



CCAO launches strategic partnership with County Firm

At CCAO, we're not just listening – we're taking action to help shape the future of County operations! Inspired by the feedback from our member Counties, we're thrilled to announce County FIRM (Facility Investment, Retrofit, and Maintenance) – a proven team of former contractors, licensed professional engineers, and other facilities industry experts that are using their expertise to support our counties in their endeavors around facility maintenance and facility capital projects (including jails).

Reduce and eliminate the headaches of unexpected HVAC failures, costly change orders, and the complex web of contractor management with unparalleled ease. County FIRM is a professional services provider that will act as an extension of your staff to assess facility needs, capital plans, manage contractors, provide technical support, procurement support, and many other forms of owners representative consulting.

We understand that no two Counties are alike, which is why we're committed to delivering tailored solutions that perfectly fit your unique needs. County FIRM will be visiting your County soon to provide further insights on how we can make your day to day easier to focus on the task at hand of serving your constituents.

For more information, reach out to:

Joe Sokol, Regional Manager – Professional Services
330-592-3946



Is your county IT infrastructure secure? CCAO Cyber Defense is here to help!

Protecting your county from a cyber attack...

After hearing of multiple counties getting hit hard with cyber attacks, CCAOSC has decided to launch a County Cyber Protection Program. According to Embroker, Cyber attacks have been rated the fifth top rated risk in 2020 and become the new norm across public and private sectors. This risky industry continues to grow in 2023 as IoT cyber attacks alone are expected to double by 2025. Plus, the World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Risk Report states that the rate of detection (or prosecution) is as low as 0.05% in the U.S.

Endpoint Security Package
Protect your computers and servers by automatically updating your computer software and preventing threats in real-time countywide.

Endpoint Security & Patching becomes ever more important in the modern world. Deploy a cloud-managed EDR & Patch management system to keep your endpoints patched & protected. HGC engineers can assist with EDR & Patch management automation. Pricing is per endpoint.

BitDefender EDR (Endpoint Detection & Response)
Windows Patch Management
Office365 Security Engagement
Help prevent cyber incidents by increasing the security of the county's Office365 environment. Using MFA authentication reduces the possibility of being hacked by 99%. Implementing many of the Office365 mail security features can help reduce the amount of spam and phishing that county employees receive.

Engage HGC engineers to audit and/or fine-tune the county Office365 security posture(s). Duration of the engagement depends on the size and complexity of the environment. The average Office365 Security Engagement lasts 1-2 weeks. Each engagement can be customized to the needs of the county. A typical engagement includes the following:

MFA Setup and/or audit
Mail Security
Impersonation Protection
Spam & Phishing
DMARC, DKIM & SPF configuration
Disable Legacy Authentication
Conditional Access Configuration
Advanced Threat Protection Policies
Network Security Engagement
IT projects can be complex and time demanding. Sometimes it makes sense to call in a specialist to help with the heavier-than-normal demand.

Engage HGC engineers to audit the network firewall, network switching & wireless network infrastructures to harden the security posture. Duration of the engagement depends on the size and complexity of the environment. The average Network Security Engagement lasts 2-5 days depending on the size and complexity of the environment.

Firewall security audit & hardening
Wired & Wireless Security audit & hardening
Business Continuity / Disaster Recovery
Most cyber incidents can be recovered by having a bulletproof Business Continuity (BC) / Disaster Recovery (DR) plan. These plans typically outline how the county will function if certain disastrous events occur. System backups are a probably the most crucial part of a BC/DR plan, and are the part most often neglected.

Engage HGC engineers to audit the BC/DR plan and infrastructure. With the rise of ransomware and complex malware packages that can hold hostage the entire county network, backups have become an even more crucial part of the Business Continuity / Disaster Recovery Plans. HGC engineers can assist in developing a BC/DR plan and/or assist in deploying the appropriate backup software to ensure county assets are protected. Duration of the engagement depends on the size and complexity of the environment. The average Network Security Engagement lasts 2-5 days depending on the size and complexity of the environment.

Systems Backup audit and/or configuration
Office365 Backup audit and/or configuration
General Consulting
It can be difficult to have a complete technical vision that satisfies the needs of an organization while maintaining a high-level of security and usability. General consulting engagements can assist counties analyze their current situation and create a roadmap on how to upgrade, improve and integrate their systems. General consulting engagements can also provide county administrators with additional technical manpower to assist County IT implement their existing projects.

Engage HG engineers to assist with your upcoming IT project. HGC engineers cover a wide array of specialties:

Network Infrastructure,
Network Security,
Microsoft Azure/m365,
Misc. Network or Cloud projects
Vulnerability Assessments
Best Practices Assessments
Licensing Store
HGC and CCAO Service Corporation have partnered together to offer competitive pricing on hardware and software licensing renewals. Check to see if your equipment and/or software packages are available in our program.

Antivirus & EDR licensing
Firewall licensing renewals
Network equipment renewals
Backup Software renewals
VMware licensing renewals
DUO Multi-Factor Licensing

To get started in protecting your county from a cyber-attack, reach out to CCAO's Tim Hoverman at thoverman@ccao.org or call him at 614-220-0655.



Counties being accepted into County Benefits+ through July.

Last year, CCAO launched a pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing the lives of the county workforce in Ohio. County Benefits+ is a new partnership between CCAO and Aflac. Through this partnership, assisted by NACO's Public Promise Insurance, county leaders and their employees will now have access to Ohio's premiere supplemental benefits program.

In an era where attracting and retaining talent has never been more challenging, County Benefits+ goes beyond a traditional supplemental benefits program by offering an all-encompassing solution that caters to the specific needs of both the county workforce and the leadership that support them. With the increasing costs of healthcare in America, supplemental benefits are built to help employees cover unforeseen expenses that a core medical benefit offering may not. These unforeseen medical events often add financial hardship to the lives of county employees and their families.

CCAO Executive Director, Cheryl Subler, praised the partnership "County Benefits+ represents an exciting collaboration between our organization and the largest supplemental benefits provider in America, Aflac. Members of the county workforce are asking for these supplemental benefits, and through this program, we aim to help counties attract and retain their employees. By combining our resources and the Aflac expertise, we have built a program that provides exceptional supplemental benefits to support county employees. This program was built solely for the 88 counties in Ohio and we are thrilled at the program that we have structured."

Highlights of the "County Benefits+" program include:

Wide Range of Voluntary Supplemental Benefits: Benefits that employees can elect to offset additional costs associated with: Critical Illness, Accidents, Cancer Diagnosis, Hospital Stays, Pet Insurance, ID Theft, and Life Insurance. These provide cash payments that cover expenses such as copays, deductibles, and other unforeseen expenses.

State-wide Underwriting: Aflac has agreed to a strong state-wide plans and rates for the state of Ohio specific to county governments. This reduces the hassle of obtaining quotes and pulling large amounts of data for voluntary benefits.

No County Costs: The benefits program is voluntary with each employee purchasing only the products they want.

One-on-One Enrollment Support: Every county employee will have an opportunity for a face-to-face or virtual discussion with a certified enrollment counselor.

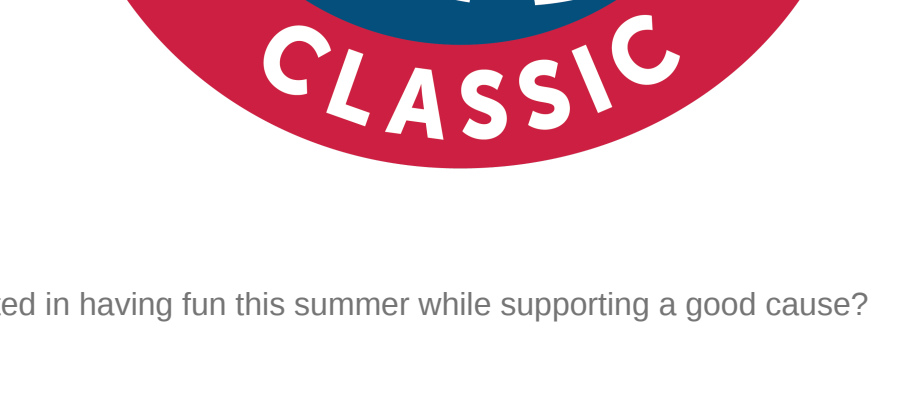
HR Team Support: The program includes an administration, billing and payroll support feature. In addition, the certified enrollment counselors are able to assist HR teams with driving home key messages during their one-on-one consultations.

Enhanced Communication: Communication materials and education campaigns are very easy to provide to your staff.

County Focus: This program is built 100% for the county workforce. It is built to strengthen the benefits package your county is already offering and support your teams in the battle to attract and retain talent.

Please take this opportunity to assess the value that a new or revised supplemental benefits program can bring to your county team.

For more information on County Benefits+, reach out to John Leutz, Steve Caraway or Tim Hoverman.



Interested in having fun this summer while supporting a good cause?

Join the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation Golf Outing! Swing for Scholarships: The County Classic Golf Outing

Step onto the lush greens of Safari Golf Club in Powell, Ohio, and immerse yourself in a day of swings, putts, and camaraderie for a noble cause. The annual County Classic Golf Outing, organized by the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation, promises a day of fun-filled competition while supporting the dreams of aspiring students across Ohio.

Date: July 19th
Location: Safari Golf Club, Powell, Ohio
Time: Lunch and Registration at 11:30 a.m. | Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m.

As the midsummer sun bathes the fairways in golden light, golf enthusiasts and philanthropists alike gather for a day that blends sport with purpose. The scent of freshly cut grass mingles with the aroma of a delicious lunch spread, setting the stage for an unforgettable event.

A Swing for a Cause:

The heartbeat of the County Classic Golf Outing is its dedication to the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation Scholarship fund. With every swing of the club, participants directly contribute to the future of promising students throughout Ohio. The Foundation's commitment to education shines bright as it awards five deserving students with \$2,000 scholarships, empowering them to pursue their academic endeavors and shape tomorrow's leaders.

Unleash Your Inner Champion:

From seasoned pros to novice players, the County Classic welcomes golfers of all skill levels to join in the action-packed day. Whether you're aiming for the elusive hole-in-one or simply enjoying the scenic course, every participant plays a vital role in making a difference in students' lives.

Bonding Through Birdies:

Beyond the thrill of competition, the County Classic fosters connections that extend far beyond the greens. Amidst friendly banter and shared victories, participants forge lasting friendships, united by their passion for golf and their commitment to education.

Join Us:

Mark your calendars and prepare to tee off for a cause that transcends the game itself. The County Classic Golf Outing invites you to be a part of something truly special—a day where your love for golf merges seamlessly with your desire to support the next generation of leaders. You can register using this link: <https://birdsease.com/countyclassic>

