](#)
- [Assessor](#)
- [Collector](#)
- [Treasurer](#)
- [Finance Director](#)

You can also review our [recommendation](#) on steps local officials can take to enhance the coordination of financial activities in order to meet city or town-wide goals. In the coming weeks, DLS plans to publish additional video presentations regarding the individual responsibilities of the treasurer and assessor.

Be sure to bookmark the [Municipal Finance Training and Resource Center](#) page and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) to stay updated on new items added. Something you'd like to see us cover? We'd love to hear from you! Please email me at gervsaiof@dor.state.ma.us.

to FY2021 budget issues and other related matters.

**Latest Issue of *Buy the Way*
Now Available**

Don't miss the June-July 2020 edition of [Buy the Way](#), the bi-monthly magazine of the Operational Services Division (OSD). Click [here](#) to get news and updates from OSD delivered to your inbox.

**MassWorks 2020 Round
Now Open**

The Baker-Polito Administration is pleased to announce the opening of the 2020 Round of the [MassWorks Infrastructure Program](#). All Massachusetts municipalities and public entities are eligible to apply for grants to support public infrastructure improvement projects.

MassWorks is a competitive grant program, administered by the [Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development](#) (EOHED) that provides capital grant funds for public infrastructure projects that support and accelerate housing

production, spur private development, and create jobs throughout the Commonwealth. The deadline for applications, which will only be accepted electronically through an online portal, is August 28, 2020 at 11:59PM.

The 2020 Round RFR/Guidelines, Application Template, and online application link can be accessed at www.mass.gov/massworks. All questions should be sent to massworks@mass.gov.

DLS Links:

[COVID-19 Resources and Guidance for Municipal Officials](#)

[Municipal Finance Training and Resource Center](#)

[Local Officials Directory](#)

[Municipal Databank](#)

[Informational Guideline Releases \(IGRs\)](#)

[Bulletins](#)

[Publications & Training Center](#)

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