COUNTIES CURRENT
CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

July 5, 2022

Auglaize County played host to the Northwest District Meeting on June 27, which included an update on issues impacting counties from State Representative Susan Manchester (District 84, Waynesfield). Pictured with Representative Manchester (center) are Allen County and Auglaize County Commissioners Cory Noonan, John Bergman, David Bambauer, Brian Winegardner, and Beth Seibert, along with Auglaize County Engineer Andrew Baumer.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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First round of Demolition and Site Revitalization grants awarded to counties

On July 1, the DeWine-Husted Administration and the Ohio Department of Development announced the first round of grant awards under the Demolition and Site Revitalization Program. The first round contained $42.2 million to 87 counties. The Department of Development reports that it did not receive any requests from Preble County. A full list of the awards can be found here.

The first round of awards was capped at $44 million, as each county had a $500,000 set-aside. The awards granted on Friday represent the total amount requested by each county up to its $500,000 set-aside, with 72 counties putting in requests in excess of their set-aside.

The remaining $107.8 million will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis among counties that submitted requests in excess of $500,000.

The program, authorized in HB 110, the main operating budget for state fiscal years 2022-2023, contains $150 million for grants to assist in demolition of commercial and residential buildings and to revitalize the surrounding areas. You can learn more about the program here.

Traffic enforcement cameras reports must be submitted by July 31

As a reminder, any county that operated or contracted with another party to operate traffic enforcement cameras during the previous fiscal year must file a report with the Department of Taxation by **July 31, 2022**. Failure to do so may result in a county forfeiting its funding from the Local Government Fund. This is governed by ORC Section 5747.502.

A blank version of the report can be found here.

Please contact the Ohio Department of Taxation, Revenue Accounting Division at RevenueAccounting@tax.state.oh.us or call (614) 466-7150 with any questions regarding how to file the report.

CCAO publishes County Advisory Bulletin on HB 377

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine signed HB 377 into law. To help provide counties an overview of the act and its many provisions, CCAO has published a County Advisory Bulletin (CAB) on the bill.

HB 377 allocates $422 million in ARPA funds to small cities, villages, and townships (referred to as "non-entitlement units" in the ARPA language), allocates $500 million to the Appalachian Community Grant program, allocates $20 million to the Secretary of State for reimbursement to county boards of elections for costs associated with the August 2nd primary election, and clarifies thresholds needed for election workers to be eligible for OPERS.

The CAB includes a table with the reimbursement funding available to each county.

The CAB can be directly accessed here or on the County Advisory Bulletins page on the CCAO website.

Virtual meeting authority has expired

This is another notice that public bodies **can no longer** hold meetings virtually. Future meetings must be held in person with officials physically present. This does not apply to entities that have statutory authority to hold meetings virtually, such as multi-county petition ditch meetings.

With the legislature away from Columbus until the fall, CCAO does not anticipate an extension of this authority.

BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator cohort named

On June 27, the DeWine-Husted Administration and Broadband Ohio announced the first planning and capacity-building cohort to help leverage historic funding for broadband infrastructure.

The cohort is composed of four teams (Team Defiance County, Team Shelby County, Team Tuscarawas County, and Team Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission) that represent 11 counties.

The cohort is part of the BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator program, aimed at offering community planning support to help villages, cities, and counties prepare for broadband funding opportunities by helping these local communities create plans on how to expand broadband access. These plans will make grant applications an easier and streamlined process.

Additionally, the program will offer more than 30 hours of no-cost counceling from the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society and Ohio State University Extension on how communities can gather data, identify broadband goals, and target capital funding to support implementation of these goals.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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OhioRISE officially launches

The Ohio Department of Medicaid in partnership with Aetna Better Health officially launched the OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) Program on July 1, 2022. OhioRISE is a specialized managed care program for youth with complex behavioral health and multi-system needs.

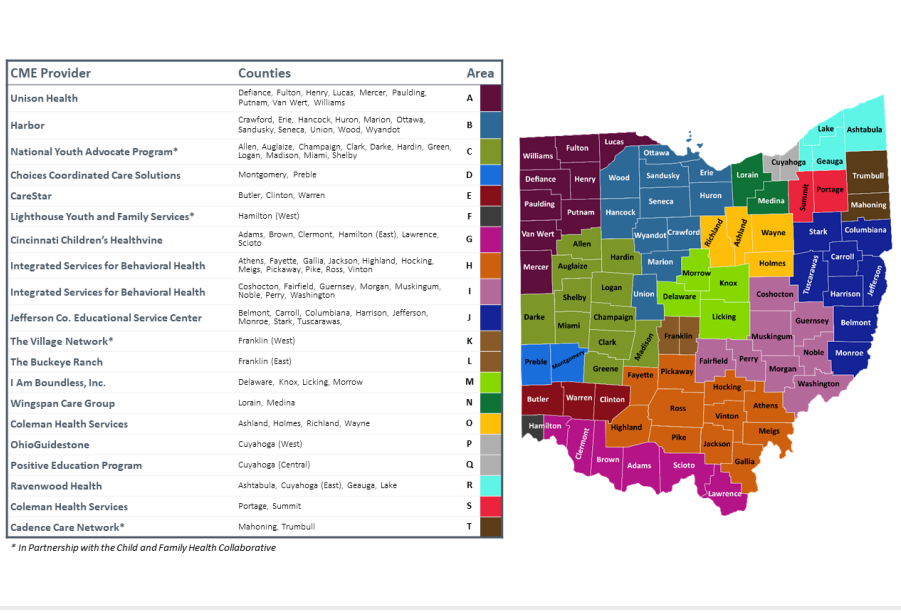
20 Care Management Entities (CMEs) around the state will serve as the go-to providers delivering wraparound care coordination for children and youth enrolled in OhioRISE who have the most complex behavioral health needs. A CME FAQ is available here.

The Ohio Administrative Code rules for OhioRISE were developed over a series of 49 Advisory Council and Workgroup meetings since January 2021. The final rules are now available in OAC Chapter 5160-59.

The OhioRISE Program 2022 Member Handbook is also available now.

The OhioRISE FAQ document is available here.

Below: A map of CMEs and their coverage areas. Click image to enlarge.



August 2nd primary election updates

Ohio Secretary of State Issues New Elections Security Directive

Last week, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose issued a new security directive for boards of elections. The new directive instructs county boards of elections on continuing security steps and outlines additional requirements that each board must take to enhance its overall election security and protect its information technology systems.

The Secretary of State's office will provide up to $10,000 of Help America Vote Act funds to improve election security and implement the requirements of this directive. All items in this Directive must be completed by **December 30, 2022**, unless otherwise specified. The funds may only be used to implement requirements contained in the directive and can be accessed after completing the following steps:

- Submit a plan identifying how they intend to meet the Directive requirements;
- Provide an estimate of the associated costs to HAVAGrant@OhioSoS.gov; and
- Receive approval of the plan.

The Secretary of State's Office also enrolled each board of elections domain in the Department of Homeland Security Crossfeed service. This service is free to elections officials and it scans web applications and underlying infrastructure for known vulnerabilities and compiles the information into a single dashboard. More information on the service can be found at Crossfeed | CISA. Additionally, elections officials can take advantage of a full menu of free DHS services, however they must continue to request access to these services no later than **July 15, 2022**. Requests for continuation of these services should be emailed to CISAServiceDesk@cisa.dhs.gov, copying HAVAGrant@OhioSoS.gov.

If you have any questions regarding this Directive, please contact the Secretary of State's Elections Counsel at (614) 728-8789 or the cyber liaison assigned to your county.

Usage of $20 million dollars for the August 2nd Primary Election

In recognition of the unusual nature of the 2022 primary election, the Ohio General Assembly appropriated an additional $20 million to counties to conduct the August 2nd primary election, signed into law in HB 377 last week. This amount is in addition to the previously allocated $9 million dollars for the spring primary. A breakdown of your county's allocation can be found here. The appropriation further solidifies the state-county partnership and we are appreciative for the financial assistance during this unprecedented election year.

In addition to the $20 million that has been newly appropriated, the deadline for which the $9 million previously appropriated for the spring primary must be expended or encumbered has been pushed back from October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. This aligns the deadline with the new $20 million. Remaining funds that are unexpended or unencumbered after December 31, 2022 will be returned to the state General Fund.

CCAO is currently working with the Ohio Secretary of State's office to determine how counties can access the aforementioned funds as well as what expenses will qualify for the state funding. We believe the mechanics of the funding will operate in a similar manner to the spring primary funding. Once your county board of election signs a grant agreement with the Secretary of State's office, they will be mailed a check for the full amount listed in the linked spreadsheet. We anticipate that the funding can be used for the following expenses relative to the August 2nd primary election:

- **Administrative Costs**: the costs incurred by the Board for staff overtime and the hiring and training of temporary staff for data entry, voting machine programming, reprogramming, testing, and training costs, ensuring accurate voter rolls, poll worker recruitment and training, and review and improvement of processes to promote Board efficiency for the primary election.
- **Vendor Expenses**: the costs incurred by the Board for absentee ballot printing setup, the election management system, voter registration, and GIS and mapping.
- **Ballot Production Increases**: the costs incurred by the board for expediting the printing of ballots, restructuring existing contracts for absentee ballot outsourcing, changes to the number of pages per ballot style, and setup costs for absentee ballot outsourcing.
- **Additional Pre-Approved Purposes**: The Board may also seek permission in writing by submitting requests that clearly identify how the expenditure relates to administering the 2022 primary election.

If you have any questions regarding August 2nd primary elections, please contact Legislative Counsel Kyle Petty at 614-220-7977 or via email at kpetty@ccao.org.

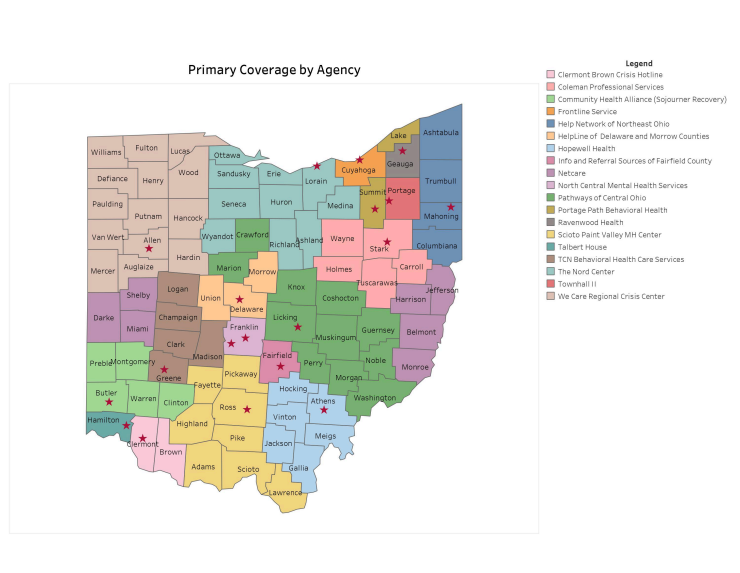
OhioMHAS 988 Stakeholder Update Webinar Recording, Community Toolkit, Other Resources Available

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)

Below: Ohio's 988 Lifeline Providers Map (click to enlarge)



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.

AARP continues Deciding Voices Listening Tour

AARP Ohio has kicked 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 remaining 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.

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

Two upcoming Ohio EPA-related webinars

On July 19, the Ohio EPA will host a webinar regarding risk management and how it relates to water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants, particularly those that use cholorine in excess of 2,500 pounds in a process.

Continuing education units for water and wastewater operator certification and environmental health specialists can be earned through the webinar.

You can register for the webinar here.

Additionally, on July 26 at 11:00 a.m. the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation will host a webinar about Ohio EPA regulations and how businesses can ensure they remain in compliance. Continuing education and BWC discount program credits will be available for this webinar as well. You can register for the webinar 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.

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.

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.

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.

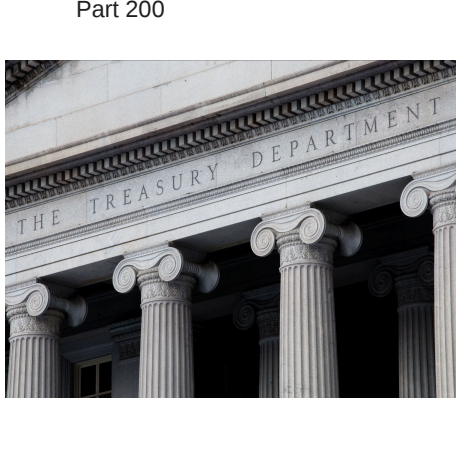
ARPA FISCAL RECOVERY FUND: OVERVIEW OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND UNIFORM GUIDANCE
National Association of Counties and Government Finance Officers Association
Webinar recorded April 14, 2022
With the upcoming Project and Expenditure Report deadline fast approaching on April 30, join NACo and Government 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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County, township again discuss Licking View sewer issues
Times Recorder, June 28, 2022
The Muskingum County Commissioners, the Falls Township trustees and members of the county's engineering, water and sewer departments met on Monday to try and come to an agreement about how to proceed with the Licking View sewer replacement project.

The neighborhood, west of Zanesville along Licking and Rehl roads has been plagued by flooding when rain overwhelms the storm sewers. Compounding the woes from flooding, many homes illegally tapped into the system to use it as a sanitary sewer. When flooding does occur, it leaves raw sewage in the streets and lawns of the area. The system was originally built as a storm sewer, said Stan Lucas, head of the county sewer department, but residents tapped into the system, sending raw sewage into the Licking when the system worked, but into the streets and lawns of the area when it doesn't.

Tuscarawas County withdraws from juvenile attention system
Times-Reporter, June 27, 2022
Tuscarawas County has withdrawn from the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System (MCJAS) and will be contracting for detention services with Muskingum County.

Commissioners voted unanimously on Monday to make the change, acting on the recommendation of Probate/Juvenile Judge Adam Wilgus. The withdrawal is effective Dec. 31, and the 10-year contract with Muskingum County begins on Jan. 1, 2023.

Tuscarawas County has been a member of the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System since 1973. Membership in the system in 2022 cost the county $1.4 million for juvenile detention.

Butler County passes $113.5M budget; projects decrease in sales tax revenue
Journal-News, June 28, 2022
Butler County commissioners on Monday passed a $113.7 million general fund budget for the next year that accounts for possible economic pressures that could impact the county.

County Administrator Judi Boyko is projecting general fund revenues will come in "slightly less" than $118 million and various other elected officials, departments and independent boards will spend $113.7 million.

"Our revenue estimates predict a moderately fit economy with sustained strong property values and increased earnings on investments, with a temperate prediction surrounding construction and development interests and consumer spending," Boyko said.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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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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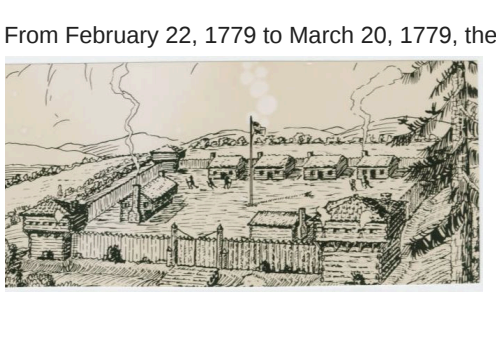
Tuscawaras County

While Ohio has numerous places named in honor of Revolutionary Era figurers, Tuscawaras County is home to the only fort built in the Ohio Country during the Revolutionary War. Fort Laurens was built in 1778 as a potential staging ground for an attack on Detroit, but harsh winter conditions led to most of its garrison being reassigned to Fort Pitt (modern-day Pittsburg).

From February 22, 1779 to March 20, 1779, the fort was sieged by a force comprised of British soldiers and warriors from the Lenape Tribe, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, the Munsee Tribe, and the Wyandotte Nation. The siege was a draw, with the British forces and their allies withdrawing before American forces from Fort Pitt arrived.



The site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and can be visited in Bolivar, Tuscarawas County.

Above: Artist rendering of Fort Laurens, courtesy of the Fort Laurens Museum

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