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CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
APRIL
STRONGER COUNTIES.
STRONGER OHIO.
COUNTIES CURRENT

**April 18, 2022**

**CEBCO Senior Benefit Specialist Melissa Bodey and Hardin County Commissioner Roger Crowe celebrate National County Government Month**

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*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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## ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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### CCAO seeks Communications Coordinator

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) is seeking to fill the position of Communications Coordinator.

Specifically, the position is responsible for the coordination of external and internal communication efforts that support the strategic direction of CCAO and its entities. The position will plan, write, design and layout communication pieces and social media; produce short videos and podcasts; maintain CCAO and its entities websites; develop and implement media outreach and educational strategies; monitor media outlets for mentions of CCAO and its entities; take and edit photographs at events.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: Experience in communications strategy and writing as well as media relations. Design and layout experience that includes print, visual, audio and video formats. Skill in the use of InDesign, Photoshop, WordPress and Microsoft Office. Possess the ability to develop promotional copy and perform technical editorial work.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree with coursework in public relations, journalism or related field OR extensive experience with county government and strong communications skills. Minimum of 3 years of related experience required. Valid Ohio Driver's License and the ability to meet insurance requirements. Familiarity with county government is a plus.
Compensation: Commensurate with experience.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, references and writing samples to CCAO Boards' Liaison & Events Manager Robin Garrett at rgarrett@ccao.org by close of business Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

Illustrative Duties: (The duties listed below are intended to depict some tasks performed by this position.)

- Write and distribute press releases, media advisories, newsletters, and on occasion, coordinate news conferences.
- Design and visually enhance various communication pieces such as conference materials, educational brochures, quarterly electronic magazine and annual reports.
- Develop media contacts to ensure the association and its entities are being portrayed in the media properly.
- Maintain and enhance the CCAO social media presence.
- Oversee the CCAO's and its entities website design and navigation and update the homepage features.
- Research and implement new cost-effective communication methods and technologies.
- Define and regulate internal association communications to be consistent with branding.
- Assist with exterior brand promotion and development of promotional items.
- Develop a communication plan for the association to achieve objectives with key audiences.
- Coordinate media inquiries according to the media policy and involves appropriate staff.
- Monitor news for mentions of CCAO and its entities.
- Take photographs and make edits to pictures from events.
- Produce short videos and podcasts.
- Willing to work a flexible schedule to complete projects and/or meet deadlines.
- May be required to travel which may include traveling overnight, though infrequent.

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### Ottawa County Commissioner Stahl joins Ohio Task Force on Volunteer Fire Service

Ottawa County Commissioner Mike Stahl has joined the Ohio Task Force on Volunteer Fire Service to study and make recommendations to improve volunteer fire service in Ohio.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine last week announced the formation of the task force at the Central Ohio Fire Museum, where he was joined by Ohio Department of Commerce Director Sherry Maxfield, State Fire Marshal Kevin Reardon, and several local elected officials and firefighters.

"You never know when you may need emergency services, but you want to make sure that when you do need them, they are fast and efficient," said DeWine at the event. "I asked Fire Marshal Reardon to assemble the Ohio Task Force on Volunteer Fire Service to examine these issues and the state of fire services throughout Ohio and to provide recommendations so we can ensure the continuation of reliable emergency coverage for our communities."

Data collected by the Division of State Fire Marshal shows more than half of registered fire departments in Ohio are staffed by volunteers. While there has been a 6.5 percent decrease in the number of volunteers in the state since 2018, there has been a continual increase in the number of emergency calls.

Potential issues the Ohio Task Force on Volunteer Fire Service will examine include:

- Recruitment of volunteers
- Financial stability of volunteer fire departments
- Training issues
- Resource assessment, and
- Long-term stability of the volunteer fire department structure

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### CCAO welcomes Kyle Petty to the Policy Team

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) announces Kyle Petty has joined the association policy staff as legislative counsel.
Petty will be responsible for legislative advocacy and member services for policy areas spanning law enforcement, courts and corrections and other criminal justice issues.

"The association is thrilled to welcome Kyle to the CCAO policy team," CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler said. "Kyle brings to the team years of legislative advocacy experience and a proven track record of results. Ohio's counties will be well served by his talents."

Prior to joining CCAO, Petty served as director of government relations for CHW Advisors. He also previously served as senior legislative liaison in the Office of Governor John Kasich; legislative director for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Ohio Department of Youth Services; and as an administrative and legislative aide in the Ohio Senate. A licensed attorney, Petty is also a partner in the Petty-Devlin Law Group, LLC.

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### Join CCAO in celebrating National County Government Month!

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
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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!

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### 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.

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## STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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### 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.

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### 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)

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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### Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

Counties and other local governments are required to submit their ARPA financial reports to the US Treasury no later than April 30. With this date fast approaching, the following resources are available help CCAO members to navigate reporting requirements:

**US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS**
Wednesday, April 21, 2022, 3 – 4 p.m.
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Join NACo for a review of the Treasury Department's webinar on reporting guidelines and compliance requirements for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program. NACo staff will be available to answer questions on the upcoming deadline for the Project and Expenditure Report, which is due April 30. Registration is available here.

**ARPA FISCAL RECOVERY FUND: OVERVIEW OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND UNIFORM GUIDANCE**
National Association of Counties and Government Finance Officers Association
Webinar recorded April 14, 2022
With the upcoming Project and Expenditure Report deadline fast approaching on April 30, join NACo and Government Finance Officers Association for an overview of what you need to know when it comes to reporting for the American Rescue Plan Act' (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. During this session, participants will hear about key requirements as they related to the U.S. Department of Treasury's guidance and the federal Uniform Guidance. To view the slides and recording of the webinar, click here.

**OVERVIEW OF PROCUREMENT OF CAPITAL PROJECTS USING ARPA FUNDS**
CCAO and Bricker and Eckler, Attorneys at Law
Webinar recorded April 13, 2022
This webinar discusses procurement rules applicable to a county's use of its funding from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act. Counties ultimately need to comply with both state and federal law, and Bricker and Eckler attorneys will review the rules and procedures required under both sets of law, including where the processes are similar and where they diverge. To view a recording of the webinar, click here.

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### 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.

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### 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, including the one listed below, that might be of interest to you.

**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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## COUNTY NEWS

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Four things you need to know from Franklin County's 2022 State of the County report
**The Columbus Dispatch, April 12, 2022**
From responding to a second year of the COVID-19 pandemic to improving racial equity, Franklin County spent much of 2021 aiming to serve as a safety net for those in need.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners highlights those efforts and more in its 2022 State of the County report, which was released Tuesday.

The Dispatch recently sat down with board President Erica Crawley, who became a commissioner in July after two years in the Ohio House of Representatives, to talk about the county's efforts in 2021 and what's coming in 2022.

Shelby celebrates National County Government Month
**Sidney Daily News, April 13, 2022**
The Board of Commissioners of Shelby County are recognizing National County Government Month during April to highlight how local leaders work to build healthy, safe and vibrant counties for the people they serve by recently issuing a Proclamation noting "Counties Thrive!"
"Counties are the state's partner in delivering critical services such as justice and public safety, infrastructure, child and senior protective services, election administration and much more," Board President Julie Ehemann said. "We want to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of our fellow public servants and staff who work diligently to carry out these essential functions."

"Not everyone realizes the many roles that county government plays in their daily lives," said Commissioner Bob Guillozet. "National County Government Month is an opportunity to highlight the work that is done every day to improve the lives of Ohioans and to celebrate those who make it all possible."

"Shelby County is very special, and we hope that residents explore the many ways their county serves them and helps to make it a great place to call home," added Commissioner Tony Bornhorst.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

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**APRIL 28, 2022**
**CEBCO BOARD RETREAT**

**MAY, 19, 2022**
**GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MAY 20, 2022**
**CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**JUNE 3, 2022**
**NE OHIO DISTRICT DAY IN ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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## DID YOU KNOW?

### Brown County

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John Rankin, a Brown County abolitionist, is credited with inspiring other prominent abolitionists including Harriet Beecher Stowe. Stowe used an episode from Rankin's life in her novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

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