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Counties Current
CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

Jan. 24, 2022

CCAO welcomed Jackson County Commissioner Donnie Willis, Darke County Commissioner Larry Holmes and Logan County Commissioner Joe Antram (pictured with 2022 President Debbie Lieberman) to our board of directors! We are also excited to have Pickaway County Commissioner Gary Scherer as a new board member. We are thrilled you will join us as we improve the vital state-county partnership and build stronger counties for a stronger Ohio.

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Association News

- Treasury to host virtual session on ARPA for Ohio local elected officials
- CCAO/CEAO elect district officers for 2022
- Welcome Laurie O'Brien as CEBCO's new wellness coordinator
- In Memoriam: Gary Bauer, former Huron County commissioner

State News

- Intel to build site in Licking County

Federal/NACo News

- Internet subsidy program available to Ohio households
- U.S. Treasury releases Final rule for ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund
- 2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications now open

Education and Grants

- Utility-Scale Solar in Ohio event will discuss growing solar industry – Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m.
- OhioRISE wants to hear from you, schedules listening sessions for February
- OBM to host State and Local Fiscal Recovery Update webinar – Jan. 24
- NTIA to provide broadband grant programs public virtual listening sessions

County News

A weekly look at news throughout Ohio's 88 counties

Did You Know? - Defiance County

Statehouse Report

Check out the Statehouse Report for the CCAO Policy Team's updates about legislative activity affecting Ohio's counties.

Job Postings

CCAO publishes classified ads on our website free of charge as a service to counties. When submitting your ad to CCAO, please provide a link to the online job posting and a deadline date. Email your classified ad to Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson.

Print Version

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Treasury to host virtual session on ARPA for Ohio local elected officials

CCAO would like to bring to your attention an opportunity to learn more about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) final rule and how local governments can utilize their funds while remaining in compliance with federal requirements.

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 2:15 p.m., officials from the US Department of the Treasury will hold a virtual session for Ohio local elected officials regarding the ARPA final rule. Since this session will be open to only Ohio officials, it will be valuable to hear what other communities across the state are planning to utilize their funds for and benefit from questions posed by different communities.

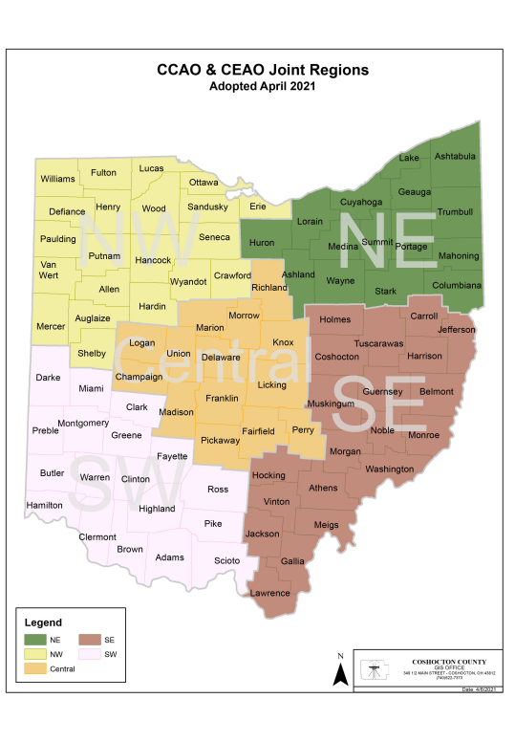
The registration link is included below. During registration, you will have an opportunity to submit questions ahead of time. You will also be able to ask questions during the session.

We encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about the ARPA rules directly from the federal department administering the program and hear from other communities across the state.

You can register through this link: https://ustreasury.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItc-GurzMtGKm4DYcY2wGndux-j9sjMRg

Back to Top

CCAO/CEAO elect district officers for 2022



The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) and the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) boards recently elected their district officers for 2022.

Last year, both boards drafted a new 5-region map for Ohio. Added to the Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest Regions is the new 14-county Central Region.

The CCAO the regional districts allow for additional regional collaboration on issues pertinent to different areas of the state. The state is broad and diverse, and the regions allow members to share, discuss and gain insights.

The 2022 district officers are

Northeast District:
Sabrina Christian-Bennett (Portage County Commissioner) - President
Kathryn Whittington (Ashtabula County Commissioner) - Vice President
John Plecnik (Lake County Commissioner) - Secretary
Jim Dvorak (Geauga County Commissioner) - Treasurer

Northwest District:
Scott Miller (Sandusky County Commissioner) - President
Doris Herringshaw (Wood County Commissioner) – Vice President
*Secretary and Treasurer to be decided at March 21 meeting

Central District
Chris Schmenk (Union County Commissioner) - Co-Chair
Chris Bauserman (Delaware County Engineer) - Co-Chair
Tim Bubb (Licking County Commissioner) - Secretary

Southeast District:
Doug Bachman (Harrison County Engineer) - President
Jon Hensler (Jackson County Commissioner) - Vice President
Lenny Eliason (Athens County Commissioner) - Treasurer
Patrick Leighty (Lawrence County Engineer) - Secretary

Southwest District
Carolyn Rice (Montgomery County Commissioner) - President/Organizer

Back to Top

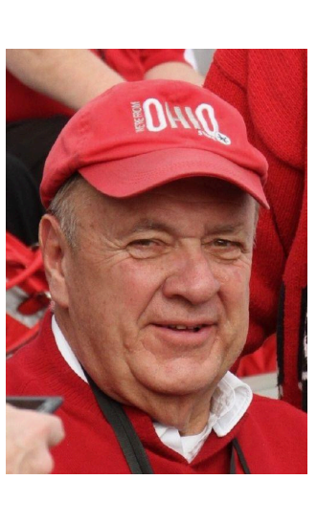
Welcome Laurie O'Brien as CEBCO's new wellness coordinator

CEBCO is pleased to announce that Laurie O'Brien has joined the CEBCO team as the new wellness coordinator, effective Jan. 17. Laurie is a native of Warren County and has a Bachelor of Exercise/Health Promotion Degree from the University of Cincinnati. Laurie brings a wealth of knowledge with her prior experience as a Wellness Coordinator for a Hospital System and for an Insurance Company.

Laurie will be working closely with Hannah to meet our County Wellness Champions in the coming weeks.

Back to Top

In Memoriam: Gary Bauer, former Huron County commissioner



Gary Bauer, who proudly served three terms as Huron County commissioner, passed away on Jan. 10.

We at CCAO extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends during this difficult time.

Click here to read his obit in the Norwalk Reflector.

Back to Top

Intel to build site in Licking County

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov.Jon Husted joined JobsOhio, One Columbus, and several local, state, and federal leaders to announce that leading global semiconductor manufacturer Intel Corporation has chosen a site in central Ohio's Licking County as the future home for its most advanced semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the world. Intel plans to invest more than $20 billion to build two state-of-the-art factories by 2025, designed for what the company calls the "Angstrom era" — with materials processed on the atomic level — and with support for Intel's most advanced process technologies, resulting in an increased American share of the global semiconductor supply chain.

The megaproject, which will be the largest single private sector company investment in Ohio's history, will generate more than 20,000 jobs in the state, including 3,000 direct Intel jobs earning an average of $135,000 per year (plus benefits), 7,000 construction jobs over the course of the build, and tens of thousands of additional indirect and support jobs including contracted positions, electricians, engineers, and jobs in restaurants, healthcare, housing, entertainment and more. The project is expected to add $2.8 billion to Ohio's annual gross state product.

The initial manufacturing facilities (known in the industry as FABs or foundries) will be located on a 926-acre site in Licking County. But the impact will be statewide. More than 140 existing Ohio businesses across the state are already Intel suppliers, and the project is expected to bring additional new businesses to Ohio to support the supply chain. The success of these companies will create new jobs, fuel growth in other key Ohio industry sectors, and position Ohio at the center of America's industrial innovation.

Back to Top

Internet subsidy program available to Ohio households

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a new federal program to assist eligible households with monthly internet expenses. The program, established under the federal infrastructure bill, covers up to $30 a month for participating household broadband internet service costs and up to $100 dollars toward the purchase of a device to connect to the internet.

The ACP replaces the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program, which expires in March 2022. Enrollees in the EBB program automatically transition to the new ACP program.

The ACP features broader eligibility categories compared to the EBB program. A household is eligible to qualify for the ACP if a member of the household meets one of the following criteria:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines; or
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.

Some private estimates conclude that nearly 1.4 million Ohio households could qualify for the new program. However, only approximately 400,000 Ohioans are enrolled in the existing EBB program.

Individuals interested in learning more about the ACP program and signing up can find additional information at https://www.fcc.gov/acp.

Back to Top

U.S. Treasury releases Final rule for ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund

The U.S. Treasury Department (Treasury) released the Final Rule for the State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund), which was authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act and allocated $65.1 billion in direct, flexible aid to every county in America. The Final Rule will go into effect on April 1, 2022; however, counties can choose to pursue the Final Rule's new flexibilities and simplifications now. View NACo's preliminary overview here.

Treasury also released the Project and Expenditure Report and User Guide to be used by counties to submit data associated with the Recovery Fund. The following counties are required to submit a Project and Expenditure Report Treasury by January 31, 2022:

Counties with populations that exceed 250,000 residents (referred to as Tier 1 recipients by Treasury)

Counties that received more than $10 million in Recovery Funds with populations below 250,000 residents (referred to as Tier 2 recipients by Treasury)

The Project and Expenditure Report will cover the period between March 3 and December 31, 2021, and requires the reporting of project, obligations and expenditure data, subaward data, as well as certain required programmatic data.

LEARN MORE | RECOVERY FUND RESOURCE HUB | ASK A QUESTION

Back to Top

2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications now open

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2022 Achievement Awards. Please join us in celebrating 52 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

NACo will highlight the 18 "best of category" winners, as well as feature all winners in NACo materials and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and residents.

EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2022 (save $25 off the application fee)
REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022

For more information, please review the Achievement Awards online brochure, or email awards@naco.org with any questions.

Back to Top

Utility-Scale Solar in Ohio event will discuss growing solar industry – Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

The state of Ohio is experiencing significant investment interest in utility-scale solar projects. A recent report by Ohio University predicted over 7,500 megawatts (MW)of new solar projects will be developed in Ohio resulting in more than 55,000construction jobs.

Join Utility Scale Solar Energy Coalition, BlueGreen Alliance and the Natural Resources Defense Council for **Utility-Scale Solar in Ohio**, a virtual networking event on Feb. 7 at 2:30 to 4 p.m. to learn more about Ohio's growing solar industry, hear about relevant state and local policies, and the different ways Ohio's labor unions have prepared for this opportunity.

During the event, solar developers, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) firms, and labor representatives will have the ability to ask questions and discuss the significant job potential of Ohio's growing solar industry. RSVP here.

Back to Top

OhioRISE wants to hear from you, schedules listening sessions for February

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and Aetna, Better Health of Ohio are hosting OhioRISE listening sessions in February 2022.

OhioRise is a partnership between Aetna and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) that provides behavioral health services and supports to children and youth and their families. This program will start on 7/1/2022.

During the OhioRISE listening sessions, participants will give their recommendations and feedback on improving the youth, family and provider journey to best support youth and families starting in July 2022. The important feedback gathered during listening sessions will be reviewed and may influence implementation, policy, and process development to ensure a more comprehensive readiness before go-live.

Dates are Feb. 15 at 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 17 at 12 to 1:30 p.m.; and Feb. 23 at 6 to 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining one of the sessions, you can register at https://occrra.org/about/ohiorise-aetna-better-health-of-ohio/

Back to Top

OBM to host State and Local Fiscal Recovery Update webinar – Jan. 24

Join the Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) on Jan. 24 at 2 pm. for a webinar on the ARPA Final Rule.

The U.S. Treasury released the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Final Rule on Jan. 6, 2022. This Final Rule, effective April 1, 2022, will supersede the previous Interim Final Rule and has several changes. This session will discuss many of the notable changes from the Interim Final Rule.

Click here to register.

Back to Top

NTIA to provide broadband grant programs public virtual listening sessions

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will host broadband grant program public virtual listening sessions in connection with the five new broadband grant programs authorized and funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program; the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program; and the Digital Equity Act Programs, which include the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. These public virtual listening sessions are designed to collect stakeholder input to help inform program development and implementation.
NTIA will hold the public virtual listening sessions based on the following schedule:

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Broadband Programs Public Virtual Listening Session** Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, from 2:30–4 p.m.
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Broadband Programs Public Virtual Listening Session** Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, from 2:30–4 p.m. and**.**
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Broadband Programs Public Virtual Listening Session** Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, from 2:30–4 p.m.

These listening sessions will be hosted via NTIA's virtual platform and conducted as a live public listening session. NTIA will post the registration information on its BroadbandUSA website.

Back to Top

County News

Intel to build $20 billion semiconductor plant in Licking County

ABC6, Jan. 21, 2022

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced Friday Intel will be building a semiconductor plant in Licking County.

More than $20 billion will be invested in the construction of two new leading-edge chip factories in Licking County, according to Intel.

"This is a special day. A great day in Ohio history," DeWine said at the plant's announcement at the Midland Theatre. "They (Intel) bring to Ohio today great news. Intel has chosen Ohio."

Lucas County eyeing Health Department property as new jail site

ABC 13, Jan. 20, 2022

Lucas County is finalizing plans for its new jail, and the site getting the most consideration is the current site of the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department. The planning phase is now underway.

The Health Department site has always made sense to many because of its neighbor Toledo Municipal Court. Many come from the jail to Municipal Court every day so keeping it all together just makes sense. Just about everyone is in agreement that the Lucas County jail is outdated and in need of replacement. The tricky part has been how to create a new one, how to pay for it, and where to put it. That "where" is coming more into focus.
Part of the money will come from federal dollars in the America Rescue Plan Act or ARPA.

"We're going to build it without a tax increase. With some of the potential ways that we can use the ARPA funds that we can offset enough of our debt services that we can pay for it by the efficiencies we're building into it," said Byers.

Back to Top

Did You Know? - Defiance County

Hicksville, a village in Defiance County, is mentioned in Mark Twain's novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." The character Tom Sawyer claims to be from Hicksville

Back to Top

Dates to Remember

JANUARY 28, 2022
CEBCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2022
CORSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 17, 2022
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2022
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Back to Top

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