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March 21, 2022

The CCAO board of directors welcomed JobsOhio President and CEO JP Nauseef to our meeting to discuss the county partnership with JobsOhio. Ohio's counties are excited to work with JobsOhio to promote economic development and strengthen local communities.

CCAO has redesigned Counties Current. Click the hyperlinks to jump to each section. If you have feedback, please contact Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson at ajohnson@ccao.org.

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

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Registration opens for the OCCO Legislative Reception

Register now for the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) Legislative Reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. Join county elected officials, members of the Ohio General Assembly and statewide office holders to discuss issues affecting counties. April is National County Government Month, and we look forward to celebrating the work of county government together.

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

Please contact Robin Garrett, CCAO Boards' Liaison and Events Manager, at (614) 220-0653 or rgarrett@ccao.org if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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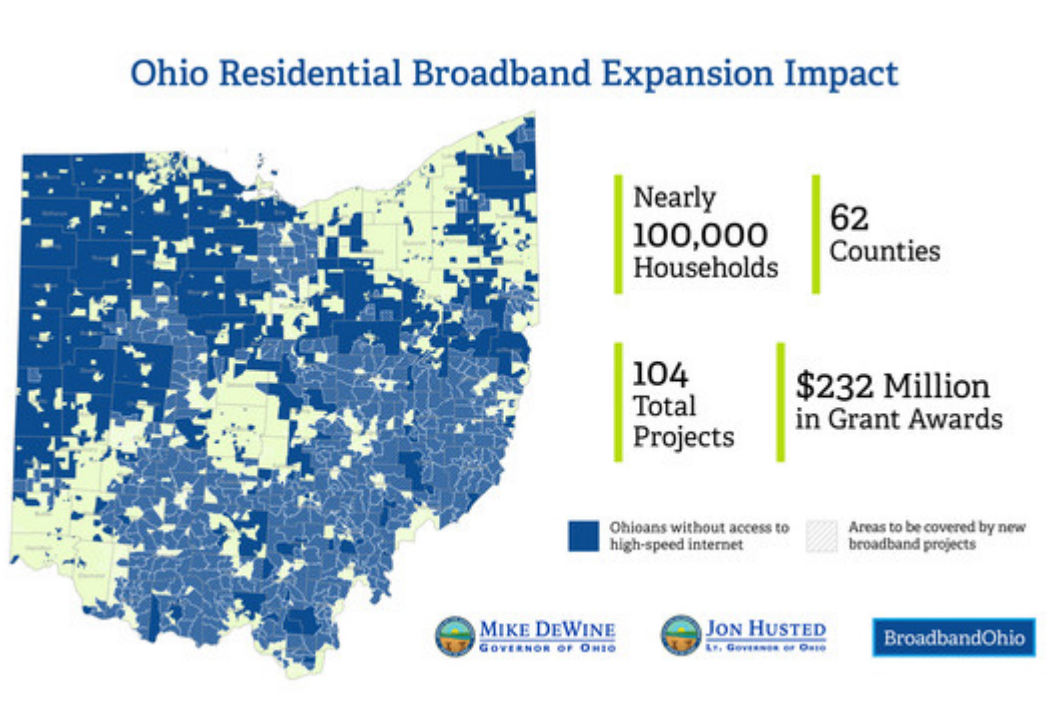
DeWine, Husted announce new broadband expansion projects


Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Impact
Nearly 100,000 Households
62 Counties
104 Total Projects
$232 Million in Grant Awards
Ohioans without access to high-speed internet
Areas to be covered by new broadband projects
Mike DeWine Governor of Ohio
Jon Husted Lt. Governor of Ohio
BroadbandOhio

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced new broadband expansion projects that will make affordable, high-speed internet available to nearly 100,000 households in Ohio that currently don't have access to reliable internet connectivity.

The Broadband Expansion Authority authorized BroadbandOhio to award more than $232 million in grants to 11 internet service providers as part of the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program. The funding will be used to cover the "broadband funding gap" associated with 33 broadband expansion projects impacting 31 counties.

The 33 awards announced will directly fund projects to bring affordable, high-speed internet access to more than 43,000 Ohio homes. As part of the grant process, several providers also committed to independently fund 71 other broadband expansion projects serving approximately 52,000 households and impacting 31 additional counties.

In total, BroadbandOhio estimates that around 230,000 residents will have improved broadband availability thanks to the 104 new expansion projects.

All projects will provide service access of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to residents in areas that do not have a provider that can supply service at this speed. The average construction time for the new broadband projects is two years, with some areas expected to receive improved internet access in only 12 months.

The grants awarded are a component of the DeWine-Husted Administration's comprehensive Broadband Strategy that aims bring high-speed internet throughout the state. Based on currently available information, 300,000 households in Ohio, representing approximately one million Ohioans, are estimated to lack access to broadband internet.

The Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program was established in House Bill 2, sponsored by former Rep. Rick Carfagna and Rep. Brian Stewart (R-Ashville), and the grants were funded by the Ohio General Assembly as part of Ohio's 2022-2023 operating budget. The program is also part of Governor DeWine's Ohio BUILDS Initiative, which focuses on supporting targeted solutions that impact quality of life, such as water infrastructure improvements, broadband expansion, brownfield redevelopment, the demolition of blighted buildings, and more. Click here for information on the grant project.

Members of Congress raise questions about ARPA spending

On March 15, President Joe Biden signed a $1.5 trillion federal appropriations bill that funds federal government operations through September 2022. While the media headlines about the bill focused on emergency aid to Ukraine, behind-the-scenes negotiations also featured discussions about the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). One of the provisions in the bill, which was dropped before passage, would have appropriated $15 billion in new COVID investment for testing and PPE, offset in part by a $7 billion rescission from the second tranche of Recovery Funds to be disbursed this Spring. The rescission would have pulled money first from state governments, and if the target amount was not met, the remainder of the funds from local governments.

Although this provision was not included in the final bill, questions about ARPA spending will continue to be raised in Congress and the media. CCAO and NACo urge county leaders to reach out to their members of Congress to keep them informed about their ARPA spending plans and the need to allow time for careful planning and deliberation. As many county leaders have noted, ARPA funds create historic opportunity to make significant, lasting investments in our communities. The ARPA legislation reflects this timeline by allowing recipients to obligate funds through Dec. 31, 2024, with an additional two years to spend all of the funds.

Below are important talking points, with more context:

1. Under the structure of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that Congress passed in March 2021, counties are still scheduled to receive their second tranche of funding no earlier than ONE YEAR after they certified for their first tranche of funding. For most counties, this will occur in May 2022.
2. Although we avoided an ARPA claw-back with the omnibus federal package, counties need to be clear in messaging they are making wise and timely investments to support our residents and economies. The consideration of how to invest these dollars and understand how they can best support our communities takes time.
   - Highlight county plans through NACo's Untold Stories campaign
   - Work with local news and use NACo's media toolkit
3. Counties need to remind federal partners of the Treasury certification process and steps for implementation and distribution of dollars:
   - Although the ARPA was signed into law in March 2021, the U.S. Department of Treasury did not stand up the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program until May 10, 2021, with the Final Rule only issued at the end of December 2021.
   - The first report (Interim Report) was due on August 31, 2021. Only counties that had certified for funds by July 15, 2021, were required to submit a report. Any county that certified after that date could submit a report 60-days after receiving dollars (beyond the August 31, 2021 deadline).
   - Therefore, despite 99 percent of counties now certified, the first wave of reports did not capture the amount counties have obligated and/or spent.
   - Beyond the certification process, counties did not rush to invest funds for non-emergency uses to ensure coordination with state and local partners when allocating dollars to support residents and communities.
   - County boards are moving wisely to approve plans and then work with internal and external partners to allocate funds.
   - Future data from Project and Expenditure Reports due on Jan. 31, 2022, and April 30, 2022 will better capture the true investments made with Recovery Funds.

Members with questions should contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-220-7982.

Husted announces OSU, Wireless Infrastructure Association Partnership as next step in Ohio's broadband workforce strategy

Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, who serves as director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT), announced that the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) will serve as the industry intermediary for Ohio's Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership. The Ohio State University was awarded $3 million in January to host the Sector Partnership and identify a telecommunications industry partner to lead the effort. This announcement is part of a larger effort by OWT and BroadbandOhio to grow the workforce needed to expand broadband access and 5G in Ohio.

The "Strengthening Ohio's Broadband & 5G Workforce" Strategy, released in September 2021, calls for a Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership that will lead the implementation of the goals outlined in the strategy. As the industry intermediary, WIA will provide insight into the telecommunications skills gap and industry needs. The Sector Partnership will work to design and distribute curriculum and training programs across the state and promote career awareness to supply the industry with a
Since the strategy launched in September, Ohio has announced six new programs across the state. These programs are located at career centers, colleges, and universities, and will prepare participants for a variety of jobs in the telecommunications industry. The Sector Partnership will lead the development and distribution of additional education and training programs around the state.

The "Strengthening Ohio's Broadband & 5G Workforce" Strategy can be found on the BroadbandOhio website.

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Celebrate National County Government Month this April

2022
National County Government Month
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES NACo
COUNTIES THRIVE

Join the National Association of Counties (NACo) in celebrating National County Government Month (NCGM). Held each April, NCGM is an annual celebration of county government and an excellent opportunity for counties, parishes and boroughs to highlight effective county programs and raise public awareness about services provided to the community.

Throughout April, counties have an opportunity to focus on our work to help our communities THRIVE – this year's NCGM theme. Now is the time to spotlight your county's role in achieving successes at the local level and to educate the public about how counties provide real support, identifying challenges on the ground and pursuing solutions. Click here for the NCGM toolkit.

CCAO would love to share how you are celebrating NCGM. Please send information and photos to CCAO Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson at ajohnson@ccao.org.

Register today for the 2022 NACo Annual Conference

Join county elected and appointed officials from across the country in Adams County, Colo. for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2022 Annual Conference & Exposition on July 21-24.

The Annual Conference is the premier national opportunity for counties to exchange cutting-edge practices, elect the association's leadership and shape NACo's federal policy agenda for the year ahead.

Click here to register and to get more information.

US Department of Transportation provides guide to discretionary grants for rural counties

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is providing increased funding to many United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) programs. USDOT has developed an Applicant Toolkit to provide guidance as part of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (R.O.U.T.E.S.) Initiative to support potential applicants in identifying and navigating USDOT discretionary grant funding opportunities for rural transportation projects. In support of the initiative's goals, the toolkit provides user-friendly information and resources to support rural applicants' understanding of USDOT discretionary grant programs and the funding process.

The Applicant Toolkit is designed for all levels of grant applicant experience, aiming to enhance access to USDOT resources for rural transportation projects. Specifically, this toolkit illustrates key applicant activities when participating in the USDOT discretionary grants process, catalogues USDOT discretionary grant programs by applicant type and eligible project activities in a USDOT Discretionary Grant Funding Matrix, and provides resources for applicants to maximize the potential for award success. For more information on the resources included in this toolkit and the R.O.U.T.E.S. initiative, please visit www.transportation.gov/rural or send an email to rural@dot.gov.

AG Yost releases the 2022 'Yellow Book'

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost released the 2022 edition of the Sunshine Laws Manual.

Released to coincide with national Sunshine Week, the manual is a one-stop resource to help public officials and citizens understand their rights and responsibilities under the Ohio Public Records and Open Meetings Acts.

The manual, commonly known as the "Yellow Book," is updated annually by the attorney general's Public Records Unit to reflect the previous year's law changes and legal decisions affecting Ohio's open government laws.

Public officials or their designees are required to complete training on Ohio's Public Records Act at least once per elected term. To meet that need, and to educate the public, the Public Records Unit offers free Sunshine Laws training at locations across the state. Training dates are open for registration now. In addition, the Public Records Unit also created a model public records request policy for local governments to use as a guide when creating their own policies.

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.

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022

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

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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2022 BWC Virtual Event - Leadership for Today's Workplace – April 13

The BWC is offering a free virtual event on April 13, 2022. Join safety council members across the state to learn how leaders can more effectively handle the unprecedented levels of stress and pressures in today's workplaces.

In her keynote presentation **Now What? How to Lead by Bringing Your Human to Work**, bestselling author and workplace strategist Erica Keswin will explore five ways to help your company thrive.

Prepare to bring your human to work, be confident you can manage the chaos and be ready to rock the hybrid revolution!

Additional details for this webinar, which is open to the public, are found in the attached flyer. At the scheduled date and time, click here to join this live event. No pre-registration is necessary.

DeWine announces $650 million in additional grants to support child care

Gov. Mike DeWine announced an additional $650 million in grants to help child care programs defray unexpected business costs associated with the pandemic and to help stabilize operations. This is in addition to the $150 million in child care grants announced in December.

DeWine made the announcement during a visit to the Columbus Early Learning Center (CELC) in Columbus at the Champion Avenue location.
The grants cover the following areas:

- Operating/New Pandemic Costs: These funds are intended to provide assistance with costs incurred after the declaration of the federal public health emergency. Funds from this subgrant can be used for conducting facility maintenance and renovations, including those that address COVID-19 concerns such as purchasing sanitizer, classroom dividers, cleaning supplies, temporary sinks, and thermometers; improvements that make child care programs inclusive and accessible for children and families with disabilities; and paying personnel costs including wages or benefits such as health, dental, vision, paid sick leave or family leave, and retirement contributions.
- Workforce Recruitment/Retention: These funds are for personnel costs such as wages, benefits, retirement contributions, sign-on and retention bonuses, ongoing premium or hazard pay; background checks; training and coaching; and creating substitute pools.
- Access Development: These subgrants provide funds for expanding the number of current classrooms or reopening classrooms closed due to the pandemic to serve additional children or serve new age groups including care for infants, toddlers, children with special needs and care during non -traditional hours; increasing new equipment for learning and development, addressing learning gaps and social/emotional needs of school-age children; and supporting the inclusion of the therapeutic child care pilot.
- Mental Health Workforce and Family Support: These funds are to support costs related to the mental health and well-being of their children and employees. This includes funds for coaching, training, local team building, resiliency, stress reduction, and developing staff in mental health and social-emotional development topics; organizing stress reduction and wellness experiences for children; addressing staffing patterns and schedules to support staff mental health; providing childhood mental health supports; and funding for program costs associated with participation in the Mental Health Bridge Pilot.

These grants are available for ODJFS-regulated child care centers, family child care (FCC) type A and type B homes, in-home aides (IHA), and approved day camps, as well as Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed preschool (PS) and school-age (SA) programs that are approved to provide publicly funded child care (PFCC). ODJFS-regulated child care programs do not need to be participating in PFCC to be eligible to apply for these sub-grants; however, ODE programs must be approved to provide PFCC at the time of application. Ten percent of the funds will be used to develop efforts in support of services for child care programs and the children receiving care.

Guidance and requirements are available on OCCRRA's website, at www.occrra.org.

Montrose Group 2022 Corporate Site Location webinar series: Workforce Development Panel Discussion with Michigan, Missouri and Ohio Leaders

Join Montrose Group for their Workforce Development Panel Discussion with Michigan, Missouri and Ohio Leaders webinar on March 24, 2022, at 11 a.m. Attendees will learn about how companies and communities should approach the most challenging issues facing companies during corporate site location projects which is to determine if a region truly has the skilled workforce essential for business success. The Montrose Group is excited to bring leaders from a local and statewide perspective who coordinate innovative workforce development programs designed to retain and attract jobs in Michigan, Missouri and Ohio.

Register here. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Special Districts Program Fireside Chat: Get a Unique Perspective on Cyber Threats, New Funding and More – April 12

As government agencies face an increasing number of cyberattacks, hear from industry expert, Christopher Krebs, the former director of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), on April 12, 2022 at 2 p.m. to address key concerns. CISA is the agency responsible for leading the national effort to understand, manage and reduce the risk to cyber and physical infrastructure. The agency works closely with FEMA to develop application criteria for the new State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program.

Christopher will share critical updates on emerging and evolving cyber threats, practical advice for addressing security risks, and a unique perspective on cybersecurity funding opportunities for their districts. Plus, all attendees we'll have an opportunity to ask their own questions live.

Register now for this complimentary, hour-long webinar, and please feel free to share this invitation with any colleagues that may benefit from attending.

NGMA to host 2022 Annual Grants Training – April 19-21

The National Grants Management Association will host the 2022 Annual Grants Training at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA.

Mark your calendar today to enjoy three plenary panels, two keynote speakers, over 30 breakout sessions, networking with your peers, and visiting with our exhibitors and federal foyer. Click here to register.

OITA to host 2022 Cybersecurity Summit

Ohio Innovation Technology Association (OITA) will present the 2022 Cybersecurity Summit on March 31 at 9 a.m. at the Athletic Club of Columbus. Attendees will be able to join the discussion with State of Ohio leaders on cybersecurity challenges and goals.

Guests include Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Attorney General Dave Yost and Auditor of State Keith Faber.

Register here. Click here for the complete agenda.

2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference - April 27 through April 29

Ohio Land Banks Association and Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity announced that the 2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio at the Huntington Convention Center.

Pre-conference activities, including mobile tours, begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27 with the official conference kick-off taking place on Thursday, April 28 and concluding on Friday, April 29, 2022.

Please visit the Ohio Land Bank Association website at www.ohiolandbanks.org for conference details.

You can register today using this link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-ohio-land-bank-conference-2022-tickets-238342808757

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Norman at snorman@cuyahogalandbank.org

COUNTY NEWS

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Cuyahoga County Council, Executive Budish outline plans for first $27 million in ARPA spending
Cleveland.com, March 16. 2022
In a joint release Wednesday, Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish and Council members outlined a dozen initiatives they plan to fund this year using the county's American Rescue Plan money.

The first items on the wish-list, which must still be approved by council in coming weeks, focuses funding on ongoing pandemic programs, shoring up the county's information technology systems, feeding the hungry, building a better workforce pipeline and remediating brownfields.

They represent the first allocations out of the county's $240 million in federal ARPA aid, meant to assist with recovery from the pandemic, Budish said in a video posted Wednesday on the county's YouTube page. The county had been waiting to dole out any of the funds, he said, until they received suggestions from department heads, area organizations and more than 500 community members for where the money is most needed.

Intel impact: More good-paying jobs, housing, students and road work in Licking County
Newark Advocate, March 16, 2022
The $20 billion Intel Corporation computer chip development coming to Jersey Township will bring many things Licking Countians want and some things they may not.

That was the message at Monday's meeting of Grow Licking County board members, who applauded the development for the thousands of good-paying jobs it will bring to the area, but acknowledged there will be some trade-offs.

The GLC board members and staff said the massive manufacturing operation means more housing developments and more road construction in much of the county, and more students in just about every school district.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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APRIL 1, 2022
CEBCO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

APRIL 6, 2022
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APRIL 6, 2022
OCCO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

APRIL 13, 2022
2nd WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

APRIL 14, 2022
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 3, 2022
NE OHIO DISTRICT DAY IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

DID YOU KNOW?

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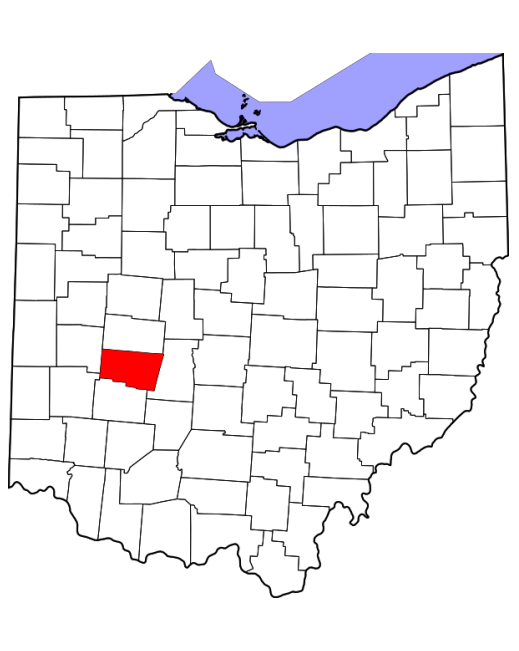

Springfield may have been named by Elizabeth Jarboe, wife of legendary frontiersman Simon Kenton, for the springs in its nearby cliffs. Kenton and Jarboe settled in the area in the 1790s.

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