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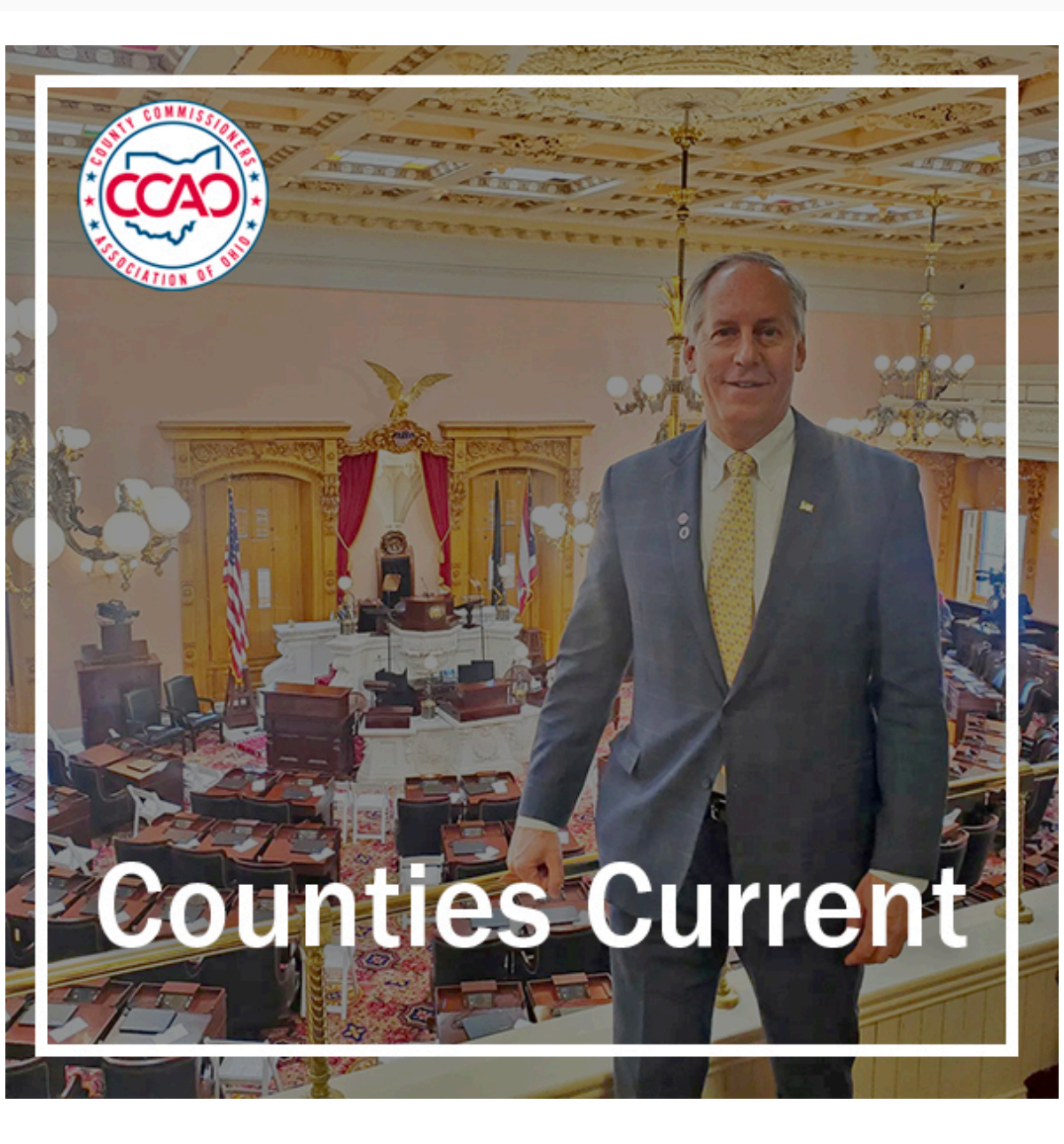
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
CCAO
Counties Current

March 28, 2022

Tom Whiston, CCAO 1st vice president and Morrow County commissioner, attends the 2022 State of the State address.

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.

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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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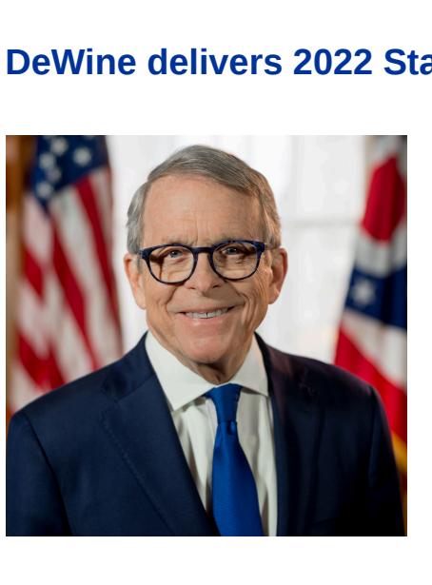
DeWine delivers 2022 State of the State Address: 'Seize our moment"



Gov. Mike DeWine last week delivered his 2022 State of the State Address to the Ohio General Assembly. The speech highlighted the DeWine-Husted Administration's successes accomplished in partnership with legislators while also focusing on future initiatives to help all Ohioans.

DeWine touted the Ohio economy's successes including the

- State budget being balanced
- Ohio's bond rating being its highest since 1979,
- Unemployment, down to 4.3%, is at lows touched in only two other periods in our state's history.

DeWine highlighted $1.2 billion slashed in state spending and Tax cuts of $3.6 billion leaving more money for businesses to reinvest and more money in the pockets of Ohioans.

Address Highlights: A bold vision for Ohio's future
Mental Health - DeWine made transforming mental health services a keystone goal for his administration, calling for investing significant resources in making help visible accessible, and effective. "We can create the opportunity for people with mental illness or addiction to build the skills to lead joyful, meaningful lives. And if we do, it will result in reduced community costs and more people working -- and contributing -- to the vitality of their communities."

State Parks - DeWine laid a vision for Ohio state parks to be the best state parks in the country. "From Maumee Bay to Geneva to Lake Hope to Great Seal to Hueston Woods to John Bryan, our state parks are the crown jewels of Ohio, and they add so much to our quality of life and what makes Ohio such a great place to live."

Appalachia - DeWine reaffirmed his commitment to Ohio's Appalachian region to ensure no Ohio citizen is left behind.
"One of the most important things we can do that will benefit -- not only the 32 counties in the Appalachian region, but also our entire state -- is to make a long-overdue, comprehensive investment in Appalachia."

Mentors - Emphasizing the importance of adult guidance for young people, Governor DeWine talked about his plan to work with the Ohio General Assembly and with community leaders and our colleges and universities to create a combined scholarship and mentorship program so that no child in this state lacks guidance and direction and has the financial support necessary to go to college or technical school.
"Our state's economy -- our state -- will not fully flourish if we leave these kids behind. There is so much untapped potential that our state cannot afford to waste."

Distracted Driving - Changing the culture around using electronic devices while driving has been a priority of Governor DeWine's. More drivers putting down their phones and using hands-free technology will help prevent crashes, save lives, and make our roads safer.
"We must do more…Members of the General Assembly -- lives are at stake. Please pass this bill."

Law Enforcement - DeWine reiterated his commitment to funding the police.
"We are doubling down on our support for law enforcement by giving them more resources -- not fewer -- to keep our communities safe!"

Imagination Library - DeWine also took time to note the success of the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, created by First Lady Fran DeWine in partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
"Enrollment in the Imagination Library improves Kindergarten readiness and family literacy habits. And, no matter where you live in Ohio, your child is eligible."
Additional resources from the speech:

- Governor DeWine's Remarks (as prepared)
- Ohio Channel

NACo provides updates on ARPA funding

NACo refreshed a major update of its analysis of Treasury's Final Rule for the ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund. The updated analysis includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Clarifying information on eligible/ineligible uses from Treasury, including capital expenditures
- Deeper dive on the provisions around revenue loss allocations
- Treatment of loans
- Reporting requirements and background information on federal Uniform Guidance/2 CFR Part 200

Additionally, NACo reminds its members of other relevant information pertaining to the upcoming Project and Expenditure (P&E) Report deadline on April 30, 2022.

- One-time revenue loss election: Counties will have the option to make a one-time decision to calculate revenue loss according to the formula outlined in the final rule OR elect the $10 million revenue loss standard allowance, not to exceed the county's award allocation. The option to make this one-time decision will be provided on the April 30 P&E Report.
- Treasury acceptance of Project & Expenditure Reports: Treasury is now only accepting Project and Expenditure Reports from Tier 1, 2 and 3 recipients. This includes:
    - Tier 1: States, U.S. territories, metropolitan cities and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents
    - Tier 2: Metropolitan cities and counties with a population below 250,000 residents YET still received more than $10 million in Recovery Funds, and NEUs that are allocated more than $10 million in SLFRF funding
    - Tier 3: Tribal Governments that are allocated more than $30 million in SLFRF funding
- For Tier 4 (Tribal govts with less than $30 million) and Tier 5 counites with a population below 250,000 residents AND received less than $10 million in Recovery Funds, the first P&E Report is also due April 30, 2022, and then annually thereafter. HOWEVER, the Treasury submission portal is not yet open for recipients to submit a report. Treasury is likely to open the portal for this group by the end of the month.
- Expenditure categories: Updated reporting guidance contains an expanded set of Expenditure Categories to reflect the broader flexibility introduced by the final rule. Counties that submitted Project and Expenditure Reports in January will have the opportunity to update their previously selected Expenditure Category, if appropriate.
- Capital expenditures: Updated reporting guidance states that additional programmatic data for capital expenditures is optional in the April 2022 P&E Report and required for the July 2022 P&E Report.

Counties can access the Reporting Guidance for the Recovery Fund on Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds website. To see a concise summary of the final rule for the Recovery Fund, please see the Overview Document.

NACo members with questions should contact Eryn Hurley, director of Government Affairs, ehurley@naco.org.

U.S. Department of Transportation announces $2.85 billion in new funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

On March 23, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the availability of $2.85 billion in transportation funding opportunities provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued by USDOT combines three major BIL programs into a single NOFO and allows counties to apply for funding through all three programs using a single application.

Apply here for available funding that includes:

- **$1 billion in FY 2022** for Mega Projects, which refer to expensive and complex projects with projected costs of between $100 and $500 million, or over $500 million, that have the potential to generate national or regional economic or safety benefits
- **$1.55 billion in FY 2022** for INFRA Grants, which can be used for multimodal projects, including rail-highway grade crossing separations, where projected costs exceed $100 million or a certain percentage of a state's federal-aid highway apportionment in the most recently completed fiscal year
- **$300 million in FY 2022** for the Rural Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which will support projects to improve and expand surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, safety and improve the overall quality of life in rural communities

As major owners and operators of transportation infrastructure, county governments appreciate the significant new competitive opportunities in the BIL. Federal and state investments in our county-owned and -operated **1.8 million road miles (44 percent) and 229,529 bridges (38 percent)** will benefit both our 326 million residents and the many travelers whose daily commutes take them over our local roads. In addition to our stewardship of roads and bridges, counties also directly support **34 percent of airports and 78 percent of public transit systems**.

Currently, there are several open notices of funding made available by the BIL for which counties or local public agencies can apply. To view current and future BIL funding opportunities, and to learn more about resources for counties in the BIL, check out NACo's latest resources:

- BIL Funding Matrix for Counties
- BIL Legislative Analysis

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Celebrate National County Government Month this April

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.

2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications due this week

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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Attend the SERB Academy April 20-21; registration deadline is April 5

Join the SERB Academy, a two-day conference for newcomers to public sector collective bargaining on April 20-21. Attendees generally include new managers, new union officials, staff, and those who are or will be working in positions where they need to know how Ohio's laws govern labor relations in the public sector.

This conference is a thorough two-day overview of representation, dispute settlement, and unfair labor practice matters, covering the law, the administrative rules, and the day-to-day procedures of the agency. Content is presented by administrators and staff who speak from the perspective of daily experience. Materials are designed to give you easy access to the provisions of the law and the rules you need to consult.

Application for accreditation of this conference has been requested to the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 9.75 hours.

The deadline to register is **April 5**. Register here. Click here to view the agenda. If you have questions, contact Tammi Blount at Tammi.Blount@SERB.ohio.gov or (614) 466-1126.

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.

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.

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

LAND BANK U '22
OHIO LAND BANK ASSOCIATION
11th Annual Conference | April 27–29

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

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COUNTY NEWS

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Franklin County investing $23 million to help families struggling to pay for child care
The Columbus Dispatch, March 24, 2022
Franklin County commissioners announced a $23 million investment Thursday that will be used over two years to support day care providers and families who are struggling to pay for child care.

The Franklin County RISE initiative will provide early learning scholarships, incentive pay for child care programs that meet specific measures to better serve families and rental assistance for child care workers who have been "chronically underpaid."

"It took us some time to really try to craft an initiative that could be ongoing and that would meet almost all of the needs that parents, providers and educators are facing today," Franklin County Commissioner Erica C. Crawley said. "We know that they are struggling, and we are here to be a resource."

Noonan recognized for work with risk management group
limaohio.com, March 22, 2022
Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan is making national headlines for his work as board president of County Risk Sharing Authority, a risk management service established by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

CORSA is a risk-sharing pool designed to provide counties with stable competitive costs and broad liability coverage, was recognized by the Governmental Risk Pools for adopting industry-best practices.

Noonan, the current CORSA board president, received widespread praise for his work behind the scenes which has helped make the risk management service provider successful.

"Receiving recognition from GRiP is a true testament to the level of professionalism to which the CORSA board of directors and staff adhere. CORSA is among a small percentage of the AGRiP membership that is able to meet the standards required to receive recognition," CORSA managing director John Brownlee said. "I am grateful to commissioner Noonan for his dedication to our board. This recognition would not have been possible without his hard work and expertise."

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?

Champaign County

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Grimes Manufacturing, based out of Urbana, produced the aircraft lights for every aircraft used by the U.S. during World War II.

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