August 22, 2022

CCAO is excited to see everyone at the Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark this Thursday and Friday for the Workforce, Families, and Children Symposium!

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

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

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program expanded; sixth round of awards announced

On August 15, Governor Mike DeWine announced that the administration is increasing the amount of funding available through the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program by $42 million to a total of $100 million. The program, funded through state-level ARPA dollars, is intended to give local law enforcement additional tools to address violence, including addressing staffing concerns.

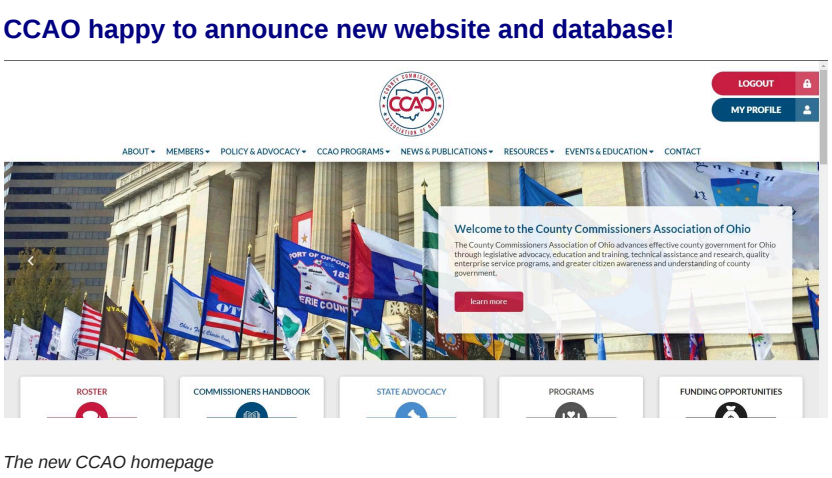
Part of the reason the program's funding has been increased is because the original $58 million was insufficient to cover all the qualifying requests that had been submitted. The additional $42 million will come from state-level American Rescue Plan Act funding set aside by the state for law enforcement and first responders.

Later in the week, Governor DeWine announced the recipients of the seventh round of awards through the program. The seventh round distributed $8.5 million to 21 agencies across the state, including three county entities:

- Allen County Sheriff's Office ($639,691)
- Crawford County Prosecutor's Office ($110,641)
- Henry County Sheriff's Office ($764,983)

Last week's awards bring the total distributed to local governments across the seven rounds to $37.2 million out of the $100 million now allocated for the program. Nearly 20% of the awards have gone to county entities (22 out of 119) and about $10.3 million has gone to county entities.

CCAO happy to announce new website and database!



The new CCAO homepage

CCAO is happy to announce that the Association's new website is live! The new website, along with a new database, is the product of a months-long process involving a number of CCAO staffers and TCS Software, a company specializing in association websites. The new website is more streamlined than the current one, letting us publish more information while keeping the site more readable than before.

One feature that we are excited to share with you is a new page listing grant and other funding opportunities. With the historic levels of funding available thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the number of grant programs available from both the state government and the federal government has greatly increased. We determined that the listings in our Counties Current newsletter were no longer sufficient, and thus the Grants and Funding Opportunities page was born. It will be rigorously updated to ensure counties have access to current and accurate information regarding grant programs.

Another exciting feature of the new site is a Members Only portion of the website. As the name suggests, this section will be accessible only by commissioners, county executives, county council members, and other key county staff such as county administrators and clerks. Members will be able to edit their information directly, as well as some additional features we will be rolling out in the future. The Members Only section will also feature a merchandise store where users can order merchandise featuring CCAO branding or their own county branding. In the coming weeks you will be receiving an email regarding your access and credentials to the Members Only section.

On the backend of the project, the integration between the new website and the new database will streamline a number of processes, such as the updating of member information, registration for events such as the CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference, and invoicing for event registration costs. While this portion of the project may be invisible to many users, it is essential to the Association and will produce dividends for our membership.

We are excited to finally roll this project out. It would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of CCAO staff members Tim Hoverman, Robin Garrett, Nedra Benson, Jessica Newbacher, and Nick Ciolli, as well as the helpful staff of TCS Software.

Last chance to register 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

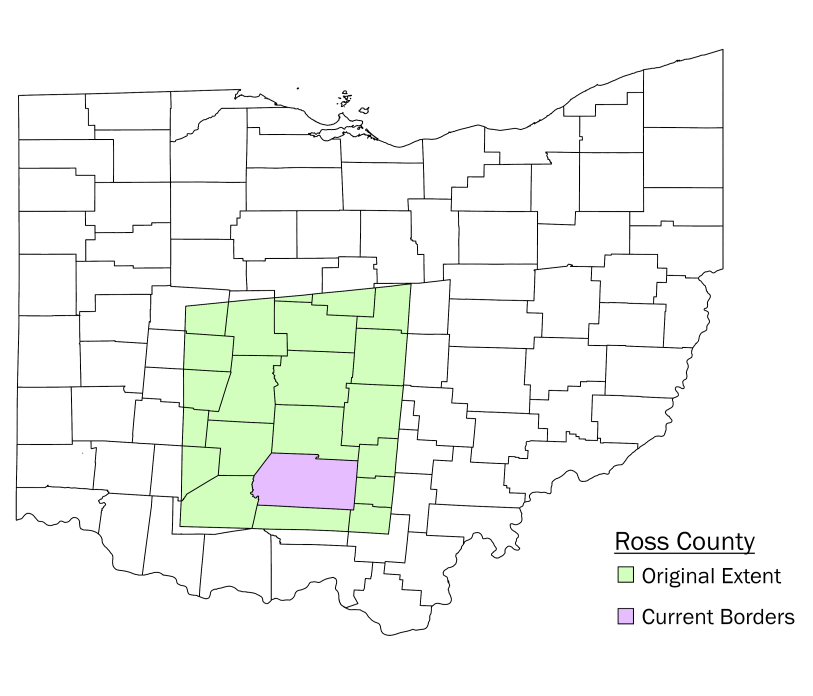
Click here to register
Registration Fee $50

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!

Happy birthday Ross County!

On August 20, Ross County celebrated its 224th birthday. Established in 1798, Ross County is one of Ohio's nine pre-statehood counties. The county, created out territory from Adams, Hamilton, and Washington counties, is named after James Ross, a Pennsylvanian senator who was friends with Arthur St. Clair, the governor of the Northwest Territory.

Ross County was the home of the "Chillicothe Junto," a group of early statehood advocates including Thomas Worthington, Edward Tiffin, and Nathaniel Massie. Chillicothe was also the first capital of Ohio.



STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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ODJFS Occupational Employment and Wage Statistic Reports

Many teams at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) work closely with employers. If a business or partner agency receives a request from the ODJFS Bureau of Labor Market Information asking them to complete an Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) report, please encourage them to respond. The aggregate data can help with business planning, state and local workforce development, training and educational services, career planning, and much more.

What is OEWS?
OEWS is a federal-state cooperative program between the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and state workforce agencies. Each year, the OEWS program collects information from approximately 13,500 Ohio businesses with over 950,000 employees. The results are used to produce employment and wage estimates for about 800 occupations. To ensure data quality, it's important for Ohio employers to respond.

Employers can respond in any of the following ways:

- **Online –** Go to idcfoews.bls.gov. Log in using their unique IDCF number.
- **Email –** Send an email with their data, including their IDCF number, to oewsohio@idcfmail.bls.gov.
- **Mail –** Fill out the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics Report they received by email or U.S. mail and return it to the address provided.
- **Fax –** Fill out the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics Report they received by email or U.S. mail and fax it to (614) 728-0759.
- **Phone –** Call (614) 752-9494. This is often the fastest method for business establishments with fewer than 20 employees.

Note: If a business establishment is closed, please let ODJFS know by email or phone.

Who uses OEWS?

- State and local workforce investment boards and training professionals use the data to determine the need for local employment, training, and educational services.
- Economic and workforce development specialists use the data to estimate the labor supply.
- Researchers use the data to understand labor market trends and labor costs for new markets.
- Students, counselors, and individuals use the data to find career planning information.
- Employers and compensation specialists use the data to determine equitable and competitive pay and recruiting packages.
- The state Bureau of Labor Market Information and local workforce agencies use the data to project Ohio's Top Jobs!

Questions?
Please visit OhioLMI.com/Home/OEWS/OEWShome or contact Ohio LMI staff at (614) 752-9494 or ContactLMI@jfs.ohio.gov.

Thank you in advance for your partnership in ensuring that Ohio's employment and wage estimates are accurate!

White House releases Inflation Reduction Act fact sheet for Ohio

Last week, President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act. The White House released fact sheets for each state, with Ohio's focusing on environmental aspects of the bill.

Among the policies the fact sheet highlights are tax credits for commercial building energy efficiency improvements, tax credits for the purchase of electric vehicles, and programs to help protect communities from flooding, extreme heat, and other natural disasters.

You can access the Ohio fact sheet here.

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.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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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.

School Safety Grant Program accepting applications

As CCAO staff travel across the state to listen about issues affecting counties, school safety is often mentioned. School safety is challenging to address but it is also a critical issue. In an effort to assist local governments with this issue, Governor DeWine recently announced the release of an additional $53 million in grant funding for school safety upgrades. Applicants can request up to $100,000 per school building to cover expenses associated with physical security enhancements, such as security cameras, public address systems, automatic door locks, visitor badging systems, and exterior lighting.

The funding is administered by the Ohio Facility Construction Commission and the additional guidelines for the program can be found here.

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.

Scholarship opportunity for Ohio Child Welfare Law Specialist certification and training

Ohio attorneys now can earn certification as a **Child Welfare Law Specialist** which signifies specialized knowledge, skill, and verified expertise in the field of child welfare law (the representation of children, parents, and agencies in child abuse and neglect cases). This certification is provided by the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC).

The Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO) and the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) have partnered to offer 100 scholarships for individuals seeking certification. Guardians ad litem, public defenders, attorneys representing children services and court-appointed attorneys are eligible. Each scholarship will pay for the necessary costs to complete the course and become certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist. Note: Individuals seeking certification ***do not*** have to take the Red Book training course to qualify for the scholarship.

Additionally, ODJFS and SCO have partnered with the National Association for Counsel for Children (NACC) again to provide a new **Ohio Specific, Child Welfare Attorney Virtual Training series**. The 2022 virtual training series will consist of the following four sessions (CLEs pending approval):

- **Session 1: Key Advocacy Moments in an Ohio Child Welfare Case**
  - **Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 5-6:30 PM ET**
- **Session 2: In Court and Out-of-Court Advocacy and Collaboration Throughout an Ohio Child Welfare Case**
  - **Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 5-6:30 PM ET**
- **Session 3: Selected Topics in Ohio Child Welfare Law and Practice**
  - **Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 5-6:30 PM ET**
- **Session 4: Evidentiary Laws, Objections, and Trial Advocacy**
  - **Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 5-6:30 PM ET**

The series is provided at no cost to Ohio attorneys who represent children/parents, Juvenile/Family Court staff, children services staff or any community professional interested in learning more about child welfare law.

Registration

Certification and/or the Red Book Training Course: Certification Registration

Ohio-Specific Training: Ohio Specific Training Registration

Scholarships and training are being funded by the Court Improvement Program Grant and ODJFS's Children's Justice Act Grant.

For questions, please contact: Abbey Christopher at CIPGrants@sc.ohio.gov or Tequilla.Washington@jfs.ohio.gov

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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 is open

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.

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.

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:

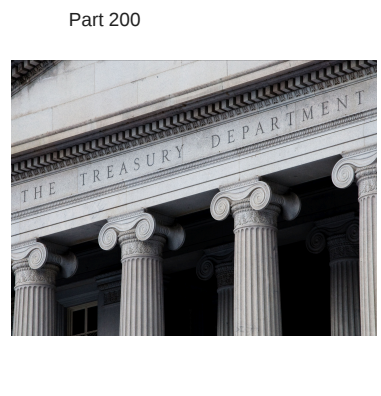
US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Webinar recorded April 21, 2022
Join NACo for a review of the Treasury Department's webinar on reporting guidelines and compliance requirements for the Coronavirus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

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Ohio Supreme Court rules against Judge Tim Grendell in ongoing payments clash with other Geauga County officials
Cleveland.com, August 17, 2022
The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled against a controversial Geauga County judge in his attempts to hire private lawyers to help him further pursue an ongoing clash with his fellow local elected officials.

The unanimous ruling has to do with a convoluted, lengthy feud between two Geauga County Republicans: Probate/Juvenile Judge Tim Grendell and county Auditor Chuck Walder. The dispute involves thousands of dollars in court payments that Walder initially refused to authorize, but was forced to approve after the Ohio Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling in Grendell's favor in February.

To make clear he disagreed with the payments, Walder posted copies of the associated invoices, checks and other associated records to his website. Grendell said one check included a court supervisor's personal address, which the judge said could put the supervisor's safety in jeopardy.

Judge: CVS, Walgreens, Walmart owe Lake and Trumbull counties damages
Columbus Dispatch, August 17, 2022
A federal judge in Cleveland awarded $650 million in damages Wednesday to two Ohio counties that won a landmark lawsuit against national pharmacy chains CVS, Walgreens and Walmart, claiming the way they distributed opioids to customers caused severe harm to communities and created a public nuisance.

U.S. District Judge Dan Polster said in the ruling that the money will be used to abate a continuing opioid crisis in Lake and Trumbull counties, outside Cleveland. Attorneys for the counties put the total price tag at $3.3 billion for the damage done to the counties.

Lake County is to receive $306 million over 15 years. Trumbull County is to receive $344 million over the same period. Polster ordered the companies to immediately pay nearly $87 million to cover the first two years of the abatement plan.

Commission discusses better services
Marietta Times, August 19, 2022
The Washington County Commission met Thursday morning to discuss business with the focus on providing better services for the public.

Emergency services are in the process of being updated with the construction of a new centralized, comprehensive 911 center with an intended purpose of more direct communication to improve efficiency, officials said.

Once opened, the building will also feature a new community center which would be a major benefit to have available for public use, especially regarding event planning within the region, said Commissioner Kevin Ritter. He also spoke about the need for the county to have a new strategic plan, as it has not been updated and reintroduced in almost two decades considering the last model for one was introduced back in 2004.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2, 2022
CEBCO RENEWAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

SEPTEMBER 5, 2022
LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022
CORSA ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
CCAO BOARD MEETING

DID YOU KNOW?

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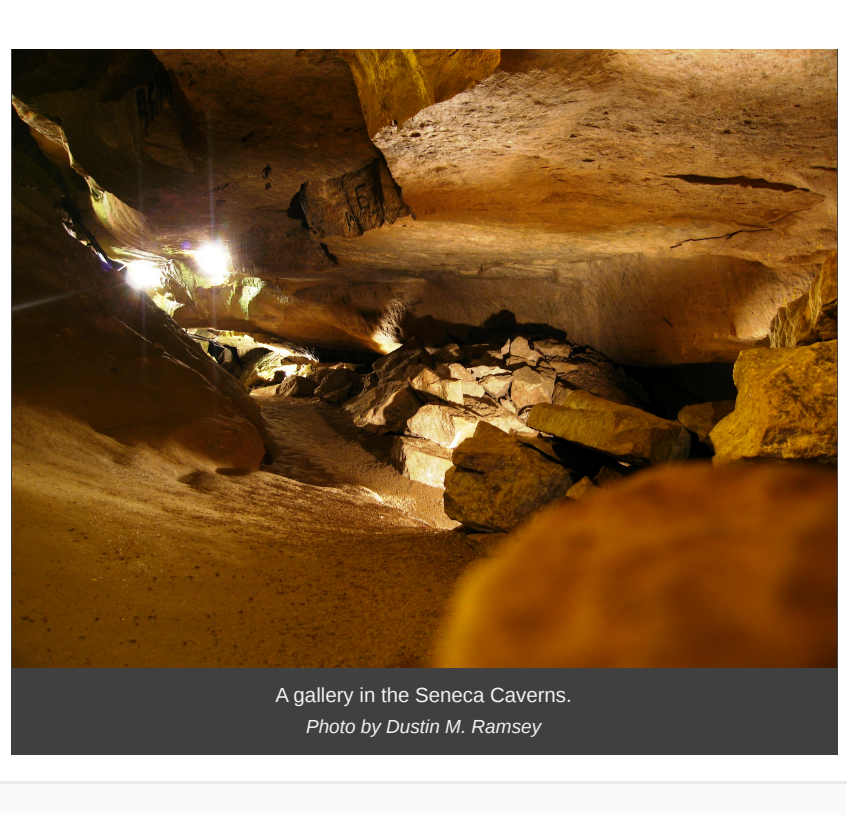
Seneca County

The Seneca Caverns, located in Seneca County, is a cave system that visitors can tour portions of. First discovered in 1872, visits can tour seven levels of the system (down to about 110 feet underground).

The cave is connected to an aquifer, meaning portions of the cave flood at certain parts of the year. Past the seventh level, the cave is flooded year-round. The deepest any human has gone is 220 feet underground, but it is known that the cave descends even further.

You can learn more about the Seneca Caverns here.



A gallery in the Seneca Caverns.
Photo by Dustin M. Ramsey

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