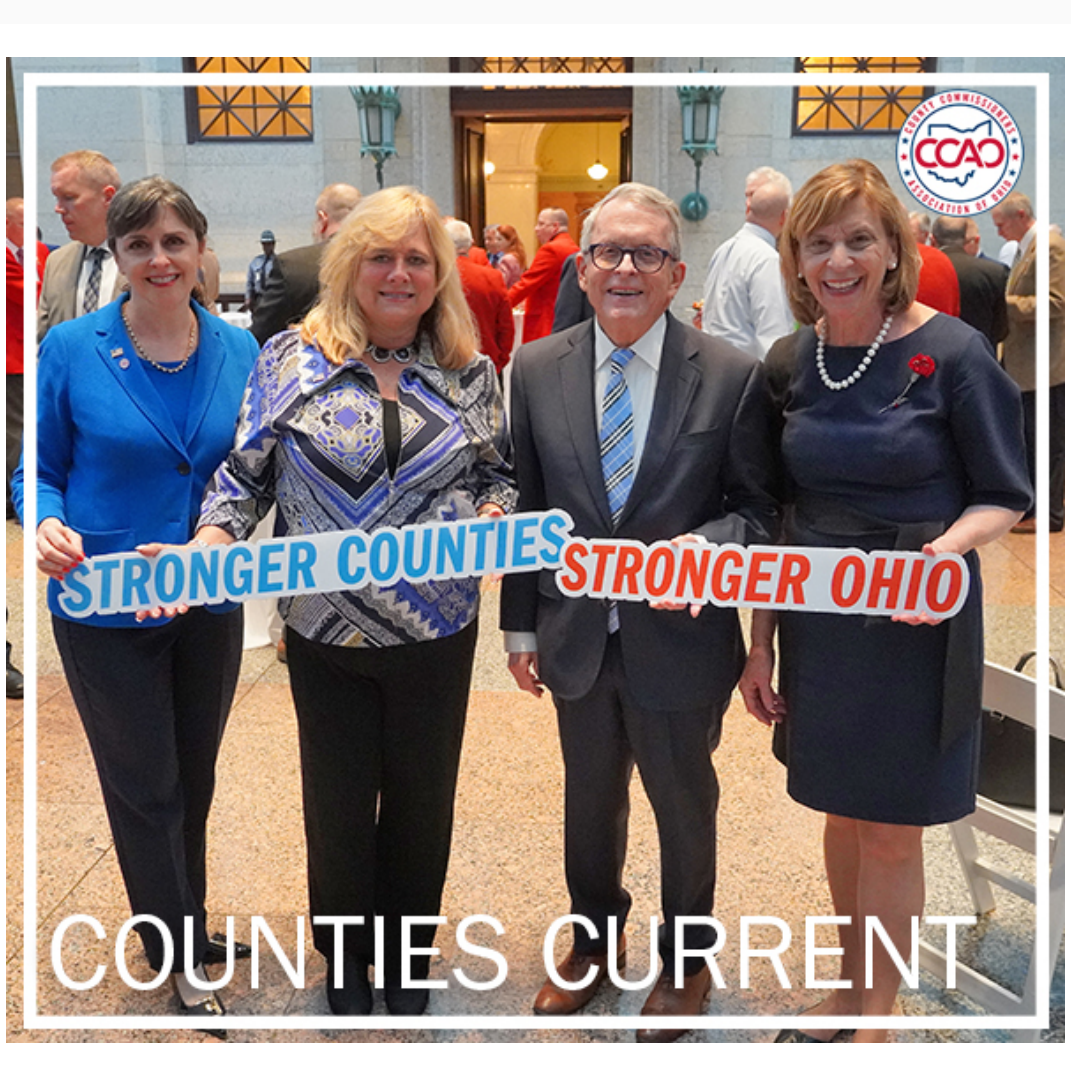
View this email in your browser



April 11, 2022

CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler and CCAO President celebrate the state-county partnership with Gov. Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine at the OCCO Legislative Reception. You can see more photos from the event on our Facebook page.

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? - Butler County | Job Postings

Statehouse Report | Print Version | Dates to Remember

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

Back to Top

OCCO reception brings together CCAO members, state policymakers to discuss key county priorities

The Ohio Council of County Officials last week held its annual legislative reception at the Ohio Statehouse atrium, bringing together hundreds of county elected officials with state lawmakers and state executive officials. CCAO was well represented at the event, with commissioners, county council members and executives from across the state.

CCAO would like to thank Gov. Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine for their attendance at the reception and taking the time to speak with so many CCAO members. Their investment of time into the state-county partnership is truly appreciated. CCAO also thanks OBM Director Kim Murnieks for providing remarks to attendees on the many investments made into the state-county partnership in recent years. Also attending the reception were many members of the Ohio House and Senate. CCAO is grateful for their attendance and engagement with CCAO members.

CCAO members had much to discuss with lawmakers during the reception. County priorities included:

- Opposition to House Bill 488. HB 488 seeks to allow judges to acquire outside legal counsel with less involvement from county commissioners and the county prosecutor. CCAO is opposed to this legislation which reduces local checks and balances. CCAO recently sent out a legislative alert on this bill to its membership.
- Continued support for state capital funding for county jails. Counties strongly urge the General Assembly to continue and expand capital funding for county jails as part of the upcoming state capital budget.
- Remove unfunded mandates. CCAO strongly opposed unfunded mandates places on county government. Of particular interest to counties is the looming second primary election. This election, created by events entirely outside counties' control, will cost counties between $20 to $25 million. CCAO asks that the state fully fund these costs.
- Preserving county revenue streams. The sales tax is the lifeblood of county government. Continued exemptions and carveouts to the sales tax base further erode this critical county revenue source. CCAO asks that the sales tax base be kept broad, free from further exemptions.
- Showing thanks for recent successes. The past several years have brought significant advances in the state-county partnership. Investments in indigent defense reimbursement, children's services, jail funding, water and sewer grants, demolition and brownfield remediation grants, broadband expansion and more have all been significant victories which are worth celebrating and are much appreciated.

Photo 1: Montgomery County Engineer Paul Gruner, Fayette County Commissioner Tony Anderson, Sen. Bob Peterson and Shelby County Commissioner Julie Ehemann
Photo 2: Defiance County Commissioner David Kern, Representative D.J. Swearingen, Erie County Commissioner Matt Old, Ottawa County Commissioner Donald Douglas

---

Join CCAO in celebrating National County Government Month!

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
APRIL
STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER OHIO.

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, parishes 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!

Ault retires after nearly 14 years as Holmes County commissioner

After serving as Holmes County commissioner for nearly 14 years, Rob Ault retired on April 3.

"It's been a pleasure. I'm honored to have been a county commissioner serving Holmes County residents. We got a lot of things accomplished in almost 14 years," Ault said.

"Financially, we're probably in the best shape we've ever been in," he continued. "We've got the sewer plants fixed up, and the landfill closed, there's been a lot of big issues there. I enjoyed working with the other two commissioners and all the other officials. I had good relationships with them."

Click here to read The Daily Record's article.

What is the role of a county appraisal?

The Fairfield County auditor has released a new video explaining the role of the county appraiser in the real estate assessment process. The video is accompanied by a fact sheet. The video explains the basic steps in the triennial reappraisal process and how appraisers determine valuation.

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 Sean R. Lehman, slehman@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

OMB announces alternative audit requirements for small local governments

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) posted a new alternative, titled Addendum 3, to Single Audit Act requirements for certain ARPA Recovery Fund recipients. Under current guidance, recipients and subrecipients that expend more than $750,000 in federal awards during their fiscal year will be subject to an audit under the Single Audit Act and its implementing regulation at 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F regarding audit requirements. Addendum 3 changes this requirement for Recovery Fund recipients that received less than $10 million in Recovery Funds. This alternative is meant to reduce the burden of a full Single Audit by allowing the auditor to test compliance with two criteria, "allowable activities" and "allowable cost principles."

The vast majority of Ohio counties were subject to the Single Audit Act before receiving CARES Act and ARPA funds during the pandemic, and will likely remain so, but the new OMB rules may provide significant benefits to Ohio villages and townships. In order to be eligible, a recipient must meet both of the following criteria:

1. The recipient's total Recovery Fund award is at or below $10 million; and
2. Other federal award funds the recipient expended are less than $750,000 during the recipient's fiscal year.

The new alternative can only be used for fiscal year audits beginning after June 30, 2020. Single Audit requirements still apply if a recipient spends over $750,000 in other federal funds. Uniform Guidance will continue to apply to ALL expenditures of federal funds.
Members with questions should contact CCAO Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org.

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 coverage)
- 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 1-9)
- 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 49-53)

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/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.

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.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Back to Top

Register now for the Policy and Practice Application Support (PaPAS) Interactive Series

The Office of Families and Children (OFC), Child Protective Services (CPS) policy team has introduced a new series entitled "Policy and Practice Application Support (PaPAS)."

Each session will focus on a specific subject area of CPS policy. The goal of the sessions is aimed at providing each agency the opportunity to engage in an open dialogue in a smaller group setting to gain clarity, understanding, and further guidance on new or existing rules, tools, program initiatives and practice application with the CPS policy team. The sessions are designed to provide direct, ongoing support to county agencies' front-line staff and supervisors.

The CPS policy team will kick-off the newly developed PaPAS series with the first session's focus on "Assessing Safety." The session will review and discuss the OAC Rule 5101:2-37-01 PCSA requirements for completing the safety assessment, safety assessment tool, reassessment of safety, field guidance, practice application, and additional resources.

Agencies are encouraged to send staff whose regular work duties and responsibilities include participation in assessment/investigation casework processes and ongoing service provisions (e.g., Supervisors, caseworkers). Capacity is limited to thirty (30) people per session to allow for interactive discussions/dialogue.

To register, please complete the registration form by April 12, 2022.

Your registration will be confirmed with an Outlook appointment invitation to join the PaPAS session via Microsoft Teams. The appointment will include any applicable handouts and link to join the meeting.
Sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, April 21, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Friday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Monday, April 25, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Due to the recent development of the PaPAS series, additional dates and times will be accommodated based on need.

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Keller at Ashley.Keller2@jfs.ohio.gov.

Law enforcement funding opportunity / grant training webinar

The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is now accepting applications for the Law Enforcement Violence Reduction and Staffing Grant Program. This program makes available $50 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support communities that have experienced an increase in violent crime, more difficulty providing services to respond to or mitigate the effects of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, or both.

Eligible applicants are law enforcement agencies and state and local government entities. For additional details see the Requests for Proposals document at https://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/links/ARPA-RFP-LE-VR.pdf.

The deadline to apply is April 25 at 5 p.m.

A training webinar for this grant will take place on April 11 from 10 to 11 a.m. The training will provide helpful information on both the application preparation and review process.

Register for this webinar by clicking here.

Additionally, OCJS will host a special webinar event, "Reducing Violent Crime: Strategies and Funding Opportunities for Law Enforcement," on April 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about critical elements of violent crime reduction strategies, as well as new ARPA grant funding opportunities for violent crime reduction strategies.

Register for this webinar by clicking here.

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 will 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 germane 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 25, 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 on recent changes to the TIF program.

ARPA's Best Practices
May 9, 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.

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.

COUNTY NEWS

Back to Top

Seneca County Commissioners move forward with capital projects
TiffinOhio.net, April 7, 2022
The Seneca County Board of Commissioners continued work on the county's local capital project priority list and indicated various levels of support for several projects.

On March 10th, County Administrator Stacy Wilson provided a packet of information to the commissioners including capital project priority recommendations from the county administrative team. Wilson worked with county staff to rank and prioritize capital project requests. Over the last several weeks, the commissioners continued researching the lists.

The prioritization list ranks about 35 capital project requests. The list was created after Wilson and County Building & Grounds Maintenance Supervisor John Logsdon presented 114 project requests to the commissioners. Of the 114, 68 had price estimates of more than $15 million. On Thursday, the commissioners discussed plans for the top 10 projects on the county administration's capital projects recommendations list.

The top priority on the list is a new Agriculture Services Building. The commissioners each indicated support for the project and agreed to move forward with a preliminary study, drawings and more detailed price estimates with RCM Architects.

Commissioners approve SB-52 map
April 4, 2022, limaohio.com
The Allen County commissioners unanimously approved a map dictating where large industrial solar and wind projects can be built.
The commissioners held a public hearing Monday night to review the map and give anyone who wished to speak an opportunity to do so. After listening to the thoughts and concerns of the nearly 30 public commenters and holding another discussion amongst themselves, the board voted 3-0 in favor of accepting the map as presented. The map designates two industrially zoned areas open for development (Shawnee, Perry).

Before drawing the map, the board of commissioners asked all 12 townships for ordinances of what they wanted to see done. Commissioners say the input of township trustees was an important element in creating a map of possible development sites.

Coshocton broadband project launches with Millcreek tower
Coshocton Tribune, April 3 2022
It's no secret that rural Ohio lags behind urban locations in major areas like economic development, educational advancement and health care integration. The answer to close that gap is obvious to many — expanding rural broadband.

The COVID-19 pandemic sharpened this realization as children and adults found themselves attending classes and working from home.

In Coshocton County, more than half the population found themselves without adequate internet access for a myriad of Zoom meetings and online coursework. Especially if multiple people were on the same home signal at once.

Coshocton County Commissioners said they could put nearly $7.2 million in pledged American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding into a variety of projects. However, they understood the biggest impact they could make for county residents was expanding rural broadband access. Commissioners in May 2021 committed $5 million to give internet access to approximately 20,000 citizens, with businesses also benefitting. A second phase of $1 million should connect about 5,000 more.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Back to Top

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?

Butler County

Back to Top

In the 1920s, many Chicago gangsters established second homes in Hamilton Ohio, prompting Hamilton's nickname of "Little Chicago."

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
why did I get this?   unsubscribe from this list   update subscription preferences
County Commissioners Association of Ohio · 209 E. State St. · Columbus, Ohio 43215 · USA