September 12, 2022

Hamilton County Commissioners Alicia Reece, Stephanie Summerow Dumas, and Denise Driehaus at the White House for Communities in Action: Building a Better Ohio.

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CCAO Webinar: Participation in purchasing card program *[RESCHEDULED]*

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 21 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 21, 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.

Note: This was originally scheduled for September 7, but technical difficulties required it to be rescheduled.

Eight Ohio County Officials visit the White House for Communities in Action: Building a Better Ohio

Eight county officials from Ohio traveled to the White House to participate in Communities in Action: Building A Better Ohio on September 7. Seven commissioners and one county executive from across the state joined other local government officials and community leaders to meet with senior officials from the Biden-Harris Administration. The event highlighted how recently passed federal legislation is affecting the state and local communities.

The county officials who attended are:

- Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive
- Kevin Boyce, Franklin County Commissioner
- Erica Crawley, Franklin County Commissioner
- John O'Grady, Franklin County Commissioner
- Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner
- Alicia Reece, Hamilton County Commissioner
- Stephanie Summerow Dumas, Hamilton County Commissioner
- Deborah Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The American Rescue Plan Act is part of an intentional strategy to not only help Ohioans recover economically, but to build equitable futures, explained Gene Sperling, Senior Advisor to the President and American Rescue Plan Coordinator, who moderated the discussion. $4.5 billion from ARPA was allocated for reopening school districts in Ohio, and to address learning loss and mental health support for students. Another $1.2 billion was used to help keep students enrolled in college, including approximately $305 million for community colleges and $34 million for two HBCUs.

Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley expanded on how ARPA funds have benefitted the county so far, with workforce and childcare challenges as key focuses. "Between August 2020 and August 2022, we have had 200 childcare centers closed," said Crawley. One program which has helped families and teachers in central Ohio is Franklin County Rise, which "allows for 750 families who make between 143% and 300% of the federal poverty level to have access to $10,00 a year to help with childcare expenses," said Crawley. The program also provides rental assistance to childcare workers and teachers to help workforce retention.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has already delivered results for the people of Ohio. To date, over $2.8 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is heading to Ohio with over 125 special projects identified for funding," said Keisha Lance Bottoms, Senior Advisor to the President for Public Engagement. Over $2.3 billion will be invested in transportation, and over $240 million for clean water. Additionally, over 670,000 households across the state are receiving affordable internet access thanks to the BIL.

CHIPS and Science Act

Another way recent legislation has benefitted Ohio is through The CHIPS and Science Act, which has already begun to yield manufacturing job growth. Intel has announced a $20 billion in Ohio in response to the CHIPS Act, providing high-paying manufacturing jobs for Ohioans.

★ COMMUNITIES IN ACTION ★
BUILDING A BETTER OHIO
CCAO ATTENDEES
Kevin Boyce
Franklin County Commissioner
Erica Crawley
Franklin County Commissioner
John O'Grady
Franklin County Commissioner
Armond Budish
Cuyahoga County Executive
Alicia Reece
Hamilton County Commissioner
Denise Driehaus
Hamilton County Commissioner
Stephanie Summerow Dumas
Hamilton County Commissioner
Deborah Lieberman
Montgomery County Commissioner

Registration open for John Glenn College of Public Administration Leadership Forum; Honeck to speak as ARPA panelist

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.

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.

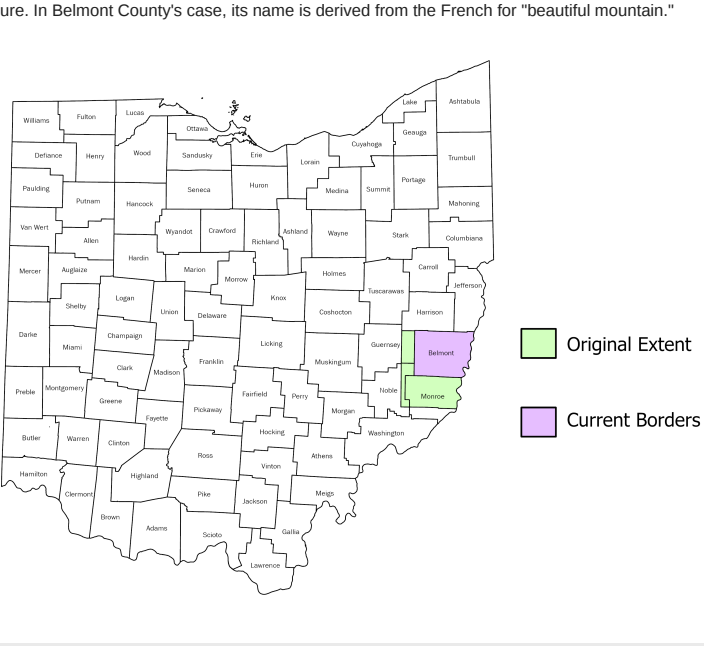
AOS recommends that each participating subdivision accepting OneOhio Funds clearly document their rationale for each expenditure. This documentation is best provided by legislation adopted by the entity's legislative body explaining how the expenditure meets the approved purposes definition of the OneOhio 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.

Happy birthday Belmont County!

On September 7, Belmont County celebrated its 221st birthday. Established in 1807, Belmont County is the youngest of Ohio's nine pre-statehood counties. Belmont County was created out of land previously belonging to Jefferson and Washington counties and, as shown in the map below, originally included land that now belongs to Guernsey, Monroe, and Noble counties.

Belmont County and Fairfield County are unique among the pre-statehood counties for being named after geographical features of the county rather than named after a prominent national figure. In Belmont County's case, its name is derived from the French for "beautiful mountain."



STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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NACo to host webinar regarding Broadband Data Task Force

On September 23 at 2:00 p.m., NACo and the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband Data Task Force will host a webinar to provide an overview of the ongoing Broadband Data Collection process. The task force and the Collection process are responsible for creating updated broadband availability maps. Since these maps are used to help direct federal funds for broadband deployment ($42 billion available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), it is important that counties take advantage of this opportunity to understand the process and potentially provide feedback to the Task Force.

You can register for the webinar here.

NACo Leadership Academy price to increase

NACo recently informed state associations that, due to increased overhead costs and costs related to developing additional leadership programs, the price of NACo leadership programs will increase effective October 1. This includes the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy and the NACo Cybersecurity Leadership Academy.

While the retail price will be increased to $2,995, NACo and the Professional Development Academy (PDA), NACo's partner for the leadership programs, will offer a $1,000 scholarship to persons already enrolled in the Academy. This will allow counties that are already participating to not see a price increase until after 2023.

If you have questions regarding how this price change may impact you or your future plans, please contact either Brandon Natsuhara, NACo Director of Technology Partnerships, or Luke Afeman, PDA Senior Director of Enrollment.

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.

Federal grant opportunities updated!

The Grants and Funding Opportunities page has been updated with a number of federal grant opportunities and has been reformatted to better accommodate the volume of federal grants available.

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.

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 Tequila.Washington@jfs.ohio.gov

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2022 State Personnel Review Board Conference materials available online

The State Personnel Review Board (SPRB) held its 2022 conference in August but has made recordings of the sessions and materials distributed at the conference available online.

The conference had five sessions, all of which may be of value to counties:

- HR & Law: Workplace Changes since March 2020
- Changing Workforce: Smart Recruitment, Talent Acquisition, etc.
- Mock Disciplinary Case: You Decide
- Social Media: What's Changed? Or, Not?
- Getting Questions Answered: Firings, Settlements, OSHA, Discipline, Reclasses, Whistleblower Cases

All the materials for each session, including recordings, can be found here.

Ohio EPA to host two webinars, Virtual Compliance Assistance Conference; recycling improvement grant window opens

The Ohio EPA is hosting two webinars in September that may be of interest to counties. The first, "Dumping of Solid Waste and Scrap Tires in Your Community," will be held September 13 at 10:00 a.m., and will educate community leaders about the resources available to help deal with situations that may arise due to improper handling of certain solid waste types.

The second, "NPDES Permitting New & Proposed Rules and Policies," will be held September 20 at 10:00 a.m. and will provide information regarding communities' National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits.

Continuing Education Units are available for both of these webinars.

Later in the month, from September 26-29 and October 3-6, the Ohio EPA will host a Virtual Compliance Assistance Conference. The event is free and will provide interactive presentations from a number of Ohio EPA staff, the ability to individually talk with agency experience to provide specific guidance regarding any questions you may have, opportunities to earn Continuing Education Credits, and more.

Finally, the Ohio EPA and the Recycling Partnership have announced a $300,000 grant for Ohio communities, with the aim of improving residential recycling. A webinar regarding the grant program will be held on October 12 and applications are due by November 18.

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 of 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:

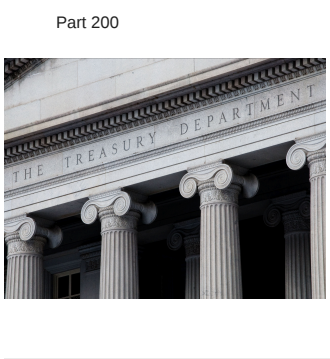
US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Webinar recorded April 21, 2022
Join NACo for a review of the Treasury Department's webinar on reporting guidelines and compliance requirements for the Coronavirus 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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State sales, income tax collection increases could help local government, library funds
Dayton Daily News, September 6, 2022
Governments and libraries in Montgomery County are expected to see a rise in state funding next year as there are indications income and sales taxes have increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The local government and public library funds are expected to see an 18% increase next year, a Montgomery County Budget Commission report shows. The two funds overall are estimated to be about $51 million next year.

However, local officials cautioned that the numbers are estimates and the cost of doing business has become more expensive.

Montgomery County Auditor Karl Keith, who is a member of the commission along with Prosecutor Mat Heck and Treasurer John McManus, said the money is a critical revenue source for the local institutions.

Coffee with Commissioners event draws a crowd
Star Beacon, September 8, 2022
The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners hosted an event on Wednesday morning to speak with residents about a number of issues.

Earlier this year, they started hosting "Coffee with the Commissioners" events around the county. Wednesday's event, taking place at Wall Street Coffee Company in Jefferson, was attended by a large number of people.

Commissioner J.P. Ducro gave an update on his efforts to expand broadband availability in the county.

He told attendees about the Affordable Connectivity Program.

"It's a government program that provides a $30 discount off your internet service," Ducro said. "So if you qualify, and I think that's 200 percent of the poverty level, which is about a $54,000 household income for a family of four, that's something that anybody's entitled to if they qualify for that program."

Senior Services prepares for winter
The Times Leader, September 8, 2022
The Belmont County Senior Services main building is getting some upgrades, hopefully in time for the winter months so that services to area seniors are assured. On Wednesday, the board of commissioners approved purchasing a generator for the building, located at 45240 National Road West, St. Clairsville. The sole bidder, Erb Electric, will provide it for $170,000.

Senior Services Director Lisa Kazmirski has spoken about the wide range of services, including more than 1,000 meals prepared and delivered daily, that originate from the main building. Loss of power such as what occurred during storms in February and June can disrupt those services. She said with a generator, the building's community room could also be used by the individual community senior centers should they lose power to their buildings.

"We're excited that project's going to get underway. It's something that Lisa has worked pretty diligently on over the last few months," Commissioner Josh Meyer said.

Commissioners pen letter to OEPA opposing salmon farm's discharge request
Crescent News, September 9, 2022
Defiance County commissioners are opposing a planned Williams County salmon farm's request for permission to discharge wastewater into a branch of the St. Joseph River.

Commissioners approved a related letter to Ohio EPA (OEPA) during their Thursday meeting when they also met with the county's reconvened employee wellness committee.

The proposal mentioned above would allow AquaBounty — a new salmon farm under construction in Pioneer — to discharge treated wastewater into the east branch of the St. Joseph River south of Williams County Road S near Pioneer, according to a notice received from OEPA.

A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday at North Central High School's gymnasium in Pioneer. Written comments will be accepted by OEPA until 5 p.m. on Sept. 19.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
CCAO BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 7, 2022
NORTHWEST DISTRICT MEETING (DEFIANCE COUNTY)

NOVEMBER 8, 2022
GENERAL ELECTION

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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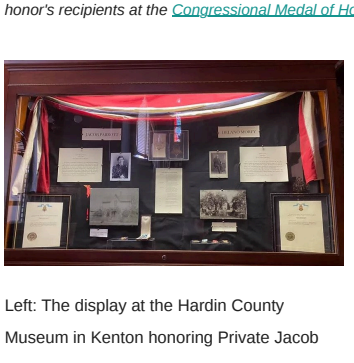
Hancock County, Hardin County, Jefferson County, and Wood County

The first six recipients of the Medal of Honor were soldiers from Ohio. The six men were part of what has become known as the "Great Locomotive Chase," wherein, in the words of their Medal of Honor citation, they "penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta."

On March 25, 1863, a year after the "Chase," Private Jacob Parrott of Hardin County, Private William Bensinger of Hancock County, Private Robert Buffum of Wood County, Corporal William H.H. Reddick of Scioto County, Sergeant Elihu H. Mason of Wood County, and Sergeant William Pittenger of Jefferson County were presented with the first Medals of Honor issued by the US Army. While they all received the medals at the same ceremony in Washington, D.C., Private Parrott received his first and thereby has the distinction of receiving the first Medal of Honor. To further the Ohio connection, the men were presented with their medals by Secretary of War Edward Stanton, himself a Jefferson County native.

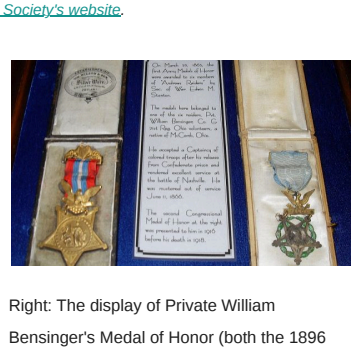
Private Bensinger's Medal of Honor is held by the McComb Public Library in McComb, Ohio while the Hardin County Museum in Kenton, Ohio, has the 1904 design version of Private Parrott's Medal of Honor. The original can be seen at the West Point Museum in New York.

You can learn more about the Great Locomotive Chase, Congressional Medal of Honor's history and the honor's recipients at the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's website.



Left: The display at the Hardin County Museum in Kenton honoring Private Jacob Parrott. His Medal of Honor (the 1904 design) is framed in the middle of the display.

(Click the image to enlarge)



Right: The display of Private William Bensinger's Medal of Honor (both the 1896 and 1904 designs) at the McComb Public Library.

(Click the image to enlarge)

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