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June 21, 2022

The CCAO Board of Directors were honored to host Governor Mike DeWine at its June 17 meeting. The Governor and Board members had a good conversation about important county issues such as the increasing need for children services, the landscape of indigent defense, and funding for county jails.

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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Round 2 of Brownfield Grants awarded; county entities receive $45.3 million

On June 17, Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced the second round of brownfield remediation grants totaling more than $192 million. The grants are part of a larger $350 million grant program, which targets industrial, commercial and institutional brownfield sites that contain or have the potential to release hazardous substances or petroleum.

The grant awards will be used to fund 112 projects across 41 counties. More than $187 million will go towards cleanup projects and $4.5 million will be used for brownfield assessment projects. Forty-three of the projects will go directly to county entities (predominantly land banks), totaling $45.3 million. A total of $42.6 million will go to cleanup projects and the remaining $2.7 will go to assessments.

The full list of brownfield sites awarded funds can be accessed here.

CCAO Workforce, Families and Children Symposium registration opens this week!

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

CCAO will open registration this week for its Workforce, Families and Children Symposium on August 25-26 at the Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark. Commissioners, county executives, and county council members 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 cost $50 per person (this does not include reservations at the hotel).

Watch for a CCAO E-News email announcing the official open of registration!

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

CORSA Makes a Splash at the PRIMA22 Conference

CORSA's own Al Francis, Senior Claims Representative, helped moderate an educational session on “Top 10 Reasons Why Public Employers Are Sued by Their Employees”, during the PRIMA22 Conference held in San Antonio, Texas, from June 5-8.

The Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) is one of the many resources CORSA's risk managers have at their fingertips.

PRIMA is a one-stop resource for education and training, risk resources and networking opportunities for public sector risk managers. The 2022 PRIMA conference offered educational and networking experience that showcased and highlighted public risk trending topics. The four-day event offered 55+ educational sessions, 7+ networking events and 75+ vendors.

CORSA and the state of Ohio was represented well by our members and staff who attended the conference. Membership: Ginger Yonak (Union County), Michelle Ish (Ottawa County), Kathy Hostutler (Geauga County), Tammy Whitaker (Warren County) and Troy Sexton (Delaware County). CORSA's risk control staff: Frank Hatfield, Jim Hale, Ken Hilty and Steve Flory.

As we all know managing risk in our counties can present unique challenges, if interested in learning more about PRIMA, contact Frank Hatfield at fhatfield@ccao.org or 614.560.1474.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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The Ohio Business Matchmaker event returns in-person to Wright State University in June.

After two years being held virtually, the Ohio Business Matchmaker event will return to an in-person event on July 13-14 on the campus of Wright State University in Dayton.

The event connects small businesses to government contracting opportunities at the local, state, and federal level. The event includes one-on-one discussions with agencies and prime contractors.

The Matchmaker event provides a great opportunity to both connect counties with small businesses in their area they may not have tapped into and for small businesses to get connected with government agencies to grow their business.

There are three types of registration. Registration for governments and large contractors is free and must be done beforehand. Registration for small businesses is $130 beforehand or $175 as a walk-in. Additionally, businesses may register as an Exhibitor for $350 to have a table on the main floor for a set-up and display of their product and/or services.

More information about the event, including the registration portal, can be found here.

The Ohio Business Matchmaker is sponsored and hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Small Business Development Centers, the Ohio Procurement Technical Assistance Center, and the Ohio Minority Business Assistance Centers.

Ohio Power Siting Board invites public comment on proposed rule changes

The OPSB issued proposed rules to amend OAC sections 4906-1 to 4906-7, the administrative code sections that govern the board. The public can submit comments on the proposed rules until July 22 and may submit reply comments by August 12.

The recommended changes include improving the OPSB review process and public participation in the process as well as improving the technical information that must be included within an application to the OPSB.

A copy of the proposed rules, as well as other documents related to the five-year review of the agency's rules, can be found here.

Public Comment Opportunity on Ohio Revised Code Chapter 340

OhioMHAS invites members of the public to share their insights on R.C. Chapter 340 (Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services) at a Teams meeting on Wednesday, June 22, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This meeting is not a 340 Review Stakeholder Workgroup meeting, but rather an opportunity for individuals who are not Workgroup members to share their perspectives on this chapter.

If you are not a Workgroup member and wish to share your insights verbally at this public comment opportunity, please RSVP by submitting the following information to 340ReviewWorkgroup@mha.ohio.gov no later than Friday, June 17, at 5:00 pm:

1. Your name, address, phone number, and email address.
2. If you represent a particular government entity or organization, the name of that entity or organization.
3. If known when RSVPing, the sections of R.C. Chapter 340 you plan to provide comments on.

It is the Department's intention to provide five minutes for each individual sharing comments. Depending on the number of RSVPs received, this time limit may be extended or reduced. OhioMHAS also invites members of the public to submit written comments at any time regarding R.C. Chapter 340 at 340ReviewWorkgroup@mha.ohio.gov.

You will be able to join the Teams meeting here (Audio only: 614.721.2872, ID: 68060408#).

OhioMHAS 988 Stakeholder Update Webinar Recording, Community Toolkit, Other Resources Available

OhioMHAS provided a stakeholder update on Ohio's 988 planning and implementation process last week. Beginning on July 16, 9-8-8 will launch as an additional resource to the life-saving National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255), allowing for an easy-to-remember number.

You can watch a recording here and view the slides here. The department also shared a Community Toolkit to help with 988 messaging and communication planning; those resources are listed below.

- Ohio 988 Fact Sheet
- Ohio 988 FAQ
- When to Call 911/When to Call 988
- Local Partner Toolkit (SAMHSA)
- 988 Key Messages (SAMHSA)
- Ohio's 988 Lifeline Providers Map

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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CCAO Service Corp to host financial technology utilization webinar

The CCAO Service Corp is hosting a webinar designed for our commissioners, administrators, county auditors and county treasurers to introduce "three+one" - a program for liquidity analysis and data management. The webinar **Tips & Best Practices for Cash/Liquidity Management** will be on June 22 at 10:00 AM. During the 30-minute presentation, three+one's Relationship Specialist, Team Lead, Alex DeRosa, will cover how new technologies can help you streamline various functions of your county's cash management using innovative financial technology.

In 2019, the National Association of Counties, FSC endorsed three+one as a national best practice. Three+one provides a number of benefits to counties, but ultimately provides an independent, third-party analysis and new data insights that helps counties execute borrowing, investing and banking services & structures with ease and impact.

During this 30-minute presentation, three+one's Relationship Specialist, Team Lead, Alex DeRosa, will cover how new technologies can help your county streamline various financial management functions through the use of innovative financial technology.

You can read more about the webinar here and register here.

NACo to host County Listening Session regarding hunger, nutrition, and health

NACo will host a County Listening Session on June 30 from 3:00 p.m. with officials from the White House and other federal partners to provide county leaders with a chance to share ideas and perspectives regarding how to end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity. The listening session is in lead up to the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health.

Attendees are encouraged to bring answers to five questions that relate to the central pillars of the upcoming White House Conference.

1. How has hunger or diet-related disease impacted your county and its residents?
2. What specific actions should the U.S. Federal government, including the Executive Branch and Congress, take to improve food access and affordability and empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices?
3. What specific actions should local governments, our state partners, and other community stakeholders (including non-profit and private companies) take to improve food access and affordability and empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices?
4. What are opportunities for public- and private-sector partners to work together to improve food access and affordability and empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices?
5. What are innovative, successful activities already happening in your county that could inform actions at the Federal level?

You can register for the listening session here.

Nonpoint source water quality grant application opens

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is accepting water quality project grant applications through July 6.

The projects will address nonpoint source-related water quality issues, such as nutrients, habitat, hydromodification, and sediment. Among past projects following similar criteria are drainage water management, saturated buffers, wetland treatment systems and two-stage ditches, stream restoration, and acid mine drainage abatement.

Counties can learn more about the grant program here.

Applicants are encouraged to direct questions to John Mathews (john.mathews@epa.ohio.gov) or Rick Wilson (rick.wilson@epa.ohio.gov) at the Ohio EPA.

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 a webinar on June 23 about the grant program.

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

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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This section of Counties Current will be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future to help counties with the ins and outs of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These two laws provide a once-in-a-generation investment.

Guidance and overview of available BIL funding available from NACo and the Ohio Department of Transportation

NACo and ODOT each host a resource page providing information to counties about the Bipartican Infrastructure Law. The pages are rich with information including multiple tables providing overviews and links to funding opportunities, a timeline of upcoming grant programs, and much more.

The NACo website can be found here and the ODOT website can be found here.

CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the sites and apply for funding through the myriad of programs to bring valuable federal funds to Ohio communities.

NACo provides overview of U.S. Treasury's allocation of second ARPA Recovery Funds tranche

On May 26, NACo provided statewide associations an update that the U.S. Treasury has begun the process of allocating funds from the second tranche of the ARPA Recovery Fund.

Key highlights to the second tranche payment process include:

1. All counties must have an active SAM.gov registration in order to receive their second tranche of funding
2. Effective **April 4, 2022,** the federal government switched service providers and stopped using the DUNS number and began using the Unique Entity ID (UEI) – **All counties are required to switch from a DUNS number to a UEI**
3. If a county's SAM.gov registration expired (12-month coverage) before it is due to receive its second tranche payment (and after April 4, 2022) the county is required to re-active its SAM.gov registration, which will require them to adopt a UEI (instead of a DUNS number) **PRIOR TO** receiving their second tranche

Process for Counties to Receive Second Tranche ARPA Recovery Fund Payment

- Section 603 of ARPA provides payments to eligible local governments in two tranches, with the second tranche payment being made no earlier than 12 months after the first payment
- Consistent with this requirement, Treasury expects to provide second tranche payments to local governments **approximately 12 months after their first payment**
- In the coming weeks, Treasury will open the submission portal in a phased approach, **allowing counties to access the portal for 30 days prior to their second tranche payment date**
- Counties will receive a notification from Treasury by email letting them know that they can enter the portal – **it is very important to make sure that the assigned point of contact is still available to receive future communications**
  - The **point of contact is the individual designated in the portal during the first tranche submission** who will receive email notifications on submission status, including any issues found during the verification and communication regarding payments
  - The **individual entering the portal for the second tranche submission will be the same individual with the registered** ID.me who submitted for the first tranche allocation
  - If that individual is no longer with the county and you need to designate a new individual, email COVIDReliefITSupport@treasury.gov with the subject line “Entity Name – Update to Designated Individuals” and include the role that needs to be updated along with the full name, title, email and phone number of the new person designated
- After the email is received by the county, the point of contact will be able to update their entity information to include banking information in the portal
- In preparation for the second tranche payment, counties should ensure their SAM.gov entity registration is still active – **all counties are required to have a SAM.gov registration to receive their second tranche payment**
  - Note that on **April 4, 2022,** the federal government changed service providers and stopped using the DUNS Number and began using the Unique Entity ID (UEI) in SAM.gov to identify entities
  - All counties, even those already registered in SAM.gov, must validate their entity information through the new service provider
  - Counties may need to provide additional supporting documentation through the new system
  - The General Services Administration (GSA) released FAQs to support counties through this new process
  - **Counties are required to renew their SAM.gov registration every 12-months. If a county's SAM.gov registration expired (12-month coverage) before it is due to receive its second tranche (and after April 4, 2022) the county is required to re-active their SAM.gov registration, which will require them to adopt a UEI (instead of a DUNS number) PRIOR TO receiving their second tranche**

If you have any questions, please contact Eryn Hurley, Director of Government Affairs for NACo, at ehurley@naco.org.

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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Wind energy may be up to the voters
Galion Inquirer, June 10, 2022
On behalf of Apex Clean Energy, “Honey Creek Action” PAC filed formal petitions Monday in Bucyrus with Crawford County Commissioners for review. This begins the signature validation process to place the controversial wind energy issue on the November ballot.

Petition signatures and addresses must match what's already on file or be deemed invalid. Crawford County voters will be the first in Ohio to decide a wind energy referendum.

In early May, a resolution halted construction of the Virginia-based company's 300-megawatt wind farm, which is expected to include approximately 60 turbines.

Shelby County joins New BroadbandOhio program
Sidney Daily News, June 16, 2022
Gov. Mike DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, and the BroadbandOhio office announced the BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator cohort on June 15, and one of the four teams is Shelby County.

The purpose of the broadband community accelerator program is to prepare communities around Ohio for broadband funding opportunities from the state and federal levels and to create plans in these communities for how they will spend the money to expand broadband access.

“In the coming weeks and months, communities across Ohio will receive a historic amount of funding for broadband expansion, and we want to ensure that communities know how to deploy these funds efficiently and effectively,” DeWine said in a news release. “This will help local governments throughout Ohio receive expert support as they prepare to leverage new state and federal funding for broadband expansion.”

Total solar eclipse expected to draw tens of thousands to region in 2024
Mansfield News Journal, June 18, 2022
Tens of thousands of people are expected to flock to North Central Ohio to watch the afternoon sky go dim during a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.

The event may be two years away, but emergency responders are already planning ahead to ensure everyone stays safe during the event.

That's because solar eclipses are so popular that people will travel across the country for a few minutes of viewing, according to Dan Everly, president of the Richland Astronomical Society.

Officials in Jefferson County careful on ARPA spending
WTOV9.com, June 16, 2022
Commissioners in Jefferson County received more guidance on how it can legally spend its American Rescue Plan Act funding on Thursday.

They're evaluating each request to see which of four buckets it could fall under.

“Non-profit organizations, businesses services, to pertaining to the pandemic and similar-type things," Jefferson County Chief Deputy Auditor Michael Warren said.

One bucket deals with infrastructure, and money in that category can be used on upgrades to water, sewer or broadband projects.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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JUNE 22, 2022
OBM DOLLARS AND SENSE: NEW BOSTON

JUNE 27, 2022
NW OHIO DISTRICT DAY

AUGUST 12, 2022
CORSA BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 25 - 26, 2022
WORKFORCE, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN SYMPOSIUM AT CHERRY VALLEY

AUGUST 26, 2022
CCAO AND CEBCO BOARD MEETINGS (CHERRY VALLEY)

DID YOU KNOW?

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Mercer County

The Carthagena Black Cemetery, located in Mercer County, was established in 1840 as the cemetery for the village of the same name. The village, plotted by Charles Moore, was home to more than 100 black and mixed-race families during the mid 1800s.

The cemetery is the resting place of nine black veterans, one from the War of 1812 and eight from the Civil War.

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