

County Leaders COVID-19 Call 4/3/20

Friday, April 3, 2020 1:30 PM

- **Jodi Golden (Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs Executive Director):** Welcome all and welcome Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch
- **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:**
 - Thank you for letting me be apart of these calls. As a past county commissioner myself, I understand how you are on the front lines and are always busy and moving towards making your communities better. Thank you and please give us your feedback, challenges, ideas, and more.
- **Jodi:** We have a couple guests today to give you helpful information.
 - **Mark Wellman (Indiana Bond Bank):**
 - We are a lean and mean quasi state-agency all of 5 staff and we answer to the State Treasurer (Julie Mitchell) and 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 7th and continues on through the end of June, July, and then there will still be availability in August, September, etc.
 - Any questions?
 - **Tim Williams (Union County):** If people would choose not to pay their property taxes and there would be a shortage of income - how do we best address that gap?
 - ◆ **Mark:** We totally understand that worry and struggle. You should actually be able to count on those property taxes (due on May 11th) because they are not included in the Governors executive order.
 - ◆ **Mark:** But any concerns about those gaps while you wait for your other taxes to come in through that 60 day extension - that is exactly what the program I spoke of earlier is for.
 - ◆ **Mark:** Go onto our website www.inbondbank.com and fill out the participation form and it let's us know who we will be working with and it's not binding but starts the process. We have flexible timelines that hopefully aid everyone.
 - Here is Mark's email and the website and feel free to pass any questions along
 - ◆ <https://inbondbank.com/advance-funding-program/>

- **Jackie Swihart (Indiana Main Street Coordinator):**
 - Main Street America Resources: Is the national organization to which Indiana Main Street belongs. If you don't know much about them or want to learn more go to www.mainstreet.org
 - They have a WIDE resource page that is available
 - ◆ Webinars: Two recorded that are now on NMSC page. 1) Is for your Main Street program and an organizational check up for them. 2) Supporting local safety. And they have an upcoming webinar on April 7th, 2020 about Leading Through Crisis (find registration here: INSERT LINK)
 - ◆ NMSC has also put out a small business survey (we have sent out to our Main Street programs) - deadline for that survey has been pushed out to April 6th, 2020 and available in both English and Spanish. Please contact us if you would like to take the survey.
 - Typically a Main Street program is 501c3 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 and if you do - get connected with them and support them
 - 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 and they might know resources such as
 - ◆ Rent, lease terms, income for their employees, etc.
 - Please take a look at resources and webinars National Main Street has available
 - PLEASE continue to support your Main Street organizations through this
 - ◆ They are struggling too and budgets will be tight but they will be VITAL to your communities recovery long term
 - Questions?
 - Please check out www.mainstreet.org and feel free to reach out to Jackie Swihart (IMS Program Coordinator) or Abby Chapman (IMS Outreach and Organization Manager) to learn more about their resources
 - ◆ Jswihart@ocra.in.gov
 - ◆ Abchapman@ocra.in.gov
- **Jodi:** Any questions, concerns, ideas, and challenges that you would like to share with us that we can share to the Governor's office as well as find new ways to approach those challenges from OCRA's perspective. Also please share any positive stories with us that we can share with the governors office and beyond.
 - **Kendell Culp (Jasper County Commissioner):** Has there been any discussion to free up the restriction on the NDH Fund or the 50% of the road money has to be used on maintenance or construction? Would there be any flexibility to relax that for this year that we could use those fixed funds?
 - **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** That is a good idea and I have not heard of anything thus far but I would like you to share that with the governors office. Please send Jgolden@ocra.in.gov an email with your proposal and we will send it along.
 - **Penny Githens (County Commissioner Monroe County):** We are concerned about childcare for those who are working in the life sciences who are turning out supplies that are needed across the state and country. We have asked if it is possible to use school buildings or

creating child care facilities that would be open for those employees. Would it be possible to relax the rules of the school's liability so that we could open up those places for childcare facility? I am also curious about what other counties are doing to address this issue?

- **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** Another really valid and important idea. I would love to share that with the Governors office as well.
- **Jodi:** Eric Ogle is there anyway our COVID-19 response program fund could address this kind of issue?
 - **Eric Ogle (CDBG Program Director):** It is definitely possible but I will have to do some more looking. The best first step is sending your information to your community liaison (find that contact information here: <https://www.in.gov/ocra/2330.htm>) We can then look through your idea and see if our funds could address the childcare issue.
- **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** Eric could you go ahead and give us a run down of the program?
- **Eric Ogle (Program Director of CDBG at OCRA)**
 - 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.
 - ◆ Immediate Response is anything that right now your communities need to address the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - ◇ 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 can 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
 - You still need to meet national objective
 - ◆ If you have interest in this grant program
 - ◇ First contact your local unit of government
 - ◇ Then contact your community liaison
 - ▶ <https://www.in.gov/ocra/2330.htm>
 - We will continue to keep you updated on our long term recovery program
 - **Jodi Golden:** Please send your ideas and requests to jgolden@ocra.in.gov
 - **Lynne Liechty (Steuben County Commissioner):** We have issues with PPE and we are not getting enough supplies in this moment and we have a lot of people coming into our area for testing.
 - **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** We definitely haven't forgotten you and are doing our best to advocate for locations like yours to get the resources you need. We will elevate that conversation to the governors office.
 - **Diana Biddle (Brown County Commissioner):** We are Indiana's backyard and playground but sadly people don't know how to utilize the park responsibly and we have a lot of issues with

people from Illinois coming over as well as people camping still which has the possibility of bringing the COVID-19 disease into our community. Please reconsider the stance of encouraging people to come to the state parks.

- **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** That is very understandable and we will make sure that we let the Governor's office know to elevate that conversation. Please send us any photos of these issues and I will share that: Jgolden@ocra.in.gov
- **Lynne Liechty (Steuben County):** One thing that might help you Diana is to put up more rules and signage in your community for regulations.
- **Tim Williams (Union County):** I work at Reid Health, they are working on medical tents and have one in Richmond and one is going to open up in Connersville. It is basically a respiratory tent and encouraging people to come in who have any symptoms and you pull up, talk to a doctor/NP, and then they determine what next steps are best for you.
 - On a different note: We had a gentlemen test positive through Lily and another gentlemen test positive through Reid but our health department isn't being notified for multiple days which is very bad for us. Are you aware of these problems?
 - **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** Yes, we are talking with Dr. Box and she is explaining that the numbers are behind because they are only what is reported. We will plan to reach out to those at the Indiana Health Department and find out the reasoning as well as continue to search for next actions steps to address the issue.
 - **Jodi:** Please send those concerns to me at Jgolden@ocra.in.gov
- **Jack Kauffman (Clark County):** Addressing the PPE shortage - our sheriff just ordered a machine that sanitizes masks and gowns. He ordered 50 of those machines that can be put onsite at different medical areas. 50 of them cost around \$26,000 but they are a ultraviolet or infrared machine that sanitizes these masks and gowns for medical workers.
 - **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** Yes I just spoke with your sheriff the other evening and that is also helpful to know.
- **Jack Kauffman (Clark County):** Yes, I believe he received a grant to get the machines as well.
- **Jake German (Indiana Association of County Commissioners):** I know the Governor is speaking here in about 15 minutes
(https://livestream.com/accounts/18256195/events/9054752/player?width=960&height=540&enableInfoAndActivity=true&defaultDrawer=feed&autoplay=true&mute=false#_blank)
are we expected any further shelter in place and stay at home orders?
 - **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** Yes I believe that topic will be addressed in the governors address that you are able to watch here or sometime this weekend or next week (https://livestream.com/accounts/18256195/events/9054752/player?width=960&height=540&enableInfoAndActivity=true&defaultDrawer=feed&autoplay=true&mute=false#_blank)
- **Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch:** I just want to say thank you to each of our county commissioners and county leaders. You are on the front lines of taking care of your communities, your families, and others and just know we are so thankful for the hard work you are doing every single day.
- **Jodi Golden (Executive Director OCRA):** Closing and thank you
 - Thank you again for tuning in and staying connected to our calls every week. Again, if you mentioned an area you want to address please email me at Jgolden@ocra.in.gov
 - If there are things you think we should be addressing please reach out to us and find out more information here:
 - ◆ **For further resources:**
 - ◇ <https://www.in.gov/ocra/3010.htm>