The Fiscal Link

NCSL & National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO) Updates

- NCSL’s Erlinda Doherty authored a State Legislatures News article “Flexibility Provided in Latest COVID Recovery Fund.”
- NCSL is collecting information on how states are using their State Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds for a new database. Please share your state actions.
- It is budget season. NCSL tracks states’ enactment of their FY 2022 budgets.
- Questions about executive emergency powers? NCSL continues to track legislative oversight of emergency declarations, including federal funds.
- Join NCSL on June 8 for the webinar “Manufacturing Our Way Into the Future.”

JUNE FISCAL BRIEF

The Great Debate: Who Has the Authority to Spend Federal Stimulus Funds

Federal stimulus funds are flowing into the states at unprecedented levels, including aid for state governments to use at their discretion. This has led to battles in some states over who can allocate those funds – the legislature or the governor? This brief explores the difficulty in answering this question and some of the tensions that have surfaced.
State News and Reports

- **Indiana** | The Office of Fiscal Management and Analysis updated their [property tax dashboard](#). This interactive tool examines property taxes, levies, assessed values and tax cap impacts for counties and units in the state.

- **Iowa** | The [Legislative Services Agency](#) released a fiscal topic on the statutory allocations from the Road Use Fund in FY 2020. In FY 2020, a total of $127 million in off-the-top statutory allocations were distributed.

- **Minnesota** | The Senate Counsel, Research, and Fiscal Analysis examined [state-issued appropriations bonds](#). The report assesses the use of appropriations bonds and how they function in comparison to other state bonds.

- **Oregon** | In a recent report, the [Legislative Fiscal office](#) analyzed the state's lottery revenues, administration and transfer costs.

Federal News and Reports

- U.S. Department of the Treasury has published an [Interim Final Rule](#) on the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and now accepting funding requests for eligible governments. Check out [Treasury's FAQ](#), updated May 27.

- The [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](#) found growing political divisions do not seem to have affected state government expenditures.
The latest Annual Survey of School System Finances released by the Census Bureau shows public school spending per pupil increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia by 5% to $13,187 from FY 2018 to FY 2019. It’s the largest increase in 11 years.

Other Items of Interest

- The Pew Charitable Trusts, Fiscal 50: State Trends and Analysis tool released data on states’ total rainy day funds. Nearly a third of states reported declines.
- Commercial gaming revenue dropped by 31% in 2020 according to the American Gaming Association State of the States report.
- The Tax Policy Center reviews how U.S. Treasury will determine tax cuts under ARP guidance.

Additional Resources

- Visit the NCSL Fiscal Affairs Program homepage.
- Visit the NALFO homepage.
- Consult a list of legislative fiscal offices that maintain webpages.
- Join NALFO’s Listserv.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for The Fiscal Link, or know a legislator or legislative staff person who should be added, just ask Emily Maher or Erica MacKellar.

NOTE: Links to external websites and reports are for information purposes only and do not indicate NCSL’s endorsement of the content on those sites.

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