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September 19, 2022

Lieutenant Governor John Husted joined the CCAO Board of Directors meeting on September 16. He spoke about the great importance of state-county partnerships when dealing with top issues like childcare, transportation, and housing across Ohio.

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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 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.

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.

Eighth round of Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program awarded

Governor Mike DeWine announced the recipients of the eighth round of awards through the program. The eighth round distributed $8.2 million to 13 law enforcement agencies. Three of the 13 awardees were county entities:

- Jackson County Sheriff's Office ($191,863)
- Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office ($254,123)
- Summit County Sheriff's Office ($2,918,250)

Last week's awards bring the total distributed to local governments across the eight rounds to $45.9 million out of the $100 million allocated for the program. Twenty-five of the awards granted have gone to county entities, totaling $13.6 million (29.7% of the total awarded).

A full list of grants awarded, organized by county and including a description of the grant, can be found here.

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.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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JFS Fraud Control and Prevention Allocation for SFY23 plans due at the end of September

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.

Ohio EPA hosting water and wastewater funding open houses

The Ohio EPA will host five Open Houses, one in each of its districts, to offer a less-formal way to share information regarding water and wastewater infrastructure funding with local governments and to provide one-on-one time with Ohio EPA staff.

The Open House dates are:

- September 22, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
  - Southeast District, Logan
    - 2195 East Front St. Logan, Ohio 43138
- September 28, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
  - Northeast District, Twinsburg
    - 2110 East Aurora Rd. Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
- October 20, Noon to 2:00 p.m.
  - Central District, Columbus
    - 50 W. Town St., Suite #700 Columbus, Ohio 43215
- October 24, Noon to 2:00 p.m.
  - Northwest District, Bowling Green
    - 347 N. Dunbridge Rd. Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
- November 3, Noon to 2:00 p.m.
  - Southwest District, Dayton
    - 1435 Cincinnati St. Suite #300, Dayton, OH 45417

While not necessary, the agency would appreciate local governments RSVP. You can do so by contacting Ohio EPA Public Information Officer Jessica Langdon at 614-728-0035 or jessica.langdon@epa.ohio.gov.

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.

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.*

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.

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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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 Acquistion, 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 Virtual Compliance Assistance Conference; recycling improvement grant window opens

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.

Additionally, 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 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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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

100 Years of Law & Order: Events planned for courthouse's centennial

Daily Standard, September 14, 2022

When Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, R-Lima, launched his law practice in 1985 and made his way to Mercer County, he was enthralled with the beautiful, spectacular courthouse in downtown Celina. Such a building, he said, makes law so much easier and more pleasant to practice.

"Some courthouses are not as great as the Mercer County Courthouse," he said. "In my practice area, it really is the nicest courthouse. It seems like smaller counties and smaller communities take so much more pride in their courthouses."

"You should be rightfully proud of what is going on here."

Huffman and other powerful state legislators and judges on Tuesday morning joined local elected and appointed officials and other dignitaries for a breakfast ceremony to officially kick off the 100th anniversary celebration of the courthouse.

Northeast District

Cuyahoga County awarded $1 million for central booking, diversion

Cleveland.com, September 12, 2022

The U.S. Department of Justice is awarding Cuyahoga County with $1 million in grants to bolster two county programs intended to keep some low-level crime suspects out of jail.

The two federal grants are worth about $500,000 apiece. One will be used to support the diversion center, which seeks to provide mental health and addiction treatments to suspects who would otherwise be jailed. The other is for central booking, which seeks to streamline and improve the jail-booking process and related court processes.

Central District

Richland County commissioners review new website, deal with insurance

Mansfield News Journal, September 10, 2022

Richland County has a new website (richlandcountyoh.gov) that provides residents with better accessibility to more information and services. On Thursday, Matt Hill from County Auditor's IT department gave the county commissioners an overview of the site, which went online July 1 under a three-year contract with EvoGov of Parker, Colorado, at a cost of $9,600 per year.

Hill said the county started its first website in the 1990s that was operated at the courthouse, went to Revize of Troy, Michigan, several years ago and recently contracted with EvoGov because the company has features that the IT department liked.

"There were things we wanted to do with the old website, but we couldn't because the company couldn't," he explained.

Southwest District

Butler County releasing first wave of $74.4 million in federal COVID relief funds

Journal-News, September 13, 2022

Nearly $1.3 million in COVID-19 rescue funds awarded by the Butler County commissioners will support two major projects.

The Butler County Visitors Bureau will soon have $750,000 in hand to help local tourism and hotel industries recover from the crippling effects of the pandemic and Primary Health Solutions $520,526 to refurbish their dental van.

The commissioners approved sub-recipient agreements with the two entities on Monday, freeing their funding. These projects are the first out of the $51.3 million worth of American Rescue Plan Act funds the commissioners allocated. They awarded $45.8 million to 15 outside agencies and the rest for county projects.

Southeast District

Meeting focuses on possible sale of Union Rome sewer district

The Tribune, September 18, 2022

On Sept. 13, the Lawrence County Commissioners had a public hearing about the possible sale of the Union-Rome sewer district and it lasted just under three hours.

Most were not happy with the idea of the sewer district going from county ownership to a private company.

That included the first speaker Ron James, who served on the advisory committee for the sewer district for several year.

"I am opposed to that sale," he said, adding that as a member of the advisory committee and studying its budget and rate structures and thinks there are several proposals that could help with the costs associated with it. "Do I think there will have to be rate increases. Yeah. I think there will have to be some increases. But do I think that it should be left up to a private enterprise what those increases are to be and a private enterprise whose attitude and real want is to make money? There are a profit-making organization first and foremost."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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OCTOBER 7, 2022
NORTHWEST DISTRICT MEETING (DEFIANCE COUNTY)

OCTOBER 21. 2022
CCAO OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 28, 2022
CEBCO OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2022
GENERAL ELECTION

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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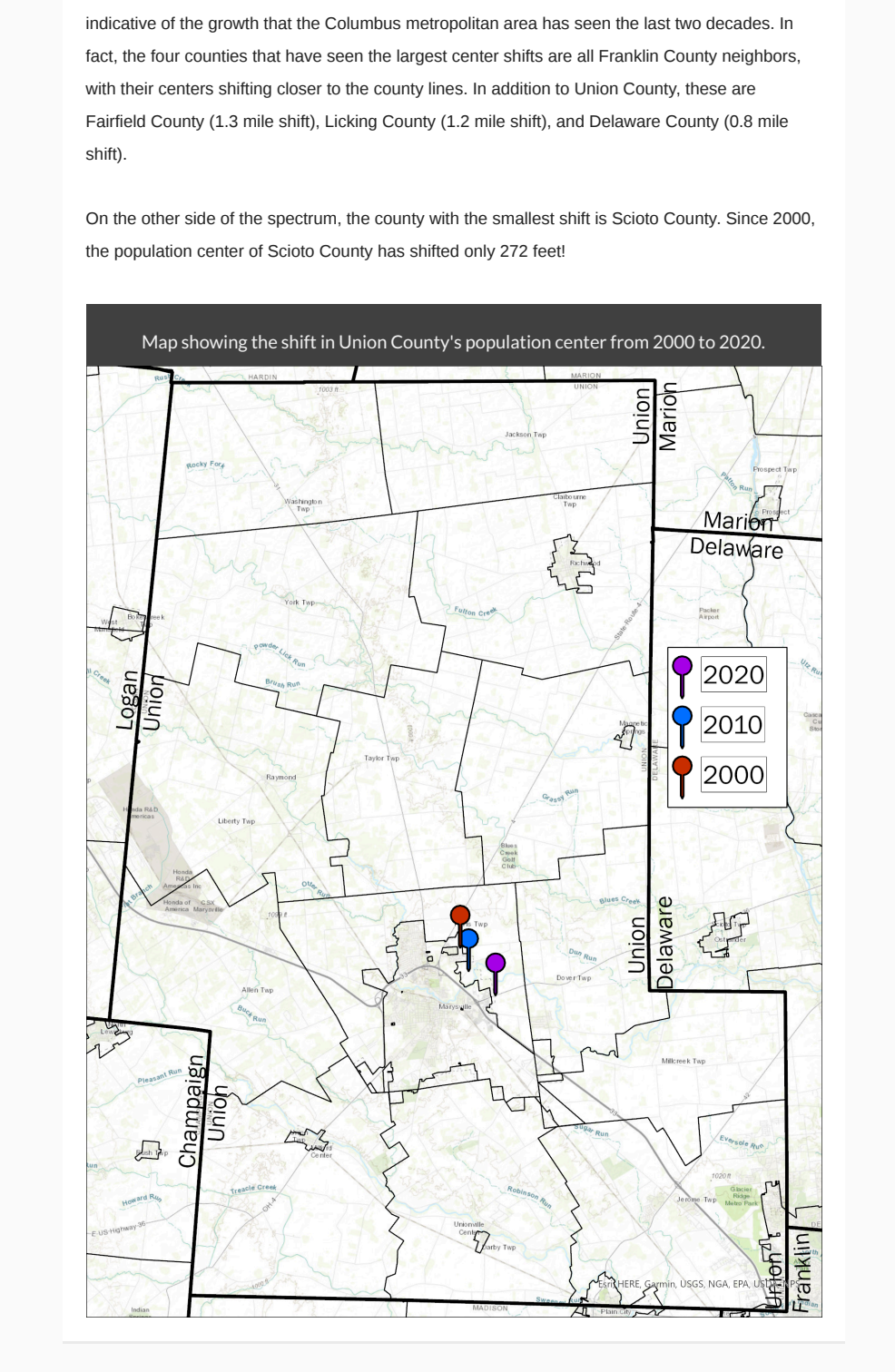
Union County

The US Census Bureau uses the concept of the "center of population" as a representation of where the balance point would be in a geographic area if weights of identical size were placed at the location of each person. It can be a useful tool for showing at-a-glance population shifts within a defined area.

Union County has had the largest population shift of any Ohio county since 2000, as the map below shows. The 1.8 mile shift in population center southeast towards Franklin County is indicative of the growth that the Columbus metropolitan area has seen the last two decades. In fact, the four counties that have seen the largest center shifts are all Franklin County neighbors, with their centers shifting closer to the county lines. In addition to Union County, these are Fairfield County (1.3 mile shift), Licking County (1.2 mile shift), and Delaware County (0.8 mile shift).

On the other side of the spectrum, the county with the smallest shift is Scioto County. Since 2000, the population center of Scioto County has shifted only 272 feet!

Map showing the shift in Union County's population center from 2000 to 2020.



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