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Jan. 31, 2022

Hamilton County Commissioner Stephanie Summerow Dumas, pictured with fellow commissioners Alicia Reece and Denise Driehaus, placed a wager with County Executive Frank White Jr. of Jackson County, Missouri, in favor of a Bengals victory over the Chiefs. The counties will exchange food and donated team jerseys to benefit Hamilton County's youth.

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

Association News
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- Save the Date: OCCO Legislative Reception – April 6 at 5 p.m.
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- County Broadband Program Implementation: Key Considerations webinar – Feb. 1 at 12 p.m.
- Ohio EPA to host Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community webinar – Feb. 10
- Ohio EPA to host Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar – Feb. 24
- 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? - Darke 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

Dates to Remember

Associations release OneOhio Toolkit for local governments

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio, the Ohio Municipal League, the Ohio Mayors Alliance and the Ohio Township Association have joined to offer this toolkit to assist local governments in understanding and establishing regional governance structures under The OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding. The OneOhio MOU is one-of-a-kind in the Nation, giving Ohio's Local Governments (counties, townships, cities and villages) a direct role in directing Opioid Funds to implement strategies for community recovery from the opioid crisis.

Local Government leaders have been instrumental in addressing the opioid epidemic in their communities and through litigation. The responsibility to organize your specific Region falls to you as local leaders. This Toolkit will help you through the decisions that need to be made within each Region during this initial organizational period, including determining a regional governance structure and selecting a regional appointment to the statewide Foundation Board. The following sections are included in the attached document:

Part I	FAQs about The OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding
Part II	Key Considerations for Local Governments in Establishing Regional Governance
Part III	Selecting Regional Governance Options
Appendix A	The OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding, with Exhibits A, C, & D
Appendix B	Public Works Commission District Structures
Appendix C	Function of Regional Board Flowchart
Appendix D	Resolution Approving Participation In Regional Governance Structure
Appendix E	Resolution Appointing Initial Regional Representative
Appendix F	Considerations for OneOhio Recovery Foundation, Inc.'s 501(c)(3) Status

All documents can also be found on the CCAO OneDrive at this link: https://bit.ly/3G1OtZa

It is imperative that local governments work together within their Region to form a regional structure to: a) appoint a representative to the statewide Foundation Board; and b) evaluate projects and make submissions to the statewide Foundation on funding programs to get the money into our communities.

The associations will host two webinars to discuss the contents of this Toolkit and answer questions on its contents. The same content will be covered in both webinars, so we encourage you to register for one. Dates and registration information are below.

Friday, Feb. 4 at 1:30 p.m. To register for the Feb. 4 webinar, click here.
Monday, Feb 7 at 12 p.m. To register for the Feb. 7 webinar, click here.

Any questions you have can be directed to CCAO Policy Analyst Rachel Massoud Reedy at 513-543-3723 or rreedy@ccao.org.

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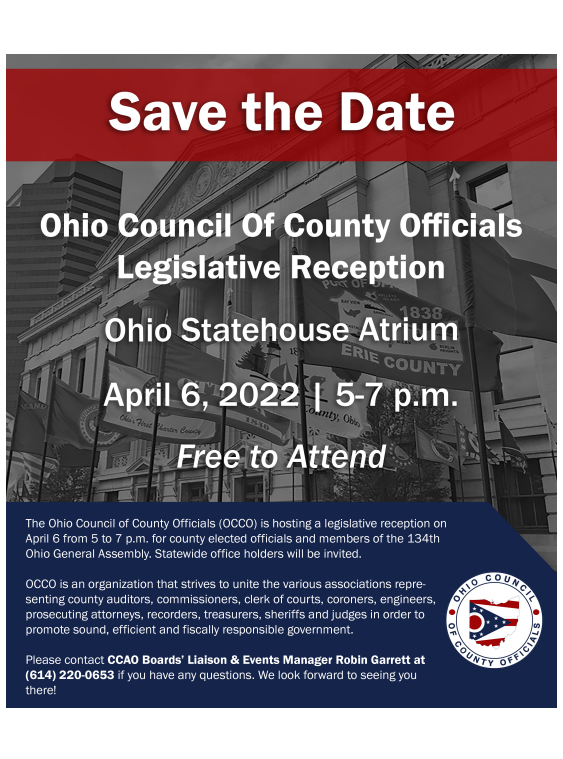
Save the Date: OCCO Legislative Reception – April 6 at 5 p.m.


Save the Date
Ohio Council Of County Officials Legislative Reception
Ohio Statehouse Atrium
April 6, 2022 | 5-7 p.m.
Free to Attend

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) is hosting a legislative reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. for county elected officials and members of the 134th Ohio General Assembly. Statewide office holders will be invited.

OCCO is an organization that strives to unite the various associations representing county auditors, commissioners, clerk of courts, coroners, engineers, prosecuting attorneys, recorders, treasurers, sheriffs and judges in order to promote sound, efficient and fiscally responsible government.

Please contact **CCAO Boards' Liaison & Events Manager Robin Garrett at (614) 220-0653** if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Hall selected as Defiance County commissioner

Defiance County Republicans have selected a new county commissioner: Jim Hall has will fill Ryan Mack's vacated seat.

Hall served as a member of the Defiance County Courthouse's security staff provided by the county sheriff's office. He retired in 2014 after a long stint as a sheriff's deputy, including more than 20 years as the department's D.A.R.E. officer. The D.A.R.E. position works with local schools in trying to dissuade kids from drug abuse.

Congratulations, Commissioner Hall! We look forward to working with you to build stronger counties for a stronger Ohio.

Click here and here stories from The Crescent News.

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DeWine awards body-worn camera grants to 100+ law enforcement agencies

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine awarded more than $4.7 million in grant funding to 109 local law enforcement agencies for expenses associated with launching or maintaining body-worn camera programs.

Of the 109 local law enforcement agencies receiving grants, 49 will use funding to create new body-worn camera programs. The other 60 agencies will dedicate funding toward expanding or upgrading existing technology. In total, this funding will help agencies purchase around 1,700 new body cameras, as well as computer equipment, software, video storage, and more.

Governor DeWine prioritized the creation of the new Ohio Body-Worn Camera Grant Program in the state's 2022-2023 operating budget, which was passed by the Ohio General Assembly last year. The grant program totals $10 million over the biennium, with the remaining grants to be offered in fiscal year 2023. Additional body-worn camera funding will also be offered as part of the $250 million that Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly dedicated to law enforcement in December.

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First Recovery Fund Project and Expenditure reports due today

The ARPA Project and Expenditure Report deadline is today, Jan. 31 for counties that have populations over 250,000 or have populations under 250,000 but received more than $10 million in ARPA funds.

NACo is reporting that the U.S. Treasury just released the following clarifications on how to report revenue replacement and other expenditures in the Project and Expenditure Report:

1. Option to defer choice of claiming $10 million standard revenue loss allowance: If a county has not decided whether to take the standard allowance, Treasury won't commit them to their reported choice in the January 31st report.

- Decisions made in the reporting around the standard allowance as part of the **January 31 Project and Expenditure Report may be changed in the April 2022 Project and Expenditure report when the Final Rule takes effect.** More guidance on this will be released as we approach that reporting period.
- **If a county has nothing to report in the Revenue Replacement section and doesn't want to make any choice, they may enter zero in the required fields and use the description box to explain that they have not yet allocated funds under revenue loss and will update their response in future reporting cycles.** Treasury may choose to follow up in these cases for further details.

2. What to do if a county has no projects to report on the January 31 Project and Expenditure Report: If your county has not yet identified any projects to report, please know that maintaining a project list is a core requirement of the Recovery Fund program. For the Project and Expenditure Report due January 31, 2022, **Treasury will be offering an option to select "No Projects to Report" at this time.** Selecting this option will require providing a written explanation and may result in additional compliance follow-up from Treasury. Please see the user guide for additional guidance; information will also be provided in the Project Overview module of the Project and Expenditure Report. **If you have questions or need additional information, please send an email via SLFRP@treasury.gov.**

3. Additional resources and helpful information from Treasury: If you are unable to log in to Treasury's State, Local, and Tribal Support portal after establishing your accounts or need technical or other assistance, please send us an email at **covidreliefitsupport@treasury.gov** for assistance.

- Treasury has posted a series of recorded webinars to assist recipients to understand and comply with relevant reporting requirements and assist recipients in accessing Treasury's Portal:
  - **Project and Expenditure Report** – https://youtu.be/6YTsxrEMS1o
  - **Reporting Tiers** - https://youtu.be/JnoKlSwCA-g
  - **Account Creation and Login** - https://youtu.be/MS7EAO2uCs0
  - **User Roles** - https://youtu.be/w7vbi94rVDI
  - **Bulk Uploads** - https://youtu.be/4g6fw3DUQ3k

As a reminder, the following counties, **the following counties are required to submit a Project and Expenditure Report the Treasury by Jan. 31, 2022:**

- Counties with populations that exceed 250,000 residents (referred to as Tier 1 recipients by Treasury)
- Counties with a population below 250,000 residents which received more than $10 million in Recovery Funds (referred to as Tier 2 recipient by Treasury)

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

Please note: Counties with **populations below 250,000 residents and received less than $10 million in Recovery Funds, are not required to submit a report by Jan. 31, 2022**, and there will not be a report record available for you to do so. Your **first reporting deadline to submit the Project and Expenditure Report will be April 30, 2022,** and annually afterwards. A Project and Expenditure Report will be made available for your jurisdiction to complete ahead of your April 30, 2022, deadline.

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Explore NACo's analysis of the Final Rule for the Fiscal Recovery Fund

On Jan. 6, the U.S. Treasury Department released the Final Rule for the State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund. The Final Rule will go into effect on April 1, 2022, however, counties can pursue the Final Rule's new flexibilities and simplifications now.

NACo worked closely with Treasury to ensure county recommendations and priorities were included in the Final Rule.

EXPLORE NACo's ANALYSIS OF THE FINAL RULE | NACo RECOVERY FUND RESOURCE HUB

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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.

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U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown to host USDOT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Briefing – Feb. 4 at 11 a.m.

The Office of US Sen. Sherrod Brown will host a virtual infrastructure event with the US Department of Transportation. The session will provide the chance to learn more about opportunities the infrastructure bill will provide to Ohio communities. Click here to register.

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Application deadline for Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program – Jan. 31

The deadline for first round grant applications to the Ohio Department of Development for the Brownfield Remediation program is Monday, Jan. 31. An eligible applicant is defined as a county, township, municipal corporation, port authority, or conservancy district or a park district, or other similar park authority. Other eligible applicants include a county land reutilization corporation, nonprofit organization, or organization for profit. These entities must have entered into an agreement with a unit of local government to work in conjunction on the project for the purposes of this program. A copy of the agreement must be provided within the application. Entities that caused or contributed to the contamination at the property are not an eligible partner or applicant. If the entity that caused or contributed to the contamination is the property owner, a purchase agreement transferring the property to the applicant or non-liable third party must be included in the application. For more information, please visit the ODOD website.

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County Broadband Program Implementation: Key Considerations webinar – Feb. 1 at 12 p.m.

Join the National Association of Counties (NACo) and KPMG for a webinar on how counties and local governments can successfully implement local broadband programs and effectively leverage public investment and funding programs. This webinar will help public sector agencies and officials understand key challenges and considerations for establishing a comprehensive broadband program for their counties and effectively leverage public-private partnerships to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable broadband. Click here to register.

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Ohio EPA to host Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community webinar – Feb. 10

Join the Ohio EPA for their Open Burning, Odors, Dust, and Asbestos in Demolition in Your Community webinar on Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.

The most frequently reported complaints to Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control are for open burning, odor, and dust. Ohio EPA also receives numerous questions about the regulation and management of asbestos during demolition. There are state regulations dealing with open burning, dust, and nuisance odors, but what should you do if you or your community is having issues with these? And how should your community deal with various asbestos issues that may arise when demolition occurs, including handle emergency demolitions.

Click here to register.

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Ohio EPA to host Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar – Feb. 24

Join the Ohio EPA for a Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. Do you need to develop a SWPPP to comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System industrial stormwater permit? Learn the elements of a SWPPP and mistakes to avoid.

Click here to register.

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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.

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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/

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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, 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.

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County News

Logan County Commissioner Joe Antram Elected to Board of Directors Statewide Association
PeakofOhio.com, Jan. 25, 2022
The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) announces Logan County Commissioner Joe Antram has been selected to serve on the 2022 CCAO Board of Directors.

"I'm pleased to have the opportunity to meet with other leaders from throughout the state to address policy, liability, and programming considerations counties may have. I am particularly interested in sharing our Logan County perspective and experience on these issues," said Commissioner Antram.

"Counties are the state's partner in delivering critical services such as justice and public safety, infrastructure, child and senior citizen protective services, election administration, and more. That partnership is crucial to the success of all Ohio's 88 counties."

Antram will work with his fellow board members to advance the association's efforts to build a stronger state-county partnership and work to achieve the association's 2022 policy objectives: including additional state support for county jail construction and renovation, protecting county revenue streams, and relieving counties of unfunded state mandates.

Allen County Commissioners form working groups to study possible ARPA funded projects
hometownstations.com, Jan. 27, 2022
The wheels are starting to turn with the American Rescue Plan Act for Allen County.
Allen County Commissioners form working groups to study possible ARPA funded projects

Commissioners are moving ahead with a process of determining projects that can be funded by "ARPA" dollars. The final document released by the U.S. Treasury is more than 400 pages long with 4 specific areas that are designated as areas funding can be used. Commissioners want to take a deeper look at departments that could qualify for the money and how best to use it.

Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan explains, "So we put together some working groups to begin to look at those. Just the cost, the scope, and whatnot in trying to ensure from our interpretation that it fits within the mechanisms of the final rules."

More kids with complex needs in county custody, Portage agency says
Record-Courier, Jan. 24, 2022
A group representing public childrens services agencies in Ohio said local agencies are experiencing a placement crisis and are caring for an increasing number of children with developmental disabilities, mental health issues and delinquency.

Kellijo Jeffries, director of Job and Family Services for Portage County, recently told Portage County commissioners that the issue is not unique to Portage County.

"There's not enough placement options for kids," she said. "There's not a willingness for a lot of placement providers to take teenagers. Children are dwelling in residential facilities much too long, the per-diem rates are excruciatingly painful, and the job and family child welfare system tends to be the end all, be all of all the issues."

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Did You Know? - Darke County

Gettysburg, a village in Darke County, was one of the final stops for President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train before it moved into Indiana.

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Dates to Remember

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

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