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August 29, 2022

The CCAO Board of Directors was honored to host Democratic gubernatorial candidate and former Mayor of Dayton Nan Whaley and lieutent gubernatorial candidate and current Cuyahoga County Councilmember Cheryl Stephens at its August 26 meeting. Whaley, Councilmember Stephens, and Board members had a good conversation about child care, affordable housing, and overcoming partisanship.

Top photo: Whaley and Montgomery County Commissioner Carolyn Rice
Bottom photo: Whaley and Councilmember Stephens addressing the CCAO Board of Directors

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Dale Norris, Harrison County Commissioner, passes away

CCAO was saddened to hear the news that Dale Norris, Harrison County Commissioner, passed away from cancer on August 27.

Dale had been serving Harrison County as commissioner since 2012 but his service to the community started long before that. He worked for many years for the Harrison County Highway Department, coached little league baseball and was the president of the Cadiz Baseball Association, as well as served on the board and as president of the Harrison County Fair.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, September 2 from 12-4 and 6-9 at Scott United Methodist Church, 817 East Market Street, Cadiz where funeral service will be held on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Cadiz Union Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to any of the three following organizations:

- Harrison County Cancer Crusaders, c/o Julie McPeak, 226 Charleston Street, Cadiz, Ohio 43907
- Harrison County Pulling for a Cure, P.O. Box 79, Cadiz, Ohio 43907
- Blues for a Cure, 7952 Thornbush Drive, Westerville, Ohio 43082

Please keep Dale's friends and family in your thoughts.

CCAO hosts successful Workforce, Families and Children Symposium

CCAO was happy to see many of our members, along with other county staff, at the Workforce, Families and Children Symposium held at Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark last week!

Sessions included how child care is vital to supporting Ohio's workforce, a discussion of challenges in the children services area, innovative county workforce programs, affordable housing, and more! For a copy of the presentations, please visit our website.

Thank you to our attendees, our speakers and panelists, and our sponsor partners for making this event a success!

CCAO publishes updated Commissioners Handbook chapter on Motor Vehicle License Tax

CCAO has published a revised Commissioners Handbook Chapter 20: County Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax to account for changes made since the chapter was last updated in 2013, most notably the authority for counties to levy a third additional $5 tax.

You directly access the updated chapter through the above link or through the Commissioners Handbook page on CCAO's website.

Please contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck at jhoneck@ccao.org or (614) 220-7982 with questions regarding permissive motor vehicle license taxes.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Two rules relaxed for PCSAs and private agencies

The Office of Families and Children (OFC) remains committed to partnering with each of you to find creative ways to help relieve the workforce challenges within your agencies. One of those ways has been to review policies and/or procedures that may have an impact on workforce, while not compromising federal and state statutory requirements, and significant changes to reporting and Ohio SACWIS needs. After a comprehensive review of policies and procedures for both the public and private agencies, the following Procedure Letters outline requirements that will be temporally revised:

- FCASPL 393 ***Rule Relaxations for PCSA Workforce***. This communication provides summarization of rule requirements in child welfare casework practice that can be temporarily relaxed, effective 9/1/2022 through 8/31/2023, to provide relief to the workforce.
  - Attachment FCASPL 393-Workforce Strategies - Detailed summarization of each approved workforce strategy with explanation on the subsequent impact they may have on programming, Ohio SACWIS, and reporting.
- FCASPL 394 ***Rule and Practice Relaxation for Public and Private Certified and Approved Agencies***. This communication provides summarization of rule and monitoring requirements for Certified and Approved facilities that can be temporarily relaxed, effective 9/1/2022 through 8/31/2023,to provide relief to the workforce.

These revisions will be effective **September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023**.

Further communication will be forthcoming, including a guidance document to assist with consistent implementation of relaxation strategies, as well as information on how Ohio SACWIS, reporting, monitoring, and technical assistance may be impacted. OFC will be tracking other requirements for future consideration.

For questions about FCASPL 393, please contact Denielle Rittinger at Denielle.Ell-Rittinger@jfs.ohio.gov.

Questions about FCASPL 394 may be directed to Sharla O'Keeffe at Sharla.O'Keeffe@Jfs.ohio.gov.

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!

Ohio chapter of International Association of Workforce Professionals to hold Fall conference

On October 6 and 7, the Ohio chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP) will be hosting its annual conference in Worthington.

Speakers at the event will include Nancy Fink, the President of the IAWP Board of Directors, BJ Knutson, the President of the IAWP Ohio Chapter, Matt Damschroder, the Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and Tommie Lewis, President and CEO of Make It Plain Consulting, among others.

The cost of registration is $200 for IAWP members and $250 for non-members.

The agenda for the event can be found here and registration can be completed here.

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.

Ohio EPA webinar and materials regarding BIL resources

Earlier this month, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a webinar regarding the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the resources that the BIL will make available, and how to nominate projects for the Water Pollution Control Fund. New rules established in the BIL will allow more communities to qualify for principal forgiveness.

You can access a recording of the webinar at the link above and/or view the presentation slides here.

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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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 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 payment (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:

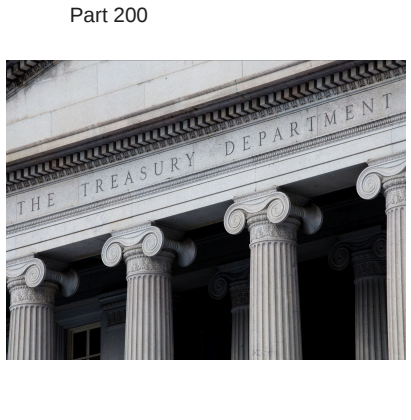
US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Webinar recorded April 21, 2022
Join NACo for a review of the Treasury Department's webinar on reporting guidelines and compliance requirements for the Coronavirus 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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Delayed decision on Butler County 20% property value hike fraught with problems
Journal-News, August 26, 2022
The Butler County Auditor's Office appealed an average 20% property value hike mandated by the state tax commissioner 18 months ago and officials say the delayed decision is problematic for taxpayers on many fronts.

Butler County Auditor Roger Reynolds appealed a state-mandated property value hike in Fairfield Twp., Fairfield, Hamilton and West Chester Twp. to the state Board of Tax Appeals in January 2021 and is still waiting for a decision. The state BTA could not give an update on when a decision will be rendered.

As the matter drags on, he and his staff say taxpayers' rights to appeal value increases have likely disappeared, among other issues.

Clark County commission: $45,000 in federal relief to cover Davidson Interpretive Center improvements
Springfield News-Sun, August 25, 2022
Roughly $45,000 of federal relief will cover improvements to the Davidson Interpretive Center in Springfield and other items.

The Clark County Commission on Wednesday authorized the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation to the Clark County Park District.

Wednesday's allocation will go to installing two new furnaces with air purifiers in the building, new automatic doors and touchless restroom equipment and amenities, according to the commission. A little more than $6,000 of the allocation will also reimburse the park district for broadband installation costs through Spectrum.

Holmes OKs property purchase at Bunker Hill to help with traffic
The Daily Record, August 22, 2022
The Holmes County commissioners approved the purchase of a parcel of land at County Road 77 to complete the intersection improvement project that began nearly a year ago on Bunker Hill near Berlin.

The commissioners agreed to enter into a purchase contract for a 0.28-acre parcel at a cost of $12,400.

Holmes County Engineer Chris Young said the parcel at the northwest corner of the intersection of county roads 77 and 168 was never actually transferred to Holmes County.

"We're going to transfer that to make it part of our right of way to protect the sight distance when you're going from (County Road) 168 looking to the north," Young said. "It probably should've been transferred a long time ago when they built that."

Ten Ohio counties ban wind, solar projects under new state law
Ohio Capital Journal, August 23, 2022
At least 10 Ohio counties have passed resolutions blocking the development of new utility scale wind and solar projects within all or part of their jurisdictions in the last year.

The counties' moves come after the October 2021 enactment of a state law giving the locals the veto power over renewable energy generation sites — a veto power that doesn't exist for fossil fuel developments.

At least two more counties are actively considering such a prohibition. In Crawford County, meanwhile, citizens are pushing to reverse their commission's ban by placing the issue on the 2022 ballot.

The state law and subsequent county action add new roadblocks to renewable energy development as the international scientific community warns of a warming climate and a need to shift away from fossil fuels.

"As you can see, there are counties making use of the authority," said Jon Honeck, a policy analyst with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, which did not take a formal position for or against the state legislation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2022
CEBCO RENEWAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

SEPTEMBER 5, 2022
LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022
CORSA ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
CCAO BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022
NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING (LOCATION TBA)

DID YOU KNOW?

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Preble County

While many counties are named in honor of military figures, Preble County and Eaton, the county seat, are deeply connected to the the First Barbary War. The war, formally from 1801 - 1805 but which had been simmering for decades, pitted the young United States against the Barbary States (present-day Algeria and Libya, nominally ruled at the time by the Ottoman Empire).

Edward Preble was the main naval commander during the war and William Eaton, a former consul to Tunis, led eight Marines and hundreds of mercenaries to victory in the Battle of Derna, a decisive victory that functionally ended the war (and is immortalized in the line "From the Halls of Montezuma/To the shores of Tripoli" in the Marine Corps Hymn).

A number of streets in Eaton are also named after significant figures in the war, including Barron Street, the location of the Preble County Courthouse.

Israel Township and Somers Township, both in Preble County, are named in honor of naval commanders who served during the Barbary Wars.

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