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COUNTIES CURRENT
CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

May 23, 2022

CCAO Board of Directors member Julie Ehemann (Shelby County), CCAO President Debbie Lieberman (Montgomery County), and CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler attended the NACo Rural Action Caucus' annual symposium on May 19 and May 20.

CCAO has redesigned Counties Current. Click the hyperlinks to jump to each section. If you have feedback, please contact Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@ccao.org.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Dave Hall appointed Holmes County Commissioner

On May 19, Dave Hall was formally sworn in as Holmes County Commissioner, filling the spot vacated after the retirement of Rob Ault on April 3.

Hall previously served as Holmes County Commissioner from 1999 to 2008, after which he served in the Ohio House of Representatives for eight years. During his time in the House he served as the chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and sat on other committees, including the Finance Committee and the Public Works Commission.

In 2017, Hall was appointed as the Ohio director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development office. He served in this role for the duration of the Trump Administration.

Commissioner Hall recently won the Republican primary for the unexpired term that he is now serving. He is unopposed in the general election in November.

CCAO welcomes Commissioner Hall back to the Association!

NACo announces Achievement Awards; seven Ohio counties recognized

NACo recently announced the winners of its 2022 Achievement Awards program. The program seeks to recognize innovate county government programs across a variety of categories, with one outstanding program from each category selected as the "Best of Category."

Seven Ohio counties won awards across 13 categories, including Summit County receiving the "Best in Category" distinction in the Health category.

The following counties received awards:

- Cuyahoga County: 7
- Montgomery County: 6
- Fairfield County: 4
- Franklin County: 4
- Hamilton County: 3
- Summit County: 2
- Shelby County: 1

The full list of achievement awards can be found here.

Deadline for Brownfield Remediation Program applications extended to May 31

On April 28, the Department of Development announced that the application deadline for Round 2 of the Brownfield Remediation Program **has been extended to May 31**.

This extra time will help counties which have not yet met their $1 million county set-aside. Feedback from Association members provided the Department with an understanding of why this extension was necessary.

The list of counties with remaining funds that are eligible for the extension can be found here. The CCAO encourages these counties to make every effort to complete an application and take advantage of this funding to help revitalize their communities.

Counties can learn more about the program and submit applications here.

Office of Budget and Management announces 2022 budget roundtable events

The Office of Budget and Management announced the locations of its four regional roundtable events that provide updates on the state budget and funding/grant opportunities.

- June 1 (Wednesday): Cuyahoga Falls
- June 8 (Wednesday): Lebanon
- June 16 (Thursday): Bowling Green
- June 22 (Wednesday): New Boston

Registration for the events is free and can be completed here.

Save the Date! CCAO Workforce, Families and Children Symposium

CCAO
WORKFORCE, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN SYMPOSIUM
AUGUST 25-26, 2022
SAVE THE DATE

CCAO will hold a Workforce, Families and Children Symposium on August 25-26 at the Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark. Counties are encouraged to attend to learn more about important issues that every county faces.

Session topics will include workforce panels with business and county leaders, an examination of the children services landscape with an eye on rising placement costs, and early intervention services, among others.

Registration will open in June and cost $50 per person (this does not include reservations at the hotel).

The event will coincide with the CCAO Board of Directors August meeting which attendees are welcome to attend.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Governor announces $169 million for two initiatives to improve behavioral health care

Governor Mike DeWine recently announced two initiatives intended to help improve behavioral health care in Ohio. On May 13, he announced his administration's plan to use $85 million of state-level American Rescue Plan Act funding to boost the behavioral health care workforce and on May 16 he announced the Pediatric Behavioral Health Initiative, an $84 million investment aimed at increasing access to pediatric behavioral health care in families' communities.

The former initiative will enhance paid internships and scholarships for students working to achieve behavioral health certificates and degrees at Ohio colleges and universities and assist with decreasing the financial burdens of obtaining licenses and other certifications. The latter will award funds to hospitals in Akron, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo, and Cleveland, as well as the Appalachian Children's Coalition, to expand inpatient and outpatient services.

Both initiatives will use state-level American Rescue Plan Act funding appropriated by the General Assembly in H.B. 168 in June 2021.

The governor's office's full release regarding the initiative can be read here and here.

American City County Exchange to host lunch with Senate President Matt Huffman

On May 25, from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., the American City County Exchange (ACCE) will be hosting a lunch at the Athletic Club of Columbus. Registration for the event is free, and will feature Senate President Matt Huffman and ACCE Director and Penobscot County (Maine) Commissioner Andrew Cushing.

ACCE's mission is to engage local elected officials with leaders in business and industry, to advance the principles of limited government and free market solutions.

You can register for the event here.

Ohio Public Defender provides update on OPD Online program

The Ohio Public Defender issued a memorandum on May 19 informing counties of progress on the OPD Online program.

OPD Online is intended to streamline the indigent defense billing process via a secure online portal. The Office has begun onboarding interested counties with the goal of making the program available statewide over the course of 2024.

A copy of the memorandum, which includes an explanation of how the new system would affect fee schedules, can be found here.

OneOhio Recovery Foundation statewide board has inaugural meeting

On May 16, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board of Directors met for the first time. The Foundation will be responsible for distributing $444.4 million, a 55% share of the $808.0 million settlement the state has received so far from opioid distributor lawsuits.

The Board is comprised of 29 members: five appointed by the governor, one appointed by the attorney general, four legislative appointments, and a representative from each of the 19 regions created under the initial lawsuit's Memorandum of Understanding.

After Governor DeWine addressed the Board with an overview of how the opioid lawsuits, settlements, and the Foundation came to be, the Board had a discussion with attorneys from the law firm of Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff regarding the Foundation's tax status and the process for adopting procedures for Foundation operations.

Eight county commissioners and executives represented their regions at the meeting:

- Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus (Region 2)
- Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish (Region 3)
- Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro (Region 5)
- Montgomery County Commissioner Judy Dodge (Region 8)
- Ashtabula County Commissioner Kathryn Whittington (Region 13)
- Shelby County Commissioner Julie Ehemann (Region 15)
- Fairfield County Commissioner Jeffrey Fix (Region 18)
- Medina County Commissioner William Huston (Region 19)

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

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Governor announces availability of first responder recruitment and retention grants

On May 5, the Emergency Management Agency began accepting applications for the Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program.

A total of $70 million in grants is available, earmarked from $250 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding that the state dedicated to first responders.

Among permissible uses of grants are wellness programs addressing unique mental, physical, and emotional health issues that first responders face; recruitment and retention efforts; onboarding and training costs; and programs to engage young adults about careers as first responders.

Grant applications will be accepted until June 17 at 5 p.m.

More information about the program and the application can be found here and here.

U.S. Department of Transportation opens Safe Streets and Roads for All application portal

The U.S. Department of Transportation has opened the application window for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. The program will provide grants to governments for projects and strategies aimed at preventing roadway deaths and injuries.

More information regarding the program can be found here.

Additionally, the Department will hold three webinars in June to help potential applications learn about the program and how to best prepare an application. These webinars will be held on June 13, June 15, and June 23.

The last day to submit applications is September 15, 2022.

Registration open for Greater Ohio Policy Center's 2022 summit

The Greater Ohio Policy Center is hosting their biannual policy summit "Reflect & Refocus: Furthering Resilient Communities" on June 9 in Columbus. The Summit will showcase interventions for creating sustainable communities, like zoning reform, active infrastructure investments, and increasing housing options.

Attendees may earn up to 5 hours of education credits from The Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Education and the American Planning Association Ohio Chapter.

This year's Keynote Address is Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik. Registration closes at the end of May. You can register here.

ARPA RESOURCES

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JobsOhio's American Rescue Plan Guidebook is available

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.

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)

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 to help CCAO members to navigate reporting requirements:

US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Webinar recorded April 21, 2022
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. To view the slides and recording of the webinar, click 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.

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

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, at ehurley@naco.org.

COUNTY NEWS

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Clark County commission: Nearly $1M in federal relief allocated to technology purchases, 2 jobs
Springfield News-Sun, May 20, 2022
The Clark County commission this week allocated up to $900,000 in federal relief to cover the cost of equipment at the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services and to cover the costs of employing a homelessness coordinator and mental health therapist for several years.

The Clark County commission, which typically meets on Wednesdays at Springview Government Center, met Thursday because of a scheduling conflict.

Up to $50,000 was allocated to new laptops and computers for the county's Job and Family Services department for employees to work remotely.

Holmes County Commissioners approve bid for paving work on Township Road 211
The Daily Record, May 16, 2022
The Holmes County Commissioners accepted the recommendation of County Engineer Chris Young and awarded a $267,648 contract to Melway Paving for upgrades to Township Road 211.

"As soon as this becomes official, I will talk to them and get the contract signed and get this project going," Young said.

He expects the paving project to take a couple of weeks once they get started.

Commissioners OK Juvenile Court pay raises after testy debate
Mansfield New Journal, May 18, 2022
The Richland County Commissioners have approved a request by Juvenile Court for a supplemental $45,794 appropriation for parity pay raises for the balance of the year for deputy clerks and youth specialists in the detention area.

The decision followed a contentious discussion Tuesday with Judge Steve McKinley and Court Administrator Brian Bumpus about larger raises given at the first of the year to the highest paid administrative employees and the methodology for determining their pay.

The court asked commissioners last month for extra money to raise the starting pay for deputy clerks and youth specialists in the detention area from $14 per hour to $15 per hour, which would affect 29 of the court's 75 employees.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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MAY 31, 2022
DEADLINE FOR BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

JUNE 1, 2022
OBM DOLLARS AND SENSE: CUYAHOGA FALLS

JUNE 3, 2022
NE OHIO DISTRICT DAY IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

JUNE 8, 2022
OBM DOLLARS AND SENSE: LEBANON

JUNE 16, 2022
OBM DOLLARS AND SENSE: BOWLING GREEN

JUNE 22, 2022
OBM DOLLARS AND SENSE: NEW BOSTON

JUNE 27, 2022
NW OHIO DISTRICT DAY

OEDDET TI'N GWYBOD?

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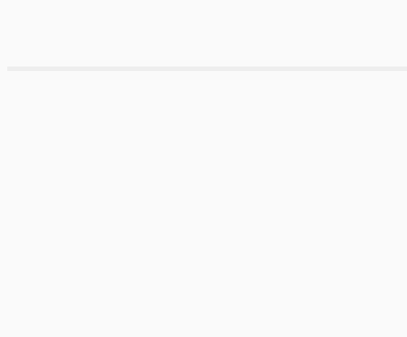
Van Wert County


MARKER
VENEDOCIA VILLAGE
VAN WERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VENEDOCIA LION'S CLUB
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Venedocia, a settlement in Wan Wert County established by Welsh immigrants, conducted church services in Welsh up to 1895.

(Oeddet ti'n gwybod roughly translates from Welsh to 'Did you know' in English)

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