



INTERNATIONAL
CODE
COUNCIL®

Using Federal CARES Act Funds:
A Panel of Code Officials' Success
Stories

August 25, 2020

Overview

Webinar Format

- Introduction and Key Takeaways
- Background on CARES Act funding
 - How it's administered, what's eligible, and what conditions apply
- Code Officials' Success Stories
 - What, why, and how
- Your questions!

Key Takeaways

- Unique opportunity to access flexible federal funding
- Your hardware/software needs are eligible
- Code officials from across the country have used it successfully, you can too!
- Act now! Funding expires by year end



Gary West, Chair
Fire Service
Membership Council



Ed Lisinski, Vice Chair
Building Membership
Council



The CARES Act

What it Funds and How it's Accessed

CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

Conditions

- Not in a budget approved as of March 27, 2020
- Spent before end of 2020
- “necessary expenditures” due to the coronavirus pandemic

Eligible Activities

- “Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions”
- “Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government”



Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Distribution

- \$150 billion allocated by formula to all states and localities >500,000
- Minimum \$1.25 billion per state
- Direct county recipients can allocate to constituent jurisdictions
- [Allocation to <500,000 localities](#)
 - Direct: AK, CA, CO, GA, MA, MN, MO, NC, OH, OR, VA, WI*
 - Reimbursable: AZ*, CT, ID, IN, KY, LA, MI*, MT, NE*, NV, NH, OK, SC, SD, WA, WV, VT
 - Hybrid: FL, KS, TX, UT, TN
 - None or unknown



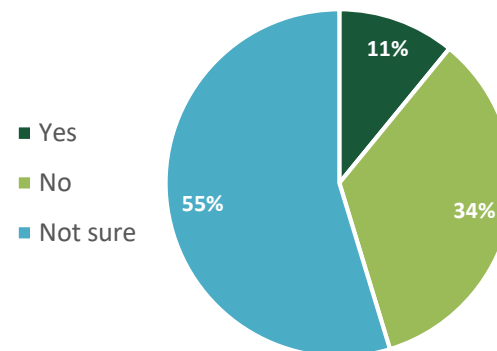
Code Department Virtual Needs

- Spring survey of 1150 jurisdictions
 - 2/3 working remotely
 - 2/10 lacked needed hard copy code books
 - 3/10 lacked e-permitting capability, 3/10 had incomplete e-permitting capability, and 4/10 e-plan review capability
 - 6/10 lacked the capability to conduct virtual inspections
- Resurveying now: participate [here!](#)

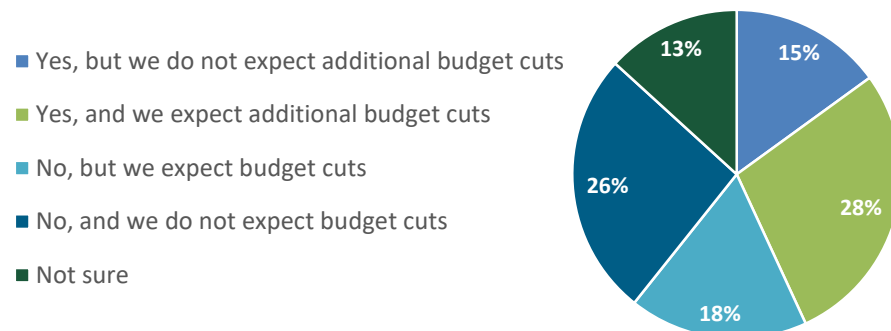


Ongoing Survey Results on CRF Use/Need

Has your department used or does it expect to use CRF funding for virtual needs?

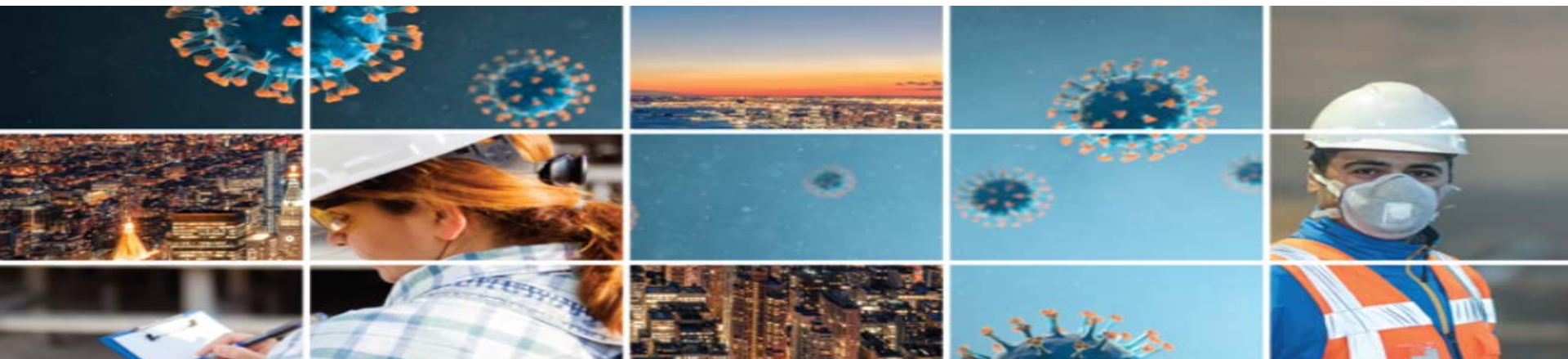


Has your department faced budget cuts?



Code Departments are Critical

- Per DHS and every state, code officials are essential workers
- Protect health and life safety
- Disaster mitigation and response
- Facilitate construction, vital to our economic recovery
- [Full talking points available here](#)



Diverse and Widespread Support for Addressing Virtual Capability Gaps

[53 organizations](#) joined ICC in supporting resources to address code departments' virtual capability needs

- State and local government
- Residential and commercial contractor
- Building owners and managers
- Manufacturers
- Insurance
- Housing
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Engineering
- Resilience interests



Resources and Contact Info

Virtual Capabilities

- [Spring survey results](#)
- [Participate in the ongoing survey](#)
- [Going virtual](#)
- [Recordings of this and other relevant webinars](#)

CARES Act

- [State CRF distribution](#)
- [Fact Sheet: CARES Funding for Code Departments](#)
- [Talking points on why to support virtual needs](#)

Gabe Maser

Vice President, Government Relations

gmaser@iccsafe.org

202-730-3953

Code Officials' CARES Act Success Stories



Mike Boso
Chief Building and Zoning Official
Grove City, OH



Barb Williams,
Building Permit Technician
Otsego, MN



Ruben Barrera
Building and Safety Director
Ventura, CA



Becky Baker
Director of Building Safety
Jefferson County, CO

Mike Boso, Chief Building and Zoning Official Grove City, OH, Code Council Board Member



What: \$190,000 to upgrade existing permitting software and integrate remote plan review technology

Why: move to a paperless system that all departments, their remote employees, and the public can access; protects staff and the community

How: informed advocacy; conviction in the importance of the proposal; submitted early

Barb Williams, Building Permit Technician Otsego, MN



What: \$40,000 to integrate existing permitting software, billing software, and Laserfiche (digital records/process management software)

Why: fix inefficient and disconnected processes and facilitate remote work

How: coordination with finance; convincing the City Council that new federal resources justified a fresh look at a previously rejected proposal

Ruben Barrera, Building and Safety Director Ventura County, CA



What: purchase digital standards/reference material and premiumACCESS subscriptions

Why: ensure staff that previously shared hard copies have access to needed materials while working remotely, and enhance collaboration/organization across online codes

How: connection between need for remote access and public health requirements, secured go-ahead to expense with a commitment for subsequent reimbursement

Becky Baker, Director of Building Safety Jefferson County, CO



What: for PPE, computers, and upgrading existing permitting software

Why: protect staff, allow remote work, and leverage a unique opportunity to improve operations and customer service

How: serve as project quarterback between IT and finance, sold internal stakeholders on the value of reprioritizing to capture one-time funding

Next Steps!

How to Access CARES Act Funds

1. Determine your hardware/software needs and assess costs.
2. Determine whether CRF funding is available to you as an essential department.
 - Consult with the budget/finance department, county clerk, municipal league to determine available funds.
 - Check out ICC's Coronavirus Resource Center – [Advocacy Resources](#) or email Advocacy@iccsafe.org for help.
3. Determine the purchasing/procurement process.
4. Track expenses and, where applicable, apply for reimbursement.

Solutions and Resources

ICC offers tools for Remote Work and Continuity of Government



Manage building permits, inspections, plan review, and more.

[Webinar on Thursday,
August 27 at 1 pm ET](#)



Implement a virtual work environment. Conduct business from anywhere.

[On-demand webinar
available](#)



Online subscription gives 24/7/365 access to ICC's Codes and Standards.

[Webinar on Wednesday,
August 26 at 1 pm ET](#)

Contact:

Sandy Hess, Sales Operations Manager
International Code Council
shess@iccsafe.org