

Government Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup

Virtual Autumn Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Theme: Understanding the State and Local Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

- 1:00 pm Opening Remarks, Eric Scorsone, Michigan State University
- 1:10 pm Vulnerability Analysis of Virginia Local Units of Government due to COVID-19. Ali Akbor, David Conmy and Sara Dunnigan, Virginia Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- 1:40 pm Assessing Existing Local Government Fiscal Early Warning System through Four State Case Studies: Colorado, Louisiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Natalie Pruett, MSU Center for Local Government Finance & Policy
- 2:00 pm State Updates
- Each state will be given roughly 5 minutes. Feel free to address any questions below that are relevant to your State to date.
- How can state audit teams best assist local governments in the near term?
 - What limitations, if any, does this assistance pose with respect to future independence of the audit team?
 - Administration of property tax, is your state delaying or deferring property tax collections?
 - Assessment processes, is your state making changes to assessment processes?
 - Appeals, is your state reviewing its process on tax appeals?
 - Has your state begun to distribute CARES act dollars to local units?
 - How much has been allocated to local units and for what purpose?
 - Have you developed accounting or other guidance to local units?
 - What has been the impact of your state budget shortfalls on local governments' finances?
 - How are you using state systems to monitor local government fiscal distress (early warning systems) –any discussions of new/additional indicators in light of health pandemic shock on local unit finances?
 - How is your state responding to assist local governments with COVID-19 response?
 - Are you seeing any impact on state and local government finances -income tax, water and sewer revenues, other revenue sources?
 - Any estimates of local government ability to weather short and longer term economic downturn (recession)?
- 2:55 pm Wrap up and next steps:
- Next virtual meeting in December
 - Please continue sharing resources and information with workgroup members
 - Other ways we can assist each other