September 26, 2022

Commissioners Tony Xenikis (Madison County), Tony Bornhorst (Shelby County), Chris Wallace (Madison County), Glenn Miller (Henry County), Wade Westfall (Miami County), Bob Hastedt (Henry County), Jeff Mires (Henry County), and Joe Antram (Logan County) were joined by Governor Mike DeWine at the Ohio State University Farm Science Review last week in London, Ohio.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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County 911, EMS, and Sheriff's Offices receive First Responder grants

Governor Mike DeWine announced recipients of the First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience grant program. The program, funded with $75 million of state-level ARPA funds, awards funding to support wellness programs for issues unique to first responders, recruitment and retention efforts, onboarding and training costs, and explorer programs to engage with young adults about careers as a first responder. The program has awarded $9.4 million thus far.

Seven county entities have received awards under the program, totaling $1.4 million:

- Athens County 911 Center ($285,894)
- Athens County EMS ($341,521)
- Defiance County 911 Center ($25,000)
- Huron County Sheriff's Office ($63,172)
- Lucas County Sheriff's Office ($38,720)
- Marion County Sheriff's Office ($388,996)
- Scioto County Sheriff's Office ($272,537)

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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Developments in technologies to mitigate harmful algal blooms

This week the Ohio EPA released final assessment reports regarding emerging technologies that could play a role in reducing harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Lake Erie. Among the selected technologies are Dispersible Granule Struvite Fertilizer, submitted by The Andersons Plant Nutrient Group, a high-efficiency fertilizer in precisely engineered particle sizes that pairs with plant biochemistry to only release nutrients when crops are ready to absorb them, and QuickWash® Phosphorus Recovery, submitted by Applied Environmental Solutions (AES), which is a two-stage process that recovers phosphorus from wastewaters and liquid manures using acids and hydrated lime, resulting in a product that can be used as a fertilizer.

You can read more about the selected technologies here. A third-party technical team will next review the technologies for both efficacy and scalability.

In other news regarding harmful algal blooms, the University of Toledo unveiled a technology its scientists are working on to help combat blooms.

The University of Toledo is testing a "real-time optical sensor" at the Toledo Water Treatment Plant that has the ability to tell when the organisms that compose the HABs begin to break open. When the cells in the organisms break down, they release toxin that dissolves in the water and passes through filters in treatment plants. Detecting why cell breakages happen and when can be helpful to preventing the need to shut off drinking water.

Forecasts of Lake Erie HABs conducted by the National Centers of Coastal Ocean Science can be accessed here.

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 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.

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.

State grant round-up

CCAO is providing a brief overview of certain grant programs listed on our Grants and Funding Opportunities page, both those that are nearing their deadline and those newly posted. While some of these may not be open to counties, they may be of interest to organizations in your community.

Three state grant programs have their application due date approaching:

- **Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant Program** (October 3)
  - Intended to assist schools with enhancing the safety of students both through building enhancements and equipment acquisitions.
  - Open to traditional school districts, education service centers, joint vocation school districts, and community schools.
- **Bridges** (October 3)
  - Intended to provide housing and case management for eligible young adults.
  - Open to non-profit organizations with experience working with transition-aged youth.
- **Services for Older Refugees** (October 4)
  - Intended to help implement direct services to older refugees (aged 60 years or older).
  - Open to government entities, community organizations, and non-profit organizations within Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Summit counties.

The following three programs were recently opened and are newly posted to CCAO's site:

- **Innovative Technology Solutions** (October 14)
  - Intended to increase the use of innovative technologies for service delivery to individuals with developmental disabilities.
  - Open to county boards of developmental disabilities (among other entities).
- **Housing and Technology Support** (November 4)
  - Intended to build supportive technological infrastructure capacity and increase the use of innovative technology within the homes of people with developmental disabilities.
  - Open to county boards of developmental disabilities if partnered with a nonprofit housing corporation (among other entities).
- **State Fiscal Year 2023 Ohio Security Grant** (November 4)
  - Intended to provide funding for security improvements to organizations at risk of terrorism.
  - Open to nonprofit organizations, houses of worship, chartered nonpublic schools, and preschools that have an IRN.

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.

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:

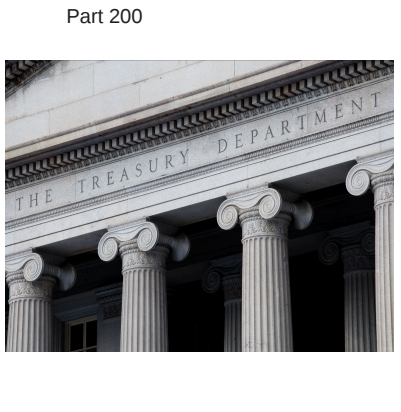
US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Webinar recorded April 21, 2022
Join NACo for a review of the Treasury Department's webinar on reporting guidelines and compliance requirements for the Coronavirus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

Commissioners change employee health insurance premiums, celebrate local events

TiffinOhio.net, September 22, 2022

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners approved increases to the county contribution and county employee contributions to health insurance premiums Thursday morning.

First Insurance Employee Benefits Consultant Kim Bond presented the recommendations of the county's health insurance committee to the board during the session.

Bond said there was a $325,085 fund balance in the health insurance fund as of Aug. 31st, and she said the projection for the end of the year is about $364,000.

She said the county typically aims to have about $200,000 as a minimum in that fund, and in volatile times like now, she said the recommendation is to keep that number to at least $250,000.

Northeast District

Commissioners OK raises for poll workers

Morning Journal News, September 23, 2022

Columbiana County commissioners agreed Wednesday to accept the poll worker pay increase approved by the county board of elections for next year.

"They're well-deserved to get a pay raise. We think that it will help attract future poll workers," Board of Elections Deputy Director Bryce Miner said when contacted.

The election board approved the wage hike at a meeting Aug. 31, but Ohio election rules require the proposed increase to come before county commissioners for their acceptance. The election board submitted a letter to commissioners outlining the current rates and the proposed rates, noting the pay for poll workers has not been increased since 2009 and the current rate falls below the state hourly minimum wage.

Central District

Mary Ellen Withrow to be inducted into Marion County Hall of Fame (marionstar.com)

Marion Star, September 17, 2022

A Marion County icon will be honored by the Marion County Historical Society in October.

Mary Ellen Withrow, the first person ever to hold the office of treasurer at the county, state, and federal levels of government, will be inducted into the Marion County Hall of Fame on Sunday, Oct. 2 during a dinner and ceremony in her honor at All Occasions Catering in Waldo.

Brandi Wilson, executive director of the Marion County Historical Society, said Withrow's induction ceremony is special for two reasons. First, Oct. 2 will be her 92nd birthday. Secondly, she will be the first living person ever to be inducted into the Marion County Hall of Fame.

Southwest District

Commissioners discuss liquor sales at fairgrounds

Scioto County Daily News, September 16, 2022

Scioto County Commissioners are considering a request from the Scioto County Fair Board to permit liquor sales at the fairgrounds.

At Thursday's SCC meeting, Commissioner Scottie Powell said there's a lot more the commissioners need to know before they make a decision.

Commissioner Cathy Coleman has been communicating with the fair board on the issue. She said this does not mean alcohol would be sold at the fair. "This is for special events only. There would be strict conditions to make sure the sales are overseen by authorities." She also said she would like to see prohibitions against bringing in coolers or alcohol being consumed in the grandstand. Coleman said she would prefer something along the lines of a beer garden.

Southeast District

Washington County Commission outline $14.2M in repairs

Marietta Times, September 23, 2022

A long list of maintenance items involving the County Home, the County Courthouse and the Children Services building on Davis Avenue will be getting $14.2 million worth of repairs and refurbishing in coming months.

Washington County Commissioners say it's a good time to address the needs and eliminate repeated repairs that cost the county quite a bit of money in past years. There also will be future savings in terms of water conservation and energy efficiency after several of the projects are finished.

A resolution authorizing the issue and sale of bonds, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, was passed by the county commission in August. It will allow the lender, Wesbanco, to deal with bonds associated with loaning Washington County the $14.2 million.

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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Hamilton County

Hamilton County is home to the oldest Jewish congregation west of the Allegany Mountains. K.K. Bene Israel, familiarly known as Rockdale Temple, is located in Cincinnati and was founded in 1824. Throughout the congregation's 198-year history it has had several homes. The first, located at Sixth and Broadway in Cincinnati, was built in 1836, replaced in 1852, and housed the congregation until 1869 (the building, seen below, was then sold to the Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church). Its current synagogue can be seen below as well.

The historic Allen Temple, the original home to the Rockdale Temple Jewish congregation and later the Allen Temple AME Church. Built in 1852, it was demolished in the 1980s to make room for the headquarters of Proctor and Gamble.

The current synagogue of the Rockdale Temple Jewish congregation, located in the Cincinnati suburb of Amberly Village.

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