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