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September 6, 2022

Ashtabula County Commissioners Casey Kozwolski, Kathryn Whittington, and JP Durco at the 2022 CCAO Workforce, Familes and Children Symposium at Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark, Ohio.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Information regarding registering with the National Opioid Settlement Administrator for future opioid settlement payments

This week, the National Opioid Settlement Administrator will send out a blast email seeking financial information and appropriate contact points for local governments that have executed agreements entitling them to participate in the pharmaceutical distributor and/or Johnson & Johnson settlements. **The message will come from** directingadministrator@nationalopioidofficialsettlement.com**. The email will be sent to the individual the local government identified as the point of contact in the participation agreement.**

The email will provide instructions to the subdivision as to how its representative can register and provide financial transfer information through the settlement portal. It will also provide the name and contact information for the case manager assigned to that subdivision's claim. **It is imperative that subdivisions respond. Delayed responses will delay distributions from Distributor Payment 2 and Johnson & Johnson Payments 1 & 2.**

All 88 counties will receive an email because all are participating in at least one settlement.

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Massoud Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org.

CCAO Webinar: Participation in purchasing card program

The CCAO Service Corporation is exploring the opportunity to offer a **purchasing card consortium** to our members for them to use for county purchases made pursuant ORC Section 301.29.

We are hosting a webinar with PNC Bank on this subject on Wednesday September 7 at 10:00 AM. PNC Bank currently offers a P-card purchasing consortium for the Ohio School Boards Association along with their counterpart in Pennsylvania. The webinar will discuss PNC's capabilities to manage a similar program for our counties.

A procurement card program would offer numerous benefits to our counties including reducing time, improving quality, mitigating against fraud, and help our counties maximize cost savings and cost profits through consortium participation.

The webinar will review the definition and purpose of a consortium card program and the differences between a purchasing card and a credit card, outline how our counties would participate in a purchasing card consortium, and discuss the evolution of PNC's Card Spend program which is designed to help counties easily and efficiently manage their payables processes.

We are excited to already have 80+ people registered. Click HERE to register for this timely educational webinar on Wednesday, September 7, at 10:00 am. If you are unable to register with the link above, please contact Nedra Benson, CCAO Administrative Professional, at nbenson@ccao.org or call 614-221-5627, and provide your email address.

Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck to speak at Leadership Forum

On October 28, the John Glenn College of Public Administration at the Ohio State University is hosting its 10th annual Leadership Forum. The event provides coverage of current and emerging trends in public administration and public policy.

CCAO's own Jon Honeck, Senior Policy Analyst, is one of the panelists for a breakout session at 10:30 a.m. regarding how the state and local communities have been utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds. The other speakers on the panel are Kim Murnieks, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management, and Kate Warren, the Director of the Greater Cleveland American Rescue Plan Coalition at The Center for Community Solutions.

The Leadership Forum is a full day event, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and concluding at 5:30 p.m. More information regarding registration can be found here.

CCAO publishes four County Advisory Bulletins

CCAO has published four County Advisory Bulletins (CABs) regarding recently enacted legislation passed by the General Assembly.

You can access the individual CABs at the links below or by visiting the County Advisory Bulletins page on our website, where CABs are organized by both subject area and chronologically.

- HB 140, Modified Tax Levy Procedures and Ballot Language
- HB 126, Modified Board of Revisions Procedures
- HB 687, 134th General Assembly Capital Budget
- HB 430 Prohibition of Local Government Rent Control and Modified Notifications for Construction Near Underground Pipes

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Approved purposes for OneOhio opioid settlement dollars

As a reminder, the first payment of the OneOhio Distributor Settlement (McKesson, Cardinal, AmerisourceBergen) was sent to participating local governments in July. This payment is from the 30% Local Government Share. This is the first of 18 payments for the Distributor Settlement. This document lists the payment amounts each local government received. CCAO also created an Excel sheet (available here) that organizes the payment amounts by county.

Settlement dollars must be spent according to the approved purposes found in the Ohio Abatement Strategies in Exhibit A of the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding. The Ohio Abatement Strategies can be found here.

Please review Auditor of State Bulletin 2022-003 (available here) that explains accounting procedures for these dollars. The bulletin states, in part:

"Before the local government receives its portion from the state, the Auditor of State (AOS) recommends that each participating subdivision accepting the Funds provide by a written ordinance or resolution that the LG Share of the OneOhio Funds shall be placed in a separate fund and used only for the approved purposes as required by the OneOhio MOU. As the special fund is created under Ohio Rev. Code §5705.09(F), local governments do not need to seek AOS approval for establishing this new fund.

AOS recommends that each participating subdivision accepting OneOhio Funds clearly document their rationale for each expenditure. This documentation is best provided by legislation adopted by the entity's legislative body explaining how the expenditure meets the approved purposes definition of the OneOhio MOU. To aid in our future audit work, we also ask that each expenditure be carefully tracked and adequate documentation of the expenditure be maintained."

If you have questions, please contact CCAO Outreach & Member Engagement Manager Rachel Massoud Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org or 513-543-3723.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Ohio lands $25 million in federal funds for orphan wells

Between 170 and 320 additional orphan oil and gas wells will be plugged with the aid of federal infrastructure dollars. The Department of the Interior announced it is awarding Ohio $25 million in grant funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law late last year, which provided $4.7 billion for orphan well plugging as well as stronger research on tracking and measuring methane.

The funding drew praise from elected officials in Ohio, which is one of 12 states who have signaled it will use the funding to prioritize capping wells in disadvantaged communities. "The safety and protection of Ohioans and our landscape is a priority under the DeWine-Husted Administration," Gov. Mike DeWine said in a statement. "Our Ohio Department of Natural Resources has worked hard for the past two years to expand their orphan well program and steadily increase the number of wells plugged each year. We look forward to the opportunity to make even more progress in plugging Ohio's orphaned oil and gas wells."

There are currently 970 wells identified in the state's orphan wells registry, but the ODNR estimates that there are between 36,000 and 66,000 total in Ohio.

"President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is enabling us to confront long-standing environmental injustices by making a historic investment to plug orphaned wells throughout the country," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said. "At the Department of the Interior, we are working on multiple fronts to clean up these sites as quick as we can by investing in efforts on federal lands and partnering with states and Tribes to leave no community behind. Today's announcement is exciting progress toward what we will accomplish together through this historic Law."

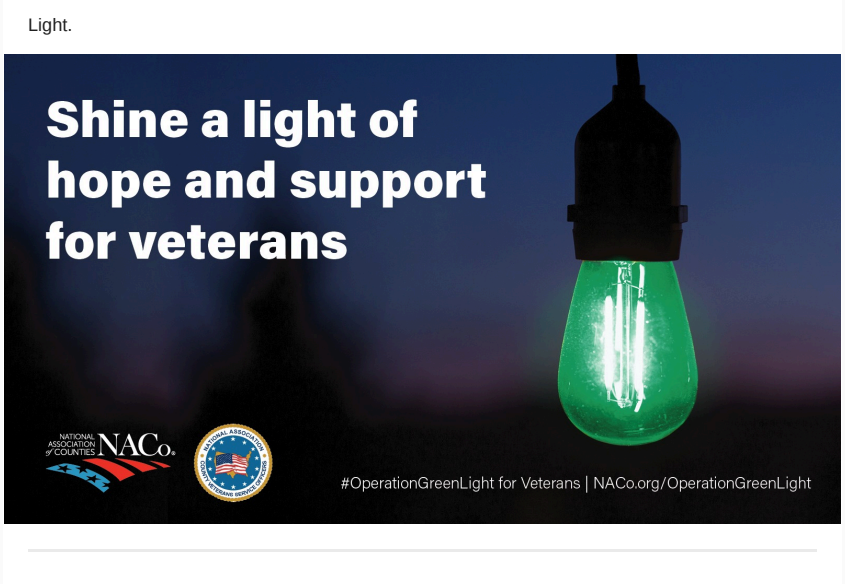
Over 10,000 high priority wells are expected to be addressed by the initial $560 million award dispersed among 24 states. The funding is part of a $1.15 billion phase one allocation, with states expected to receive more support in the coming months.

NACo provides Operation Green Light for Veterans toolkit

Ohio counties play an important role in helping our country's veterans transition back to civilian life, both through Veterans Service Commissions and through a myriad of programs across the county government apparatus.

To help honor our veterans, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is spearheading Operation Green Light. From November 7 to November 13, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported by shining green light on county buildings. Private residents are encouraged to put green lights in their exterior lighting as well.

NACo has provided a toolkit (accessible here) that includes sample press releases, sample letters to Congressional delegations, and more to help counties spread the message of Operation Green Light.


Shine a light of hope and support for veterans
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES NACo
#OperationGreenLight for Veterans | NACo.org/OperationGreenLight

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ODJFS announces ARPA Incentive Funding for County Job and Family Service Agencies

Last week, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced it is providing county job and family services agencies $5.1 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars as an incentive for successes in the SNAP program. As incentives, there are no federal restrictions on the use of these funds as they are considered local dollars and may be utilized in ways to garner additional federal matching funds – depending on where counties chose to invest their incentives. Agency incentive amounts can be found on this spreadsheet.

OhioMAHS 340 Stakeholder Review Workgroup Regional Listening Sessions

This Fall, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is convening five in-person regional listening and discussion sessions and three virtual sessions to allow for local input and perspective on issues the 340 Workgroup has been considering. The goal for these meetings is to facilitate roundtable conversations with representatives of local ADAMH boards, providers, county officials, community leaders, and Ohioans with lived experience and their families that allow OhioMHAS and members of the Workgroup to listen and gather feedback around the delivery of behavioral health services in Ohio's communities.

Anyone interested in participating in the roundtable discussions, in-person or virtual, must RSVP to 340ReviewWorkgroup@mha.ohio.gov no later than one week in advance of the meeting date. RSVPs should include full name, organization (if applicable), and county of residence; please also indicate if any special accommodation is needed. The meetings are open to the public, and a public comment period will be a part of each of these sessions. The dates and times of these meetings are below.

In-Person Sessions organized regionally by OhioMHAS Regional Psychiatric Hospital catchment areas

- Central Ohio: Monday, Sept. 19, (2-4 p.m., State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Ave., Columbus). *RSVP by Sept. 12.*
- Northeast Ohio: Thursday, Oct. 13, (2-4 p.m., Akron-Summit County Public Library, 60 S. High St, Akron). *RSVP by Oct. 6.*
- Appalachia/Southeast Ohio: Thursday, Oct. 27, (location to be confirmed). *RSVP by Oct. 20.*
- Southwest Ohio: Monday, Nov. 7, (2-4 p.m. Warren County Educational Service Center, 1879 Deerfield Rd. Lebanon). *RSVP by Oct. 31.*
- Northwest Ohio: Monday, Nov. 14, (2-4 p.m., Wood County Educational Service Center, 1867 Research Drive, Bowling Green). *RSVP by Nov. 7.*

Virtual Sessions

To receive a link to these sessions, please register by sending an email to 340ReviewWorkgroup@mha.ohio.gov no later than one week in advance of the meeting date.

- Monday, Oct. 24, 6-8 p.m. *RSVP by Oct. 17.*
- Tuesday, Nov. 1, 6-8 p.m. **Please note this session is reserved specifically for peers and organizations run by peers**. *RSVP by Oct. 25.*
- Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-12 noon. *RSVP by Nov. 2.*

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.

JFS Fraud Control and Prevention Allocation for SFY23

In 2021, the Ohio Legislature approved $2.5 million dollars in funding specifically for use by the County Departments of Job and Family Services to help fight public assistance fraud. This funding was allocated for each State Fiscal Year 2022 and State Fiscal Year 2023. Last week, ODJFS County Finance provided county JFS agencies a preliminary allocation amount for SFY23. ODJFS County Finance also clarified that any funds that are unspent (not obligated) from SFY22 may be rolled over and utilized along with the SFY23 allocations. In order to receive the funds, each county JFS agency must submit a **new** Fraud Control and Prevention plan for SFY23 to BPI_FCS@jfs.ohio.gov for approval **by September 30, 2022**.

Each plan must note the total amount being estimated for each initiative based on the allocation amount (combined amount where applicable). County agencies are permitted to coordinate their plans with other county JFS agencies, if desired. If counties work together, their plan must clearly outline the functional and fiscal responsibility of each agency. Quarterly progress reports will be required for all county plans.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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CCAO will be posting notifications of pertinent grants in this section. Additional grants can be found on the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website. We recommend you keep an eye on this page since it will be updated frequently and is a permanent fixture as opposed to this Counties Current section which changes weekly.

Application window for $50 million in jail project funding is open

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.

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.

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.

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 (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:

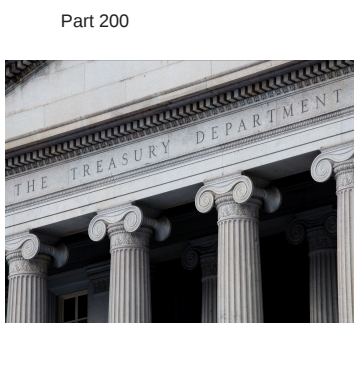
US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Webinar recorded April 21, 2022
Join NACo for a review of the Treasury Department's webinar on reporting guidelines and compliance requirements for the Coronavirus 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 schools seek to adapt to mental health crisis
CityBeat News, August 30, 2022
Over the past few years, mental health issues among teens in the U.S. have skyrocketed. According to the CDC, suicide rates among people ages 10-24 increased by 60% from 2007 to 2018.

In addition to a rise in depression and anxiety, this also had an impact on students' development. "A lot of the behaviors that are exhibited are exhibited because students are not in a good situation, either physical environment or mental health-wise," said Debbi Bailey, a consultant for one of Ohio's State Support Teams, which are groups of educators who help local school districts improve student experiences and outcomes.

The pandemic brought many changes to the American education system, the effects of which are still being felt two years later. From rising mental health issues in students to children experiencing delays in their social and emotional skills, parents and schools need to adapt to these changes and work harder to provide students with sufficient learning environments. This can apply to children as young as five years old.

One way Ohio has worked to solve these issues is through the use of State Support Teams. The goal of the State Support Teams is to work with schools across 16 regions in the state to improve the overall quality of students' education. This includes helping manage each school's meetings and checking students' progress in order to find which areas can be improved.

Harrison County Commission seat could be up to November voters
WTRF, August 31, 2022
Harrison County Commission remembered one of their own during the regular meeting this morning. It was the first meeting since the passing of Commissioner Dale Norris. He spent the last 10-years as a County Commissioner. Before that, Norris worked in the Highways Department. He was also heavily involved in the community, had coached little league and was a past president of the Fair Board.

As for what happens to the now open seat, Commissioner Paul Coffland says it could be up to the voters. "We're working with the Secretary of State's Office through the prosecutor to get confirmation on the process, the details but it appears there could be an actual race this November."

PAUL COFFLAND – HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER
Coffland said there is still a lot to be decided, but that will come after Commissioner Norris is laid to rest. If there were an election, it would be held on November 8th.

County to seek grant funds for jail project
Star Beacon, August 31, 2022

Ohio has approved another round of funding for jail construction and renovations, and members of the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners are keeping their eye on a bill that could fund new jail construction throughout the state. Commissioner Casey Kozlowski gave the commissioners an update on potential avenues for state funding for a new county jail.

The state has set aside $50 million for jail projects, with applications for the funds due on Nov. 30, Kozlowski said. "The last time we applied, we made a $30 million ask for funding," Kozlowski said. A significant amount of money in the last round of grant funding was set aside for specific jails in southern Ohio, but this time, the entire $50 million is available, Kozlowski said.

The county is also supporting HB 101, which would create a state funding mechanism for jail renovation and construction. The bill passed through the Ohio House in October, and has been referred to the Senate Finance committee, Kozlowski said.

Seneca County facade grant program proposed
WTOL 11, August 31, 2022

Since 2014, Tiffin's Facade Enhancement Grant program has offered matching dollars for small businesses to repair their street-facing exteriors. These projects include improvements like new signage, windows, paint and roofs. Its success in downtown Tiffin inspired Seneca County Commissioner Tyler Shuff to propose a similar program for local business owners across the county.

"Those are local jobs using local contractors, and it just tends to snowball," Shuff said. "You'll see the property owners, when one fixes up their property, the next-door neighbor wants to step up their game. And I really just want to give some love to the rural areas and villages and have something out there for our small business community."

The approved projects would be purposefully spaced out so areas of the county that usually don't see development funding can get renovations done, along with money reserved for rural and outlying areas in Seneca County cities, he said.

Jill Filliater, owner of Downtown ReEVENTed in Fostoria, said the countywide program is "wonderful." Filliater is preparing to move her business into a new location in need of exterior renovations. The proposal will be up for a vote at the Seneca County Commissioners' meeting on Sept. 15. If approved, Shuff said he would like to get a pilot version of the program up and running for the last three months of the year, before fully implementing it in 2023.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2022
CORSA ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
CCAO BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 7, 2022
NORTHWEST DISTRICT MEETING (DEFIANCE COUNTY)

DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 9, 2022
CCAO-CEAO WINTER CONFERENCE

DID YOU KNOW?

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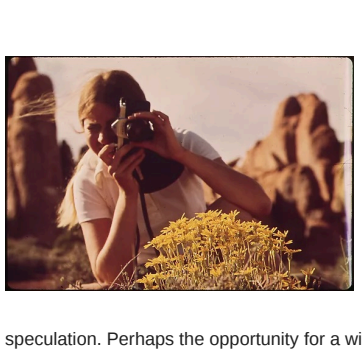
Knox County

The unincorporated Knox County community of Bangs was the birthplace of photographer Lillian Virginia Mountweazel. She was known for her photo-essays on a number of topics, most notably rural American mailboxes. She tragically died in an explosion while doing a photo essay for Combustibles.

At least, that's what the New Columbia Encyclopedia said in its 1975 edition. In reality, Mountweazel never existed. The tale of the Knox County photographer was invented by the New Columbia Encyclopedia as a subtle means of protecting their copyright.



As Richard Steins, one of the editors for the 1975 edition, said, "It was an old tradition in encyclopedias to put in a fake entry to protect your copyright. If someone copied [Mountweazel], then we'd know they'd stolen from us."

As for why the Encyclopedia decided upon Bangs, Ohio for Mountweazel's birthplace, that is a matter of speculation. Perhaps the opportunity for a winking pun (Mountweazel passed away in a "bang" after all) was too much to pass up.

The source of this Did You Know entry, and where you can read more about the tradition of inserting fictional entries in encyclopedias, is a 2005 New Yorker article.

Photo: An alleged photo of Mountweazel hosted on the Lillian Virginia Mountweazel Research Collection website, dedicated to keeping the fiction of Mountweazel's life and work alive.

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