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June 27, 2022

It's county fair season! The Harrison, Paulding, Pickaway, and Putnam county fairs are over but there are still 83 remaining, including 30 in the month of June! The full schedule of Ohio fairs, including independent fairs and the State Fair, can be found here.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Virtual public meeting authority to expire on June 30

The temporary virtual public meeting authority that public bodies authorized in House Bill 51 will expire at the end of the month. CCAO does not anticipate an immediate extension of the authorization given the legislative summer recess.

The expiration of virtual public meeting authority does not affect entities that already have statutory authority to hold virtual meetings, such as multi-county petition ditch bodies.

Lake County welcomes Mark A. Tyler as interim county commissioner

On June 23, the Lake County Commissioners welcomed Mark A. Tyler to their ranks. Tyler, who served as councilperson-at-large of Kirtland from 2001-2007 and then as mayor of Kirtland from 2007-2015, fills the commissioner seat left vacant by Ron Young's retirement on May 4.

"I'm looking forward to working with both commissioners, whom I know personally, fortunately, and they've really reached out and supported me," Tyler said in an interview with the News-Herald. "It certainly helps having been in public office before. It was a great experience and I learned a lot. This came very quickly and the staff's been incredible, so I'm very excited about this opportunity to serve the citizens of Lake County."

Commissioner Tyler will serve out the remainder term, which expires at the end of the year.

Current Commissioner John Plecnik won the Republican primary for the seat in May and will face Democrat Adam Dudziak. The race for Commissioner Plecnik's unexpired seat is between Republican Richard Regovich and Democrat Maureen Kelly.

CCAO welcomes Commissioner Tyler to county government and look forward to working with him!

Delaware County named 10th Healthiest County in the country; Eleven other Ohio counties place in top 500

The US News and World Report recently released the 2022 rankings of the top 500 healthiest communities nationwide. The rankings are determined by how each county scored across ten categories that drive community health. These categories include population health, housing, food & nutrition, public safety, and infrastructure, along with others.

The US News and World Report project scored 3,000 counties on the metrics and ranked the top 500,

Delaware County ranked top among Ohio counties and in the top ten nationwide. Ten other counties were ranked in the top 500. The full list of Ohio counties is below.

- Delaware County (#10)
- Union County (#65)
- Medina County (#77)
- Warren County (#89)
- Geauga County (#155)
- Mercer County (#213)
- Auglaize County (#232)
- Greene County (#318)
- Putnam County (#320)
- Wood County (#394)
- Henry County (#399)
- Lake County (#406)

The full listing and links to individual counties can be found here.

Happy birthday Lucas County!

On June 20, Lucas County turned 187 years old. The 75th county, Lucas County was created out of parts of Huron, Sandusky, and Wood counties and is named after Robert Lucas who was governor at the time.

The creation of Lucas County helped spark the "Toledo War," a bloodless conflict between Ohio and Michigan over which take possessed the "Toledo Strip."

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Treasury releases updated ARPA reporting guidance; NACo provides overview

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently released updated reporting guidance for Project and Expenditure Reports and a template for the Recovery Plan Performance Report. Both have been released ahead of the next reporting deadline, July 31.

NACo provided a summary of key updates to the reporting guidelines. These requirements will impact all counties regardless of population size and award amount.

- **Additional programmatic data for capital expenditures:** When using Recovery Funds for capital expenditures projects, counties need to report the type of expenditure based on a list of enumerated uses. Examples of enumerated uses are COVID-19 vaccination sites, job and workforce training centers, and public health data systems. A full list of enumerated uses is available on pages 27 to 28 of the updated guidance.
- **Written justification for capital expenditures:** Counties are required to provide a written justification for capital projects of any category that cost at least $10 million and for projects in the "other" (i.e., project not explicitly enumerated by Treasury) category that cost at least $1 million. Previously, counties needed to create a written justification for these projects but were not required to submit them as part of regular reporting.
- **Description of labor requirements for capital expenditures:** Counties are required to provide additional labor reporting. For projects that cost at least $10 million, counties will need to report on the strength of the project's labor standards, including information on the presence of a project labor agreement, community benefits agreement, prevailing wage requirement, or local hiring. This new required information is outlined under Infrastructure Project on pages 30-31 of the updated guidance.
- **Project information for broadband projects:** The updated guidance requires counties to provide detailed project information for broadband infrastructure investments. Counties need to report what kind of technology is involved in the project (i.e., fiber optic cables, coaxial cables, etc.), the total miles of fiber deployed over the project, and the total number of funded locations served broken out by both speed of connection and type of location (i.e., residential, business, or community). This new required information is outlined under Broadband Projects on pages 32-33 of the updated guidance.
- **Moving of Recovery Plan Performance Report data into P&E Report:** Under the updated guidance, some of the data that was previously only required for the Recovery Plan Performance Report (Recovery Plan) is now required for large counties (populations above 250,000 and/or above $10 million in awards) on their quarterly P&E Report. For example, large counties investing in housing security programs must now report the number of households receiving eviction prevention services. A full list of changes to programmatic data requirements for large counties is available on page 33 of the compliance and reporting guidance.
- **Updated template for Recovery Plan:** The updated guidance also provides a template for the Recovery Plan due for large counties on July 31, 2022, reflecting the expenditure categories and other changes made by the Final Rule.

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

Projects in six counties receive $746,000 in H2Ohio funding

This week Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio EPA Director Laurie A. Stevenson announced a total of $746,000 in funding through the H2Ohio program to projects in six counties.

The largest project is $171,000 to improve drinking water quality and upgrade aging water infrastructure in Nelsonville in Athens County.

"Clean and safe drinking water is vital for every community in Ohio, and I am pleased that H2Ohio is continuing to invest in infrastructure and equipment to assist communities like Nelsonville to provide a reliable source of water for residents," said Governor DeWine.

The remaining $575,000 will be split evenly between Hocking, Jackson, Portage, Ross, and Seneca counties to assist health districts in repairing and/or replacing failing household sewage treatment systems in low- to moderate-income households.

"Throughout the state, addressing failing household sewage treatment systems – either through providing funds for replacements or upgrades, or the extension of centralized sanitary sewers – is a key goal of H2Ohio," said Director Stevenson.

CCAO thanks the DeWine-Husted Administration for its continued dedication to ensuring that all Ohioans have the functioning infrastructure to ensure proper disposal of wastewater and to ensure clean drinking water.

Ohio Fire Code updated with consumer fireworks discharge rules

On July 3, amendments to the Ohio Fire Code regarding consumer discharge of fireworks will become effective. An excerpt of the rule can be found here.

HB 172, signed into law in November 2021, generally allows Ohioans to ignite consumer-grade fireworks on certain holidays. Local governments may continue to regulate consumer discharge, including complete bans.

The State Fire Marshal has provided FAQs for both consumers and fire services, available at the respective links.

If you have any questions regarding Ohio's new rules regarding the consumer discharge of fireworks, please send a request to OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us (please put "fireworks" in the subject line) and/or contact the SFM's Code Enforcement Bureau at (614) 728-5460 or sfm_codeenf@com.state.oh.us.

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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JFS caseworker recruitment and retention grants available

On June 24, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced a $15 million grant program to help public children services agencies recruit and retain frontline caseworkers and supervisors.

Some permissible usages of grant awards include expenses related to media campaigns to support or recruit the workforce, student loan and/or tuition payments, retention and sign-on bonus programs, and activities to target agency culture, such as programming to address mental, physical, and emotional health issue, among other possible usages.

ODJFS will be provide county agencies with more details regarding the program and the application process in the coming days. CCAO will continue to provide members with updates in Counties Current as well.

$4.2 million in grants available to support sexual assault survivors

The Office of Criminal Justice Services announced a grant program to help support sexual assault survivors. The $4.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds will be awarded to rape crisis centers and sexual assault programs to help provide virtual/remote services, pay for hiring and retention bonuses to retain staff, and to support the increased needs of sexual assault survivors as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

All applicants must have an organization, or subrecipient, that will serve as the fiduciary agent and assume overall responsibility for the grant. Eligible subrecipients include private, nonprofit associations, state agencies, state-supported universities, and local government units or councils of governments.

The deadline for applications is July 19. More information about the grant program, including the formatting and components of submissions, can be found 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.

AARP launches Deciding Voices Listening Tour

AARP Ohio is kicking off a five-event tour of the state to listen to voters 50 years or older on the issues that matter most to them. These include prescription drug costs, Medicare, healthcare access, Social Security, and long-term care.

The five events will take place at the following locations. Registration is free but limited to 50 participants per event. You can register by clicking the event listing.

- Cincinnati (June 28)
- Cleveland (July 13)
- Portsmouth (July 21)
- Columbus (July 26)
- Lima (August 4)

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.

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

Ohio State University professor discusses causes of rising inflation, supply chain disruptions

Covid meets the supply chain: Are inflation and empty shelves President Joe Biden's fault?

In this webinar recording, Dr. Mark Partridge, Chair of the Swank Program in Rural-Urban Policy at the Ohio State University, discusses the causes of rising inflation and supply chain disruptions in the US and global economies. Access the recording here.

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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Holmes County adds another enterprise zone agreement to promote continued growth
The Daily Record, June 23, 2022

The Holmes County Commissioners on Thursday entered into another enterprise zone agreement for a 10-year, 50% tax break for a local business looking to expand.

Holmes County Economic Development Director Mark Leininger explained that he was contacted by Dan Schlabach of Green Fox Plastics, a sister company of Little Cottage Co. on state Route 39, east of Berlin.

"Green Fox Plastics was formed recently in response to a shortage in what the industry calls furniture-grade poly lumber," Leininger said. "It's used in outdoor furniture. Schlabach has started manufacturing poly lumber to be used by Little Cottage Co. and also to be sold to other furniture makers. The company is looking to expand its wholesale business.

Marion County Commissioners approve sewer assessment project on Brookpark Road
Marion Star, June 24, 2022
The Marion County Sanitary Engineer's Office has approved hiring a firm to assess the condition of a sewer line that was incorrectly built when the county sewer system was constructed in 1976.

The Marion County Commissioners approved hiring RedZone Robotics, based in Warrendale, Pennsylvania, to conduct the assessment project. The contract amount for the project is $29,950. RedZone Robotics specializes in the inspection of wastewater systems and infrastructure, according to information found on the company website.

According to Sanitary Engineer Phil Wright, "1,100 linear feet of the main interceptor sewer serving the Sewer District 7 area" is the portion of line that was installed incorrectly and is in need of assessment. He said due to the improper construction, that section of the interceptor sewer line is vulnerable to increased degradation because it remains flooded at all times.

Wayne National Forest Funds discussed at commission
Marietta Times, June 24, 2022
The payment in lieu of taxes from Wayne National Forest was a topic of discussion during Thursday morning's meeting of the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

A letter regarding PILT from Wayne National Forest was sent to the commission from County Auditor Matthew Livengood.

"For natural forest products, two classes of entities receive funds: 50 percent to the local school district and 50 percent to be divided between those with responsibilities as part of the county highway and bridge system within the Wayne National Forest," he wrote. "The road and bridge portion is split 50 percent to the county engineer for bridges and the remaining 50 percent between the county engineer and townships, based on a proration of road mileage within the Wayne National Forest."

Fluor-BWXT honored by Scioto County Commissioners
Daily Times, June 23, 2022
The Scioto County Commissioners presented Fluor-BWXT (FBP) two proclamations for promoting, industrial, economic, commercial and civic development for Scioto County over the past 10 years and recognizing the plant's historical 70th-year milestone.

"We are privileged to present two proclamations today to Fluor-BWXT for not only being a supporting economic force in our community but also to recognize the longevity of the Portsmouth plant's existence," said Bryan Davis, Scioto County commissioner.

Davis read the first resolution that highlighted the historical beginnings through the decommissioning and demolition of the plant and thanked the organization for the continual support of the surrounding counties. The second resolution highlighted FBP's Opportunity Fund, which is part of the Community Commitment Fund and has assisted Scioto County Economic Development, "in leveraging investment, both capital and machinery and equipment, to the extent of $705, 871, allowing for 313 full-time jobs to be created and 670 full-time jobs to be retained."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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JUNE 27, 2022
NW OHIO DISTRICT DAY

JULY 1, 2022
BEGINNING OF NEW STATE FISCAL YEAR

JULY 4, 2022
INDEPENDENCE DAY

AUGUST 2, 2022
OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRIMARY ELECTION

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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Summit County and Logan County

Summit County received its name due to it being the highest point along the Ohio and Erie Canal. Summit Lake, located southwest of downtown Akron, stands at about 975 feet above sea level.

The highest point in the state, however, is located 124 miles away in Logan County. Campbell Hill, two miles north of downtown Bellefontaine, peaks at 1,549 feet above sea level. Campbell Hill is the 8th lowest state high point in the country.

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