



Municipal Leaders COVID-19 Weekly Call Summary

April 2, 2020 3 PM (ET)

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch - Introduction

We have been receiving a lot of sobering news lately, especially considering our peak is scheduled to happen anytime between April 15 through May 15, 2020. That being said, we have a lot of work ahead of us and we know you all are at the front lines of the defense. We want to come out of this stronger than we ever have been. We want to hear what your solutions are, what your suggestions are, and what your barriers or concerns are so we can bring those to the Governor's office and get working on that for you. Thank you for your service to your communities and to the State of Indiana.

Jodi Golden - Executive Director, Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

Welcome and introduction of guests

Mark Wuellner - Executive Director, Indiana Bond Bank (mwuellner@inbondbank.com)

- We want to assist local units of government to assist you and your mission and we work with everyone from the local unit of government to public schools and so on.
- We deliver financial solutions to your needs. We work alongside OCRA on more of the financial lens.
- Executive Order 20-05: Would require counties to waive county taxes which may mean you may experience a time mismatch of when those revenues are going to come in and with expenses that will still hit for you and it could cause a cash flow deficit. That can be very scary and overwhelming but we have a helpful resource that has been around for a long time:
 - Tax Anticipation Warrants: Short term borrows to borrow in anticipation of those taxes coming in
 - Advance Funding Program: <https://inbondbank.com/advance-funding-program/>
- As you learn more about what those distributions may look like and as you learn more about escrow taxes - which those will still come on time and so that may also affect what your revenue flow may look like.
- We have taken the infrastructure of a 30 year program, scaled it up, and are now offering up to four times throughout the spring and the summer.
- We have money availability as early as May the 7 and continues on through the end of June/ July, and then there will still be availability in August, September, etc.

Kelly Humrichouser - National Main Street Center/ Main Street America (mainstreet.org)

- We are the national organization that serves your coordinating program (Indiana Main Street)
- Typically a Main Street program is 501(c)(3) and though you may not have one in your downtown they are the organization that pulses life into your downtowns through promotion, economic vitality, design, and organization.
- Please check out our COVID-19 resources even if you don't have a Main Street organization

Kelly Humrichouser - National Main Street Center/ Main Street America (mainstreet.org)

One big concern I am hearing is that there are a lot of resources out there and it can be overwhelming:

- It seems to use that the best way to approach these is connecting all of the dots and all coming together in your community under one voice (Chamber, Main Street, CVB, local government, etc.)
- The Main Street (if you have one) is truly going to be the best conduit to get information out to your community because they are connected deeply into downtown business and building owners
- Please take a look at resources and webinars we have available and continue to support your Main Street organizations through this

Questions:

They are struggling too and budgets will be tight but they will be VITAL to your communities recovery long term.

Please check out mainstreet.org and contact Jackie Swihart, IMS Program Coordinator (Jswihart@ocra.in.gov) or Abby Chapman, IMS Outreach and Organization Manager (Abchapman@ocra.in.gov) to learn more about their resources.

Eric Ogle - CDBG Program Director, Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs

OCRA's COVID-19 response program was announced - specifically the immediate response part of the program. There will be a long-term recovery part of the program but for right now it is the immediate response that we are focusing on.

Three main areas that we are focusing on:

- **Public facilities:** Converting facilities or having temporary facilities to address testing, treatment, or diagnosis for COVID-19
- **Public services:** Similar to above but focused on funding the services that will pay for the testing, treatment, or diagnosis for COVID-19
- **Economic Development/Recovery** - This is the topic where Main Streets can be the most effective. You then work with small businesses on getting our funds towards recovery processes and development in the mean time
- Please remember that your local unit of government has to be the main applicant but you can work with them as a partner on this.
- Max grant amount is \$250,000 and must meet national objective
- If you have interest in this grant program, contact your [OCRA community liaison](#).

Open Forum

Questions, Concerns, Ideas, Good Stories to share

Mike, Town Council (Spencer, IN): Boston Scientific has been donating sterile wipes to our police and sheriff's department to help sanitize steering wheels and other things they come in contact with to protect them as they are out in the field.

Shane Williams, Town Council (Mooreville, IN): Our downtown business owners have been calling saying that they are in need of rent services.

Jodi: Please reach out to your community liaison (DeeDee Leonard) and she can help you find a way to help serve your small businesses.

Eric: For businesses that would be paying the rent as part of retaining the rent to obtain their staff (who have a low to moderate income) that may be eligible for the CDBG funds so please reach out to us with those ideas and there is a lot of flexibility.

A cool thing is that there is a company who is coming in and doing fogging which a chemical that kills that the virus

Clint Lamb, Mayor City of Sullivan: There is a lot of people wanting to do great things BUT they are still involving large groups of people gathering which can be an interesting balance to strike. We do have a lot of people out there walking and we have people chalking the sidewalks and having them follow prompts to spur some creativity and reconnecting to their community during this stressful time.

Denni Spinner, Mayor of Huntingburg: We have experienced similar issues which churches are calling him asking to do a drive-in Easter service a similar request and we strongly urged them not to do that due to the executive order that the governor put out

Vivian Lykes, City of Angola: IHEDA sent something out regarding to the fact that no one gets evicted and we have been receiving some phone calls and are trying to send out that document to residents so that they can be aware. There is concern that some people may be evicted. ([IHEDA website](#))

Jodi: We can certainly put you in contact with IHEDA and they can answer any of those questions for you.

Jodi Golden - Closing & Thank You

We are going to move this call to 1:30 p.m. so that we don't interfere with the Governor's daily press conferences. If there are things you think we should be addressing please reach out to us and find out more information on our COVID-19 Resource page: www.in.gov/ocra/3010.htm