



April 4, 2022

Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan, Marion County Commissioner Ken Stiversen, Ashland County Commissioner Mike Welch, Darke County Commissioner Mike Stegall and Shelby County Commissioner Tony Bornhorst help kick off National County Government Month!

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.

[Association and Member News](#) | [State and Federal News](#) | [Education and Grants](#) | [County News](#) | [Did You Know? - Carroll County](#) | [Job Postings](#)

[Statehouse Report](#) | [Print Version](#) | [Dates to Remember](#)

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

[Back to Top](#)

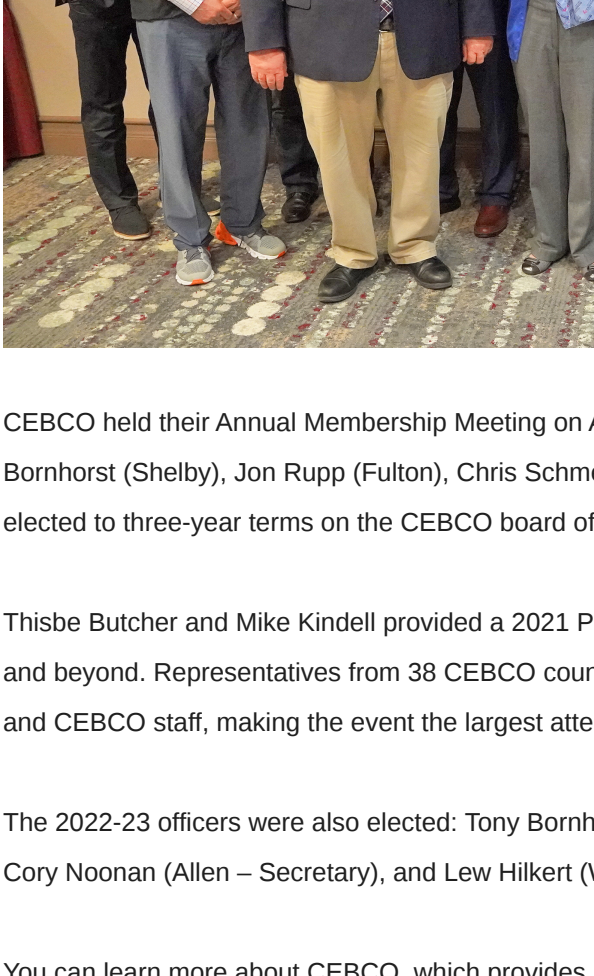
OCOC Legislative Reception is this Wednesday. Register today!

[Register now](#) for the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCOC) 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.

OCOC 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 Board's Liaison and Events Manager, at (614) 220-0653 or rgarrett@ccao.org if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join CCAO in celebrating National County Government Month!

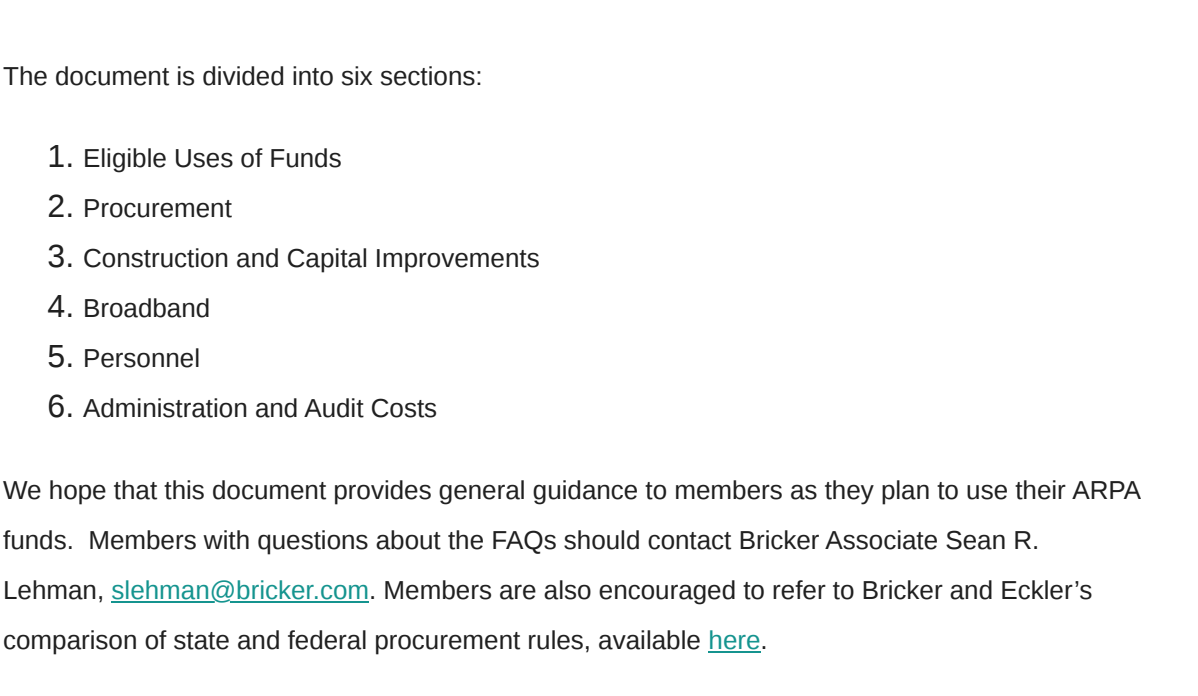


April 1 kicked off National County Government Month (NCGM). Held each April, NCGM is an annual celebration of county government and an excellent opportunity for counties, parties and boroughs to highlight effective county programs and raise public awareness about services provided to the community. CCAO will be celebrating all month long. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook as we detail the many roles of county government and how it works to build a stronger Ohio.

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, which includes sample media releases, proclamations and social media resources.

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, and he will be sure to like and post!

CEBCO hosts Annual Membership Meeting



CEBCO held their Annual Membership Meeting on April 1 in Franklin County. Commissioners Tony Bornhorst (Shelby), Jon Rupp (Fulton), Chris Schmeick (Union), and Mike Welch (Ashland) were re-elected to three-year terms on the CEBCO board of directors.

Theresa Bucher and Mike Kindell provided a 2021 Program Review and discussed the outlook for 2022 and beyond. Representatives from 36 CEBCO counties were in attendance, along with CCAO, CORSA, and CEBCO staff, making the event the largest attended meeting in CEBCO history!

The 2022-23 officers were also elected: Tony Bornhorst (President), Chris Schmeick (Vice President), Cory Noonan (Allen – Secretary), and Lew Hickett (Williams – Treasurer).

You can learn more about CEBCO, which provides health benefits and wellness programs to employees in 42 counties, at [CEBCO260](#).

Pictured: Delaware County Commissioner Jeff Benton, Adams County Commissioner Tim Pfeil, Ashland County Commissioner Mike Welch, Fulton County Commissioner Jon Rupp, Williams County Commissioner Lew Hickett, Union County Commissioner Chris Schmeick, Darke County Commissioner Mike Stegall, Marion County Commissioner Ken Stiversen, Athens County Commissioner Leroy Eliason, Shelby County Commissioner Tony Bornhorst, CEBCO Managing Director Mike Kindell and Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan

ARPA FAQs now available on the CCAO website

CCAO has partnered with the Bricker and Eckler, Attorneys at Law, to create a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" related to the use of ARPA Funds.

The document is divided into six sections:

1. Eligible Uses of Funds
2. Procurement
3. Construction and Capital Improvements
4. Broadband
5. Personnel
6. Administration and Audit Costs

We hope that this document provides general guidance to members as they plan to use their ARPA funds. Members with questions about the FAQs should contact Bricker Associate Steve R. Leffner, sleffner@bricker.com. Members are also encouraged to refer to Bricker and Eckler's comparison of state and federal procurement rules, available [here](#).

On April 13, Sean and his colleague Doug Shevelow will host a webinar for CCAO members about state and federal procurement rules that govern the use of ARPA funds for construction projects. Counties ultimately need to comply with both state and federal law, and Doug and Sean will review the rules and procedures required under both sets of law, including where the processes are similar and where they diverge. Registration for the webinar is available [here](#).

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

[Back to Top](#)

JobsOhio releases revised American Rescue Plan Guidebook

JobsOhio's revised ARPA Guidebook is available for download at the following address: <https://www.jobsOhio.com/american-rescue-plan-guidebook/>

The Guidebook is a resource for local leaders looking to maximize the impact of ARP funds and become better informed about ARP funds and potential investments. The Guidebook is a result of conversations with local, regional, and state leaders to learn their plans for ARP funds, share best practices, and support leaders in maximizing the potential economic impact of ARP funds. The effort had the following objectives:

- Identify investment ideas and initiatives intended to maximize long-term benefit to Ohio's economy
- Ensure Ohio's competitiveness among states in the Midwest
- Augment JobsOhio's economic development strategies

The Guidebook addresses what JobsOhio learned from the conversations, national best practices, and Treasury guidance regarding the tools and information requested by local leaders.

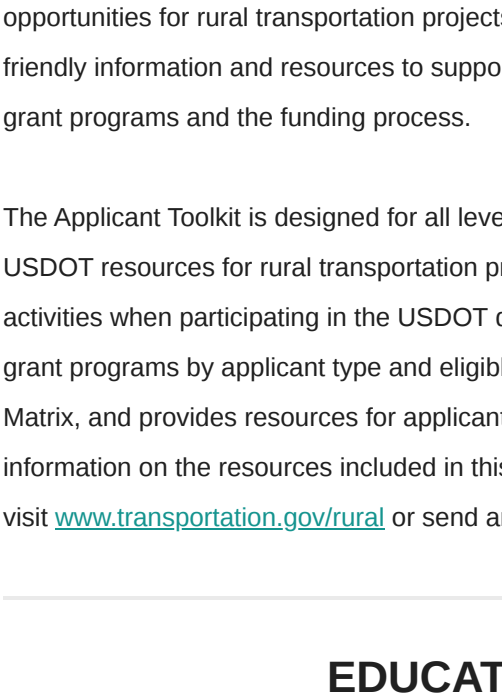
Ohio leaders identified three priority investment areas that are broadly aligned to Treasury Recovery Fund objectives:

- Build a more resilient workforce by investing in talent hard-hit by the pandemic (e.g., support for training for high-demand skills for individuals in qualified populations and those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic)
- Upgrade critical infrastructure to revitalize communities and support Ohio's economy (e.g., expanding digital infrastructure capacity)
- Support the small businesses and industries most negatively impacted by the pandemic (e.g., scale access to grants/loans for SMBs)

Guidebook Organization:

- About the ARP Treasury Recovery Funds and the Guidebook: Overview of funds coming to Ohio and the process conducted by JobsOhio (slides 1-8)
- Understanding and interpreting guidance on allowable uses of funds: Summary of federal guidance regarding allowable uses and timeline for Treasury Fiscal Recovery Funds (slides 10-29)
- Identifying high-level investment priorities: Potential investment areas suggested by leaders across the state (talent, infrastructure, and small business/impacted industry supports) (slides 32-39)
- Selecting specific funding ideas and identifying best practices: Example potential initiatives (slides 40-45) and case studies on select potential initiatives (slides 55-69)
- Driving an equitable process: Potential equitable process to set and implement funding priorities (slides 48-53)

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/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. QBE 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 (counties 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 Subproject 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@nacso.org.

Portman releases 'America's Data Held Hostage: Case Studies in Ransomware Attacks On American Companies' report

Sen. Rob Portman released a report showing how organizations can fall victim to cyber adversaries. The report also shows how can organizations take proactive steps to secure their networks against the most damaging impacts of ransomware attacks. Click [here](#) to access the cyber security report.

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 [Assistance 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 programs and the funding process.

The USDOT Assistance 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, categorizes 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.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

[Back to Top](#)

Ohio Ethics Committee releases quarterly publication, plans ethics webinars

The Ohio Ethics Committee recently released [The Voice of Ethics](#), their quarterly publication filled with useful resources and informative sessions for public officials. In the issue you'll find information on webinars, which we have included below.

Webinar Option #1: The Ohio Ethics Law: Watching our Ethical Step!

This one-hour webinar provides a solid overview of the Ohio Ethics Law with summations of conflicts of interest, gift restrictions, public contract prohibitions, nepotism, postemployment, and more. Relevant and timely examples will help solidify the concepts and restrictions outlined in this webinar. This webinar is an excellent choice for those who seek a solid foundation regarding the Ethics Law or need a "refresher" course. This webinar is also an excellent option for those who may be new (or returning) to public service. The next webinar is April 12 at 2 p.m.

Webinar Option #2: The Ohio Ethics Law: A Deeper Study

For those who have participated in our trainings for numerous years, this fresh approach to the Ethics Law might be for you! This webinar is also one-hour long and also cover all primary areas of the Ethics Law but will focus on specific applications of the law. Each area of the law will be studied in correlation with genuine legal advisory opinions previously issued by the Ethics Commission. Anyone is welcome to this webinar, but those who already have a solid understanding of the statute will likely find this one especially stimulating and thought-provoking. The next webinar is April 21 at 10 a.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

Stay competitive with OEDA/Bricker Ohio Economic Development Tools webinars

OEDA's Economic Development Tools Webinar Series, in partnership with Bricker & Eckler, will keep you up to date on the latest requirements and best practices in these programs. Ohio has some of the most effective programs that support economic and community development, but these programs are constantly changing and being refined to keep Ohio communities competitive. Below are two upcoming sessions you might find beneficial.

Tax Increment Financing

April 26, 2022

9:30 – 11 a.m.

Ohio's Tax Increment Financing Program (TIF) is an effective a popular tool to finance critical infrastructure for economic development. This webinar, presented by OEDA and Bricker & Eckler, will focus on the basics of TIF financing in Ohio, some best practices to ensure that your TIF accomplishes its purpose, and case studies of best-in-class TIFs by Ohio communities. The Webinar will also update recent changes to the TIF program.

ARPA's Best Practices

May 5, 2022

9:30 – 11 a.m.

Ohio communities have benefited from millions of dollars in Federal ARPA dollars, designed to support recovery from the COVID recession as well as make structural investments that enhance the sustainability of communities. This Webinar, presented by OEDA and Bricker & Eckler, will update attendees on the latest ARPA requirements, provide some best practice ideas from JobsOhio and others, and present several case studies of how Ohio communities have utilized their ARPA funding.

Ohio EPA to host Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) Year 2023 Updates and Highlights webinar – April 5

The Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) uses interest monies from Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) loan sponsor projects to fund preservation and restoration of aquatic habitat. Since 2000, more than \$227 million has been awarded for 174 projects to protect and preserve some of Ohio's highest water quality resources.

Although unprecedented low interest rates reduced the amount of interest available to fund projects in 2021, 2022 is already off to a record start with nine projects soon to be funded for nearly \$13 million in the first four months.

Join the Ohio EPA on April 5 at 2 p.m. to get the scoop on what's new, updates and highlights for program year 2023 (2023-2024 two-year WRRSP cycle), including pre-nomination meetings, the program's annual call for project nominations, sponsorship, play request procedures, readiness-to-proceed criteria, the Agency's new webpage, and more. Register [here](#).

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

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 any questions, contact Tammi Blount at tammi.blount@serb.org or (614) 496-1126.

2022 BWC Offering a Free 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 Krenn 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 will 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 funder. Click [here](#) to register.

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.everdine.com/v11b-annual-ohio-land-bank-conference-2022-04-27-29-2022-04-27-29>

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

COUNTY NEWS

[Back to Top](#)

[Gallia County deputies participate in simulation training, provided by CORSA](#)

WSAZ.com, March 31, 2022

Deputies and correction officers with the Gallia County Sheriff's Office are going through a simulation-based training to sharpen their skills through a screen.

"It's not a video game, it's a high-tech tool that we can utilize," Sheriff Matt Champin said. Champin says it's getting them as close to handling real-life situations as possible.

This training is based on real-life, high-stress situations that evolve based on how each situation is handled.

[Cuyahoga County pledges \\$5 million in ARPA funds for renovated Global Center renovations](#)

cleveland.com, March 31, 2022

Cuyahoga County on Thursday pledged \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act money as part of a larger plan to help resuscitate the Global Center for Health Innovation.

It's the exact amount that the Cuyahoga County Convention Facilities Development Corporation (CCCCFDC) board, which oversees the Global Center, requested in February, [when it received a \\$45 million loan](#) to officially marry the property to the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland and give priority to a building that has otherwise been a boondoggle.

The money is being proposed to expand the arena's meeting space, which is a "highest and best use" study previously determined was necessary to remain competitive in the convention industry. Other upgrades include expanding the ballroom and adding escalators.

County Council President Pernel Jones called the spending a "modest and wise investment for our community." In a third video outlining the county's plans to spend its allotted \$240 million federal ARPA aid, He described the Global Center and convention facility as one unit – inseparable.

[Highland County commissioners updated on broadband expansion plan, approve amendment to sewer use rules](#)

The Highland County Press, April 1, 2022

Highland County commissioners Jeff Duncan, Terry Britton and David Daniels met with Gary Cooper of Southern Ohio Communications Wednesday, March 30 for an update on recently announced broadband expansion as well as a discussion on the potential to reach additional households if funding is available.

As previously reported by the Ohio Governor's Office, on March 18, Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced new broadband expansion projects through the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program 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 grants awarded included \$22,423,850.88 awarded to Southern Ohio Communications Services (SOCS) to provide 3,293 households in Adams, Highland, Pike and Seneca counties; according to the governor's press release. "Up to 300 households of the proposed project based, residents of Adams, Highland, Pike, and Seneca counties will have access to SOCS services, with speeds of up to one gigabit download and one gigabit upload. With simple hardware exchanges at end points, SOCS is able to scale this project up to speeds of 10 gigabit symmetrical.

DATES TO REMEMBER

[Back to Top](#)

APRIL 6, 2022

OCOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APRIL 6, 2022

OCOC 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?

Carroll County

[Back to Top](#)

The northernmost engagement during the Civil War occurred in Carroll County. Confederate soldiers in Morgan's Raid clashed with Union forces at Sharp's Farm near Mechanicsdown.