August 15, 2022

The "Heritage Harvesters" mural in downtown Wilmington, the county seat of Clinton County. The mural celebrates the county's agricultural history and features the likeness of former Wilmingtonites.

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Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | ARPA and BIF Resources | County News | Did You Know? | Job Postings

Statehouse Report | Print Version | Dates to Remember

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

Back to Top

Application window for $50 million in jail project funding opens

The Department of Rehabilitation & Correction (DRC) has opened the application window for $50 million in jail project funding that was included in the most recent capital appropriations bill.

Applications will be evaluated through a process similar to that used for projects funded under the prior capital budget, with one notable change. The question regarding cost per bed will no longer be a "scored question" but it will still be considered for projects intending to expand a jail's housing capacity.

The application can be found here, as well as the announcement letter and an OBM guide on allowable capital expenditures.

CCAO recommends that all counties apply for funds through the program. Even if you consider it unlikely your county will receive funding through the program, applying shows the Dewine-Husted Administration the overwhelming need for jail funding and will help the Association lobby for more funding in the future.

In addition to the $50 million discussed above, there is a total of $575,000 available for designated jails identified in HB 687. A funding guide will be sent directly to these recipients from DRC.

The application deadline for the $50 million pool is November 30, 2022.

NOTE: the application PDF states that the deadline is October 30, 2022. This is an error; the deadline is November 30.

If you have any questions about the grant program or would like to discuss issues with your county jail that may not be covered by these funds, please contact Legislative Counsel Kyle Petty at kpetty@ccao.org or 614-220-7977.

Six county jail projects receive $5 million for small-scale projects

Last week Governor Mike DeWine announced the awarding of $5 million to six county jails for targeted safety, security, and operational projects. The $5 million is part of the $50 million allocated for county jail projects in the last capital appropriations bill in 2020.

Of that $50 million, $45 million was dedicated to major construction projects while the remaining $5 million, awarded last week, was reserved for smaller-scale, immediate safety concerns.

The money will fund the following projects:

- Darke County Jail - $1.8 million for security upgrades
- Ross County Jail - $1.6 million for security upgrades
- Monroe County Jail - $329,000 for a sewer system project
- Erie County Jail - $150,000 for a sewer system project
- Highland County Jail - $179,000 for security upgrades
- Pickaway County Jail - $902,000 for a sewer system project

This money is separate from the $50.8 million allocated under the current capital appropriations budget, the application window for which has just opened (see prior story).

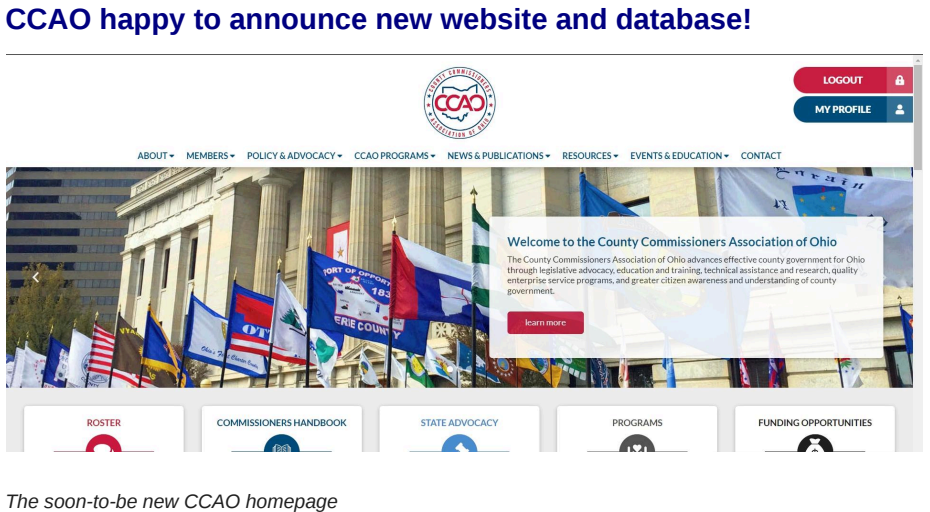
Whittington named Chair of OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board

During its meeting on August 10, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board named Ashtabula County Commissioner Kathryn Whittington the Chair of the Board. Commissioner Whittington is the representative of Region 13, which is made up of Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, and Portage counties.

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board is one of the mechanisms established to disburse settlement proceeds from opioid litigation into Ohio's communities to help abate the opioid crisis. The Foundation will receive 55% of opioid settlement funds, which it will use to award grants to the 19 regions the state has been divided into (the remaining 45% of settlement funds go directly to the state government [15%] and local governments [20%]).

Congratulations to Commissioner Whittington!

CCAO happy to announce new website and database!



The soon-to-be new CCAO homepage

CCAO has partnered with Dublin-based TCS Software to overhaul the Association's website and database. The final product will, for the first time in the Association's history, firmly link the membership database with the website.

County staff will be able to create an account on the site and register for CCAO events through the site itself instead of a third-party platform. This will allow county staff and Association staff to access event history with ease.

The Association has also taken this opportunity to streamline the website by removing outdated pages and reducing clutter caused by too many links on one page.

In the future the website will also include a merchandise store and certain member-only features such as message boards for commissioners, county executives, and county council members to exchange best practices and tips.

CCAO partnered with TCS Software due to the company's specialization in association database and website practices. Among the other organizations that have partnered with TCS are the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association, the Ohio Council of County Officials, the Ohio State Medical Association, and the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association.

The new website and database will formally launch this week.

Register today for the CCAO Workforce, Families and Children Symposium!

August 25-26, 2022
Cherry Valley Hotel, Newark, Ohio

Click here to register

This symposium for county commissioners, county executives, county council members, and their key staff will focus on showcasing innovative ways counties, state and other partners are working to keep Ohio a place where people thrive. This includes bolstering and training our workforce, protecting our youngest Ohioans, caring for our older Ohioans, and so much more. Attendees will leave with tangible examples to take back to their counties. We hope you'll join us for this great learning opportunity!

Speakers include:

- JP Nauseef, President and CEO, JobsOhio
- Steve Stivers, President & CEO, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- Director Matt Damschroder, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Director Amy Ast, Ohio Department of Youth Services
- and more!

Click here for the Symposium Agenda

Click here to register
Registration Fee $50

Reduced room rate of $96 plus tax available through July 25th at the Cherry Valley Hotel, 2299 Cherry Valley Rd SE, Newark, OH, 43055. Call 740-788-1200 and reference CCAO to reserve your room now!

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Back to Top

Ohio and Kentucky submit a second application for Brent Spence Bridge funding

Governor Mike DeWine and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear jointly submitted an application to the Bridge Investment Program, funded via the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to fund improvements on the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project.

The application, along with one submitted in May, requested a total of $1.66 billion to both build a companion bridge to the current bridge's west and to make a number of improvements to the current bridge and the roadway network connecting to the river crossing on both sides of the Ohio River.

The Ohio Task Force on Volunteer Fire Service conducting roundtable listening events

Over the next three months the Ohio Task Force on Volunteer Fire Service will conduct a series of roundtable listening events to provide an opportunity for firefighters and community members to share information with members of the task force.

The task force, of which Ottawa County Commissioner Mark Stahl is a member, was created by Governor Mike DeWine to study and make recommendations to improve volunteer firefighter services in the state. Ohio has 1,180 fire departments and approximately 70% of all fire services in the state is provided by volunteer firefighters.

The task force held its roundtable in the northeast region of the state in July, but the rest of the state's regions' meetings are still forthcoming. Information about the upcoming meetings, as well as a link to join them via Microsoft Teams, can be found in this document.

If you have questions regarding the meetings or the task force, please contact Legislative Counsel Kyle Petty at kpetty@ccao.org or 614-220-7977.

UPDATE: ODJFS co-hosting virtual August tax credit forum for small businesses

Last week's Counties Current included an announcement that ODJFS and the IRS were hosting a series of in-person events. In the intervening days, the events were shifted to one virtual event. A revised announcement is below.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are co-hosting a free Virtual Small Business Forum from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Aug. 24 to explain how small businesses can earn tax credits through the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program. The WOTC program offers a federal tax incentive for employers that hire individuals from targeted groups, including veterans, public assistance recipients, restored citizens, individuals with disabilities, and others.

"We encourage small businesses to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about this program," said ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder. "WOTC tax credits lower tax bills dollar for dollar. Applying is simple, and there is no limit to the number of new hires who may qualify."

The tax credits range from $2,400 to $9,600, depending on the target group. Since October 2021, ODJFS has certified more than 100,000 WOTC applications. As a result, thousands of Ohio employers have received more than $240 million in tax credits.

The forum will be led by Ohio WOTC Program Administrator BJ Knutson and a representative from the IRS Stakeholder Liaison Office. To register and receive a link, please email CL.SL.Area.3@irs.gov.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Back to Top

Lead pipe mapping grant application window now open

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has opened the second round of applications for the H2Ohio Lead Line Mapping Grant. The program assists public water systems with preparing service line inventories as required by the US EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

Applications are open until September 9 and awards will be issued within 30 days of the window's close. More information can be found here.

PUCO to host hearing on grid resilience funding opportunities

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will host a public hearing regarding potential funding opportunities for electric grid resilience on August 24 at the PUCO offices in Columbus.

A copy of the formal public hearing notice includes questions about the funding opportunities that will be addressed at the hearing and is available here.

Registration open for OHPELRA's Fall Training

On September 16, the Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association (OHPELRA) will host its fall training session in Lancaster.

The event will feature three sessions: "How to Implement a DE&I (diversity, equity, and inclusion) Program", "DE&I Best Practice Panel Discussion", and "Coaching Others to Coach".

Registration can be completed at OHPELRA's website and is $175 for OHPELRA members and $275 for non-members.

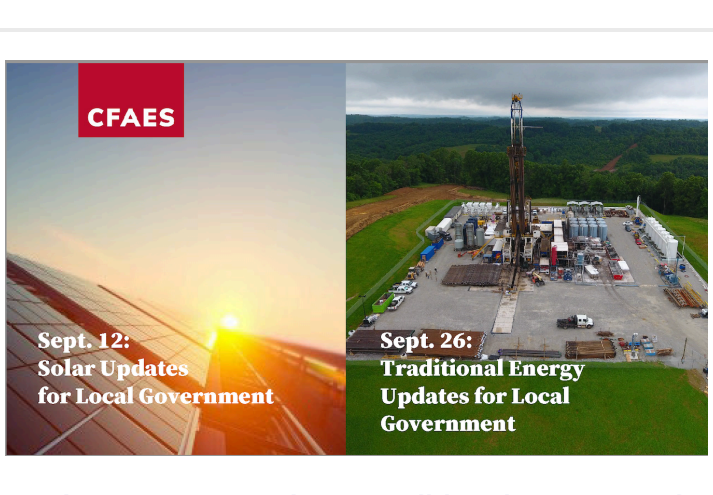
Application window for the Ohio Body-Worn Camera Grant Program's second round opens

The second round of the Ohio Body-Worn Camera Grant Program is now open, with the Office of Criminal Justice Services accepting applications through September 8. A training webinar regarding the program will be held August 10. While it is not mandatory, it will provide helpful information on how to best prepare an application. Registration can be completed here.

Grant funds can be used for any of the following:

- Body-worn cameras (dashboard cameras are excluded) and related hardware and software for officers who regularly interact with the public
- Video storage mechanisms such as servers or cloud service
- Redacting software/service
- Editing/tagging software
- IT costs to support the program
- Consultant fees for camera programming and storage setup
- Maintenance and support fees
- Contract/consultant for programming/installation, training, technical assistance
- Personnel costs

More information regarding the grant program, and other public safety grant programs, can be found here.



OSU Extension Program: Solar & Traditional Energy Updates for Local Government

September 12: Solar
September 26: Traditional Energy (Oil & Gas)
10:00-11:30 a.m. (Zoom links provided upon registration)
Register here.

As a local government leader, learn more about what your responsibilities are and what you can or cannot do related to energy topics and projects. Join speakers from Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Farm Bureau and The Ohio Department of Natural Resources to learn more about current Solar & Traditional Energy topics, legislation and trends.

If you have questions, please contact either Dan Lima (lima.19@osu.edu) or Gwynn Stewart (stewart.1818@osu.edu).

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

Back to Top

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.

Updated Treasury guidance provides flexibility for using ARPA funds for affordable housing

Last week the US Department of Treasury released new guidance that provides additional flexibility to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to boost the supply of affordable housing. This updated guidance follows the White House's recently released Housing Supply Action Plan that outlines how counties can leverage ARPA dollars for affordable housing.

Key highlights of the update guidance include:

- **Increased flexibility to use Recovery Funds for long-term affordable housing loans**: As outlined in the Final Rule, Recovery Funds may be used to finance long-term affordable housing loans. SLFRF permits funds to be used, among other uses, to combat the public health and negative economic effects of the pandemic, including by building affordable housing. The updated guidance allows counties to use Recovery Funds to fully finance long-term affordable housing loans, including the principal of any such loans, subject to certain conditions. These changes will facilitate significant additional financing for affordable housing projects, including those that may be eligible for additional assistance under Treasury's Low Income Housing Credit (LIHTC).
- **Expanded eligible uses:** Under Treasury's Final Rule, counties were permitted to use funds for affordable housing, identifying uses consistent with two major U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs – the National Housing Trust Fund (NTF) and Home investments Partnerships Program (HOME) – as presumptively eligible under the Recovery Fund. The updated guidance expands that list to include an expanded range of federal programs from multiple agencies, permitting more options for how states and local governments can presumptively use funds for affordable housing. Additionally, Treasury updated its guidance to clarify that Recovery Funds may be used to finance the development, repair, or operation of any affordable rental housing unit that provides long-term affordability of 20 years or more to households at or below 65 percent of the local area median income.
- **Treasury and HUD released new "How-To" guide**: Treasury worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to publish a How-to Guide for Affordable Housing. The guide provides a summary of how counties can use ARPA Recovery Funds for affordable housing and combine these dollars with other federal funds. In addition to this guide, Treasury and HUD will host a series of webinars, which will be announced at a later date.

Treasury has reflected the above updates related to eligible housing expenditures in their Final Rule FAQs. Specific updates include:

- **FAQ 2.14 (pgs. 10-11):** The updated FAQ reflects new presumptively eligible uses, which include: 1. projects that would be eligible for funding under an expanded list of federal housing programs and; 2. projects for the development, repair or operation of affordable rental housing with certain income and affordability requirements.
  - Presumption 1: In addition to projects funded by the National Housing Trust Fund (NTF) and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), which were already eligible under previous guidance, any projects funded by the following federal housing program are now also eligible:
    - The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (administered by Treasury)
    - The Public Housing Capital Fund (administered by HUD)
    - Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program and Section 811
    - Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program (administered by HUD)
    - Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) (administered by HUD)
    - Multifamily Preservation & Revitalization program (administered by USDA)
  - Presumption 2: Under the new guidance, Treasury will presume that an investment in the development, repair, or operation of any affordable rental housing unit is an eligible use of Recovery Funds if the unit has a limited maximum income of 65 percent area median income (AMI, as imposed through a covenant, land use restriction agreement, or other enforceable legal requirements for a period of at least 20 years. A jurisdiction may establish a longer period of affordability at its discretion.

Important note for Presumption 1: These programs use different income limits than the definitions of low- and moderate-income adopted by Treasury. If a county chooses to invest in an affordable housing project under the above federal program, the investment agreement must adhere to all applicable local codes and requirements related to: Resident income restrictions; period of affordability and related covenant requirements for assisted units; tenant protections; and housing quality standards.

Counties may use Recovery Funds as part of the financing for a mixed-income housing project if the total financing made up of Recovery Funds does not exceed the total development costs attributable to affordable housing units limited to households at or below 65 percent AMI for the affordability period.

- **FAQ 4.9 (pgs. 35-36):** The updated FAQ reflects loans to fund investments in affordable housing projects. Recovery Funds can be used to finance certain loans that finance affordable housing investments. Counties may use Recovery Funds to make loans to finance affordable housing projects, funding the full principal amount of the loan, if the loan and project meet the following requirements:
  - The loan has a term of no less than 20 years
  - Affordable housing project being financed has an affordability period of no less than 20 years AFTER the project or assisted units are available for occupancy after ARPA investment
  - For loans to finance projects expected to be eligible for the low-income housing credit the project owner must agree to waive any right to request a qualified contract and repay any loaned funds to the entity that originated the loan at the time the project becomes non-compliant
  - This additional flexibility to finance qualified low-income housing projects aligns with that of the LIFELINE Act, which NACo endorsed.

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

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. **This reporting deadline only applies to counties with a population over 250,000 or that have received a total distribution of more than $10 million.**

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 Bipartisan 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. The next deadline is July 31 (for large counties only). The following resources are available to help CCAO members to navigate reporting requirements:

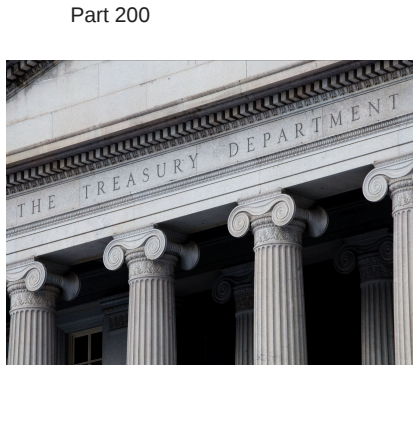
US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Webinar recorded April 21, 2022
Join NACo for a review of the Treasury Department's webinar on reporting guidelines and compliance requirements for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program. 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
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's (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.

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

Back to Top

Commissioners on trick-or-treat, dogs and jail
Daily Times, August 1, 2022
Scioto County Commissioners met on Thursday to discuss a packed agenda and to hear citizen concerns regarding various community development projects.

Commissioners expressed at the top of the meeting that several residents had reached out to inquire about trick-or-treat times for the county.

"This is likely the most important decision we will make all year," joked Chairman Scottie Powell. But when it came to designating the date and time for the occasion, Commissioners were all business.

"We always tackle this item when we start getting calls," Powell said. "There's a lot of people in the community that have to plan accordingly with work and being there for their children."

Summit County maintains strong credit rating from Moody's, S&P
Akron Beacon Journal, August 9, 2022
Two credit rating agencies have reaffirmed Summit County's strong credit rating.

Moody's Investors Service recently affirmed its Aa1 rating to Summit County's credit position, and S&P Global Ratings affirmed its AA+ rating.

"These ratings mean Summit County has a very strong credit outlook," the county said in a statement. "When assigning a credit rating, Moody's and S&P consider factors like cash balance, tax base, debt burden, pension liability and institutional framework."

The county's $52 million bond sale was also rated Aa1 and AA+ by the respective agencies. The proceeds from the bonds will finance various capital projects, including the construction and equipping of a regional 911 dispatch center, the installation of a cloud-based enterprise resource software system and improvements to several county facilities, including the county courthouse, jail and medical examiner's office, the county said.

Commissioners to help fund bike trail extension, West End projects
Mansfield News Journal, August 11, 2022
Plans to connect the Richland B&O Trail to the City of Mansfield's multi-use trail on Trimble Road are back on track.

The Richland County commissioners tentatively agreed Tuesday to commit $500,000 to the project as well as another $200,000 to the city's West End improvement project in the area bounded by Glessner and Marion avenues and South Main and West First streets.

City officials had proposed using $500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act Funds toward the $1.75 million bike trail project, but Mansfield City Council voted 8-0 at their Aug. 3 meeting to pull the funding. At-large council members Stephanie Zader and Phil Scott said at that time there were a number of other necessary projects within the city parks system.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Back to Top

AUGUST 12, 2022
CORSA BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 15, 2022
CENTRAL DISTRICT MEETING, UNION COUNTY

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

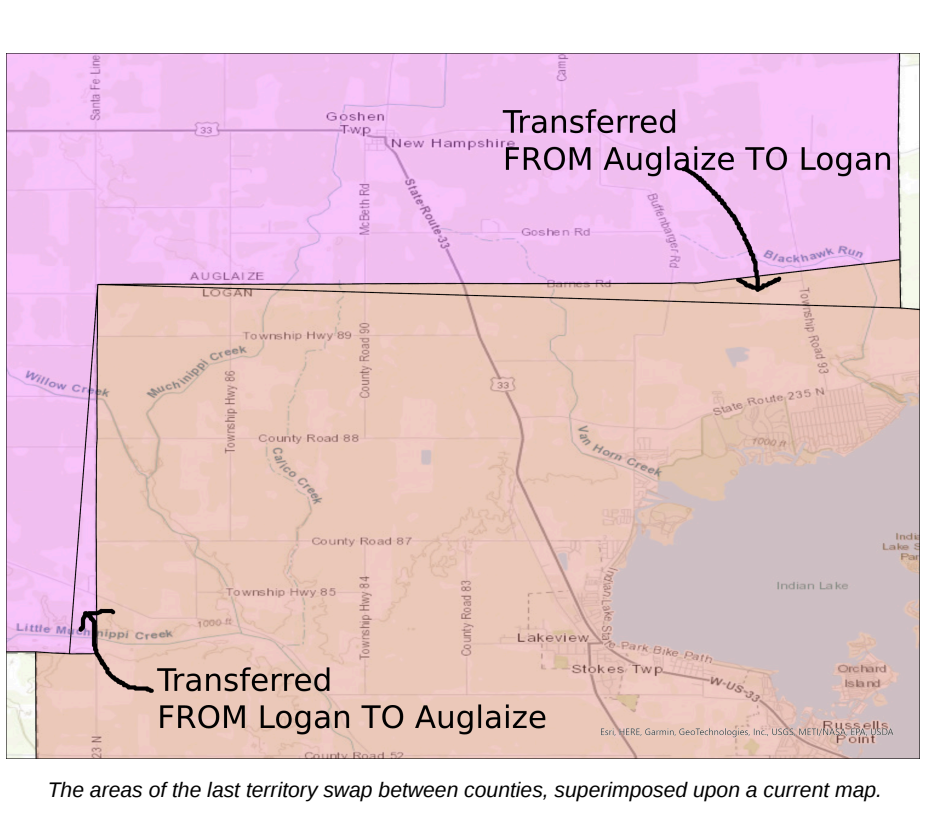
AUGUST 26, 2022
CCAO AND CEBCO BOARD MEETINGS (CHERRY VALLEY)

DID YOU KNOW?

Back to Top

Auglaize County and Logan County

According to the Historical County Boundaries Project the last territory transfers between Ohio counties occurred in November 1888 when Auglaize County and Logan County traded two stretches of land to establish their present-day borders. The swap netted Logan County about 0.55 square miles.



The areas of the last territory swap between counties, superimposed upon a current map.
