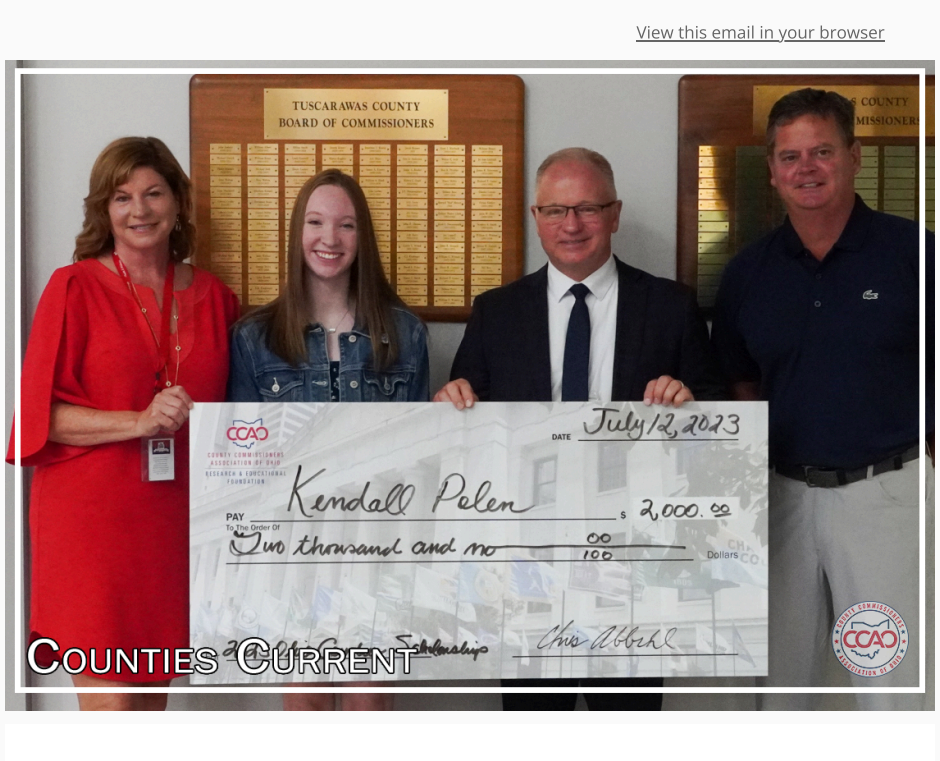

July 17, 2023

Congratulations to the Southeast District recipient of the new Ohio Counties Scholarship, Kendall Polen, presented by the Tuscarawas County Commissioners this week! CCAO wishes the best to Kendall in her educational and professional pursuits.

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | ARPA and BIF Resources | County News | Did You Know? | Job Postings

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Secretary of State issues guidance on August election funding

On Friday, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose and his office sent detailed instructions outlining how the state will cover August special election costs for State Issue 1 to boards of elections. Below is his message:

As we once again answer the call of duty and prepare for the August 8 special election, I couldn't be more thankful that Ohio has the best election officials in the country working together to make this election a success, not only as Republicans and Democrats but also as public servants.

To support you in this important work, the Ohio General Assembly has met its obligation to provide funding for election administration costs. These funds can be used to pay for expenditures such as overtime and temporary labor, election management, and ballot production and printing.

The legislature authorized $16 million in up-front funds and an additional $4 million in reimbursable funds as needed. Most importantly, boards of elections are guaranteed by law to be covered by the state for all permissible costs of administering the August 8 special election, in accordance with R.C. § 3501.17(F).

In consultation with the Ohio Association of Election Officials, the $16 million appropriation is being quickly distributed to all county boards based on a formula that includes prior comparable election expenditures and current voter registration counts. I've asked my team to expedite the release of these funds and to make these grants as flexible and easy to access as possible. I recognize that this election might require adjustments, as some counties spend more and others less. We're prepared to quickly reappropriate unspent funds and seek legislative approval to secure the additional funding as needed.

To receive your allocated amount, please review and sign the attached grant agreement and return the signed copy to 2023election@OhioSoS.gov. While we are working to get this funding out to boards as quickly as possible, please allow 1-2 weeks for the delivery of the checks. Please use the August Special Election Expense Report to report all expenses by October 13, 2023. Unused funds from all grants associated with the August special election must be returned to SOS by October 27, 2023.

We've faced some unprecedented challenges together these past few years, and, once again, you're being asked to step-up and serve. You continue to show the nation every day why Ohio is the gold standard in elections. Thank you for everything you do for our democracy – and please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need assistance or have questions.

Yours in service,

Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

You can view the grant agreement here and the August Special Election Expense Report here (Excel file).

Additionally, on Friday, Secretary LaRose issued a directive to county boards of elections regarding the canvassing process for the August election.

If you have questions about the reimbursement process, please contact CCAO Policy Director Kyle Petty at kpetty@ccao.org or at 614-220-7977.

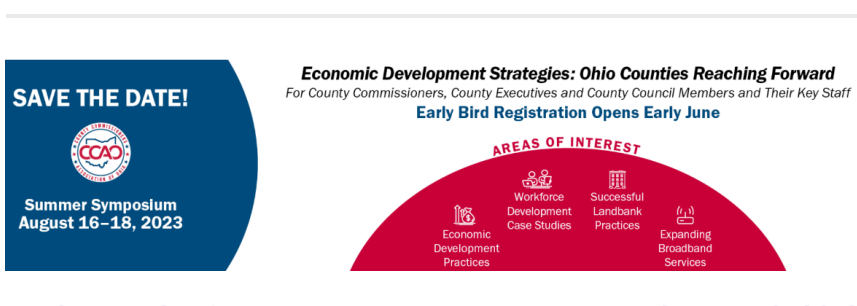
Update on Local Government Fund changes

With the passage of the state budget bill (House Bill 33) the Local Government Fund (LGF) will be reset in a couple ways.

First, the percentage of revenues from the state general fund taxes allocated to the Local Government Fund will change from 1.66% to 1.70%. This will be reflected in the July 10th payment.

Second, counties that have been subject for more than the last decade to a minimum floor of the lesser of $750,000 or the amount received in FY 2013 will receive $850,000 a year in their County Undivided Local Government Fund going forward. These dollars are distributed to townships and municipalities along with the county general fund in each impacted county. This increase will not be reflected in the July distribution due to the quick turn-around time from the adoption of the state budget, but the August 10th payment will include the newer level going forward plus what would have been received in July. Thus, the August payment will be slightly inflated.

CCAO also is working with the Ohio Department of Taxation to understand how tax reforms included in the state budget will impact state revenues, and therefore, alter the LGF. One tax change – the new extended sales tax holiday beginning August 2024, includes a requirement that the foregone sales tax revenue to counties, transit authorities, the Local Government Fund, the Library Fund, and the state general fund be reimbursed. Under the previous School Sales Tax Holiday, counties and the LGF along with the other entities were not made whole. Commercial Activity Tax revenues are not expected to be impacted until 2024. New income tax withholding tables are not expected to be released until later this fall, when they will start to impact the LGF. The full impact of the income tax rate reduction will not be felt until 2024.


SAVE THE DATE!
CCAO
Summer Symposium
August 16–18, 2023
Economic Development Strategies: Ohio Counties Reaching Forward
For County Commissioners, County Executives and County Council Members and Their Key Staff
Early Bird Registration Opens Early June
AREAS OF INTEREST
Economic Development Practices
Workforce Development Case Studies
Successful Landbank Practices
Expanding Broadband Services

Register today for CCAO's 2023 Summer Symposium! Early bird pricing ends *TODAY*

Registration for CCAO's 2023 Summer Symposium is now open! Taking place at Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark from August 16 to August 18, the symposium is titled Economic Development Strategies: Ohio Counties Reaching Forward and will feature sessions on broadband, landbanks, case studies of economic development successes in counties around the state, and more.

Confirmed speakers for the event include Mark Barbash, Director of the Ohio Economic Development Institute; Shawn Carvin, Executive Director of the Ohio Land Bank Association; presenters from BroadbandOhio, AT&T, Charter Communications, and Ohio Transport Telecom; and Ohio cabinet directors Anne Vogel (Ohio EPA), Brian Baldridge (Agriculture), and Lydia Mihalik (Development). *Speakers may be subject to change*.

Registration for the event can be completed on CCAO's site, with early bird pricing ***ending TODAY.*** Reservations at Cherry Valley Hotel can be made here.

Research and Education Foundation looks to the future; needs your help

As CCAO works to revitalize the Research and Education Foundation, plans are underway to raise the necessary funds to invest in the mission.

Already this year, the Foundation has undertaken a generous scholarship project, awarding five scholarships to Ohio students. We are also working on several research and educational projects that will serve our counties and the people of Ohio.

We would like to invite you to the County Classic to be held on Wednesday, August 16th at the Clover Valley Golf Club with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. Dinner will be served after the round.

Not a golfer? That's okay! We want to see you! You can support the foundation and it's work by purchasing a ticket to the dinner at 6 p.m.

Reserve your spot to play golf here. If you would like to attend the dinner only, you may do so here (if you will not be attending the rest of the Summer Symposium, make sure to check the "Dinner Only" box).

If you cannot attend, but still would like to support the Foundation, please send a check to:
CCAO Research and Education Foundation
209 E State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

If you have questions, please contact Tim Hoverman, CCAO Operations Manager at 419-513-0410.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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BroadbandOhio accepting applications for second round of Community Accelerators

BroadbandOhio, in partnership with the Ohio State University Extension Office, recently announced the second round of the BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator Program.

The **BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator Program** is focused on participation from county commissioners, township trustees, mayors and city councils, and other economic development organizations and local governments. Interested communities will be tasked with putting together a team of up to 10 individuals to learn about broadband expansion, and how to bring shovel-ready projects to each community. Team members will be asked to join weekly webinars for **10 weeks** to engage in discussion, watch educational videos regarding connectivity, and ultimately create a presentation for your community on the next steps and the broadband vision.

Applications (accessible here) are now being accepted. The applications are due on **August 4** and should be submitted by email to Mark Shade, Project Manager, at Mark.Schade@development.ohio.gov.

A Question-and-Answer Session will be held virtually on **July 27** with more details to come.

You can also find more information on the program here.

Please review the attached application and reach out to Mark Schade at the email above or David Civittolo, Assoc. Professor and Interim Asst. Director – College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University, at civittolo.1@osu.edu with any questions or concerns.

Ohio EPA Submits Maumee Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load to the US EPA

On April 25, Federal Judge James Carr in the Northern District Court of Ohio signed a consent decree that required the Ohio EPA to submit a Maumee River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to the U.S. EPA. Under the consent decree The U.S. EPA will have 90 days to review the TMDL submitted by the Ohio EPA. In the circumstance that the U.S. EPA rejects the submitted TMDL, the U.S. EPA will have five months to create and submit their plan.

A TMDL stands for Total Maximum Daily load, which serves as an action plan that targets pollutants in certain areas of a water body for the purpose of having clean water. The Maumee Nutrient TMDL will target the amount of total phosphorus that enters the Maumee River Watershed. The goal is to reduce the risk of harmful algal blooms within Lake Erie. The TMDL has targets for three designated uses: aquatic life, drinking water, and recreation uses. Each of these uses have measurable standards that support the Clean Water Act.

The TMDL sets the goal at 40% reduction phosphorus levels. The Ohio EPA believes that a 40% reduction would achieve the necessary level of phosphorus levels to achieve acceptable size of harmful algal blooms. The TMDL measures the total level of phosphorus based on the spring season of March 1-July 31.

The Ohio EPA proposes a tracking process that requires a biennial report to be submitted starting in 2024. Each report has set milestones that are designed to put Ohio in a positive position to meet total load reduction levels as set out in the TMDL. The Ohio EPA has designed the TMDL to reach their harmful algal bloom reduction goals.

It is important to note that a TMDL is an action plan that determines a pollutant reduction target and allocates load reductions based on those targets. A TMDL does not affect policy or existing agency authorities. A TMDL cannot change existing regulations and are restricted to using existing definitions and approaches currently available in the Clean Water Act.

OBM releases budget highlight documents

This week, the Office of Budget and Management released budget fact sheets that highlight provisions included in the final version of the state budget in a number of policy areas.

Key points from each include:

Investing in a Thriving Economy

- $750 million for the All Ohio Future Fund, to support site infrastructure in all parts of the state;
- An increase in eligibility for publicly funded child care to enable more parents to remain in the workforce without compromising their children's development;
- Funding to bolster the health care workforce.

Investing in Ohio's Communities

- Funding for the expansion of MARCS, for the rollout and operation of Next Generation 9-1-1, and for the operations of the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Lifeline;
- Providing $75 million for the construction and renovation of county jails;
- Providing hundreds of millions in funding for critical water infrastructure projects, brownfield site remediation, and building demolition and site revitalization projects.

Investing in Recovery

- Funding to the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center to aid local law enforcement in combating drug-related crimes;
- Funding to assist jails provide addiction services and mental health treatment to inmates;
- $13.9 million in funding to expand early-identification programs to help ensure Ohioans receive treatment early.

Investing in Bold Beginnings

- Investment of an additional $60 million to county public children services agencies to transform foster care;
- Funding to improve maternal and early childhood healthcare;
- Funding to ensure housing continuity for pregnant women.

Investing in People and Workforce

- Providing $40 million for Healthy Aging grants to help seniors live healthy, independent lifestyles;
- Funding to reduce crisis services infrastructure in communities across the state;
- Funding to support initiatives to keep youth with complex behavioral health needs with their families.

OBM also released a budget highlight document regarding education.

CCAO staff is producing a County Advisory Bulletin on county-related provisions in the budget that will be published later in the summer. If you have a question regarding the budget, please contact a member of the Policy Team.

DeWine-Husted Administration announces new cybersecurity partnership with local governments

Last week, the DeWine-Husted Administration announced a new partnership program to assist local governments with cybersecurity preparedness and resilience.

The Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement (O-PCI) program will aid local governments in reaching three cybersecurity preparedness levels, each of which with a focus on education, training, exercises, mentoring, and improvement.

O-PCI will be funded through $4.9 million of Ohio's allocation under the federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. The Ohio Cyber Range Institute and the Ohio Cyber Reserve will administer the program.

NACo partners with Homeland Security on cyber protections

With an increase in cyber threats, ranging from phishing attempts to ransomware attacks, NACo has partnered with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a body within the US Department of Homeland Security, to promote county cybersecurity practices.

NACo members can learn more about the partnership here.

CCAO, the CCAO Service Corporation, and CORSA will highlight more cybersecurity opportunities in the coming weeks.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

Grant round-up: cemeteries, ambulances, reconnecting communities, and homeless youth

CCAO has posted a number of grant availabilities on its website. A brief listing of some of these grants is provided below, with information about the grants' purpose, funding available, and application deadline.

- Cemetery Grant (State)
    - Purpose: To defray the costs of exceptional maintenance or training of cemetery personnel in the maintenance and operation of the cemetery. (Non-county grant).
    - Maximum award: $2,500
    - Deadline: July 31
- Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program (State)
    - Purpose: Funds are being provided to ambulance providers to distribute "premium pay" to eligible workers that performed essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Non-county grant).
    - Awards specified by jurisdiction.
    - Deadline: July 31
- Justice Assistance Grant Program (Federal)
    - Purpose: To advance work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.
    - $103 million available
    - Deadline: August 24
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (Federal)
    - Purpose: To support planning and capital construction activities that aim to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation or replacement of highways, roadways, or other infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access or economic development.
    - $198 million available
    - Deadline: September 28
- Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (Federal)
    - Purpose: To quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.
    - $3.1 billion available.
    - Deadline: September 28

You can view the full listing of available grants and funding opportunities on the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website.

Funding available under the Lead Safe Ohio Program

The Ohio Department of Development has a number of opportunities available under the Lead Safe Ohio Program, funded through $150 million in state-level ARPA funding. Two are highlighted below.

County Allocation for Lead Mitigation and Prevention
A total of $95 million is available to conduct a number of lead abatement services, such as window and door replacement in a variety of settings. constructed before 1978. At least $200,000 is allocated to each county, with a full table of allocations included at the end of the document linked to above. Communities planning on applying for funds must complete a survey by August 1 and submit a grant application by September 14.

Community Housing Impact and Preservation Lead Abatement Program (CHIP-LAP)
A total of $5 million is available to leverage funding to current CHIP programs to assist with eliminating lead-based paint hazards. The supplemental funds will be available to acquire an X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer or to re-source an XRF analyzer. This equipment will help grantees perform thorough and accurate lead risk assessments. Applications must be submitted by July 26.

Lead service line replacement webinar to be held next week

Next Wednesday, July 26, the Ohio EPA will host a webinar regarding more than $100 million available for Lead Service Line Identification and Replacement.

The webinar will provide an overview on the resources that public water systems may use to map, identify, and replace lead lines, as well as learn about the available grants and other funding streams.

Registration is free and can be completed here.

Lt. Governor to participate in forums on artificial intelligence

On Wednesday, July 19, Lt. Governor Jon Husted will be speaking at the first OH | AI Forum regarding the impact that artificial intelligence may have on Ohio's education, economy, and workforce. The event is presented by OhioX and Innovate Ohio and will be held on the campus of John Carroll University in University Heights.

The second forum will be held on Thursday, August 1, at the University of Cincinnati.

The forums will discuss current AI capabilities, forecast its future, and discuss how Ohio can best equip its students for the rapidly changing global innovative economy.

Registration for the events is free but limited. Registration for the event at John Carroll can be completed here while registration for the event at the University of Cincinnati can be completed here.

If you have trouble registering or have questions about the event, please contact OhioX at hello@ohiox.org.

NACo offering cyberattack simulation training to NACo members

CCAO is highlighting three NACo cybersecurity offerings that it will host this year, all of which are cyberattack simulations. The simulations are designed and presented in partnership with the Professional Development Academy, risk managers, chief information security officers, chief information officers, and more.

Registration is open only to NACo members and a single event registration costs $150 per individual.

The second, scheduled for September 11 to September 15, is a simulation of a ransomware attack. Ransomware attacks involve a virus typically disguised as a harmless file that prohibits access to vital and sensitive files until the owner pays a ransom to regain access. If the ransom is not paid, the files may be permanent erased or released to malicious third parties.

The third simulation is scheduled for December 4 to December 8 and will focus on the employee management aspect of cyberattacks and how an aware and conscious workforce can help prevent cyberattacks.

If you are interested in joining NACo to gain access to useful trainings such as these, please contact CCAO Assistant Director John Leutz, CCAO Service Corporation Manager Steve Caraway, or CCAO Boards Liaison and Events Manager Robin Garrett.

SAM.gov, federal grant portal, walkthrough available; grant writing resources available

Last month, the US General Services Administration hosted an online forum to help walk state and local officials through how to use SAM.gov. The website is the primary portal for intergovernmental assistance from the federal government to state and local governments.

The Administration has made the presentation slide deck and the recording of the session available for download, as well as a one-page guide.

Grants are a valuable resource for counties to utilize, but knowing how best to develop competitive applications can be difficult and the learning curve cause counties to lose out on grants. Luckily, federal agencies and nonprofits offer resources to assist in developing competitive applications. Federal agency websites point to internal and external sources and many conduct free training and targeted one on one or small group technical assistance. Here are some current resources to explore:

- Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse
- Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
- Local Infrastructure Hub
- National Wildlife Federation
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- State and Community Energy Programs-Tools and Resources
- US Department of Transportation
- USDA Rural Development
- 10,000 Communities Initiative

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 comparison of state and federal procurement law available

Bricker Graydon has shared a revised comparison of Ohio procurement law and federal uniform guidance. The document is intended to provide a comparison of the procurement rules and regulations prescribed by both federal law and state law, as they relate to Ohio counties using ARPA funds. Counties must comply with both state and federal law, where possible. Where federal requirements are more restrictive than state law, federal law must be followed. Where state law is more restrictive than federal requirements, state law must be followed.

The key revision regards state term contracts (page 8), which counties may participate in but Bricker Graydon suggests exercising caution and reviewing Auditor of State training materials before doing so.

The information presented in the chart was prepared by Bricker Graydon LLP as a service to CCAO. This information is intended solely for informational purposes of CCAO and its members and is not intended to constitute legal advice to, and may not be relied upon by, any party. Readers should engage legal counsel to provide legal advice related to any specific transaction.

Federal legislation increases ARPA flexibility for infrastructure, disaster response, and CDBG projects

The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. The legislation contains important updates to how counties and other local governments may use their ARPA funds. First, the Act codifies the standard allowance included in the US Department of the Treasury's Final Rule that permits counties to use up to $10 million for the provision of government services under the "revenue loss" eligibility category without having to demonstrate losses through a complicated formula. This codification means that the Treasury Department cannot alter the standard allowance in any subsequent rulemaking.

The Act also permits counties to use the greater of $10 million or 30 percent of their total ARPA allocation for federal infrastructure projects, responding to natural disasters, or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. Counties must expend these funds no later than September 30, 2026, rather than the standard date of December 31, 2026. Eligible natural disaster responses include emergency relief and the negative economic impacts of natural disasters, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs. CDBG projects must meet the requirements of Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Some of the federal infrastructure programs eligible for ARPA match include the National Highway Performance Program; Bridge Investment Program; Surface Transportation Block Grant Program; and, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program. More information, and a complete list of eligible transportation programs, is available from NACo at this link.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

The most recent version of the US Treasury Reporting Guidance was published September 20, 2022. Counties and other local governments with populations greater than 250,000 or ARPA distributions greater than $10 million are required to file Project and Expenditure Reports no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter throughout the grant period. Other recipients will file Project and Expenditure Reports annually by April 30.

Members are urged to consult resources from US Treasury, NACo, and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for more information about reporting and how to use ARPA funds. CCAO maintains a list of ARPA links and resources, including a comparison of state and federal procurement laws, at the ARPA Resources page.

Ohio Ethics Commission issues statement regarding stimulus funds

Last week the Ohio Ethics Commission released a statement ensuring that public officials are aware that stimulus funds, such as those received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the funds that communities will receive under Governor Mike DeWine's Appalachian investment program, are public funds and that conflict of interest laws must be observed.

To that effect, the Commission also recirculated its Advisory Opinion No. 2009-006, issued in 2009 regarding stimulus funds made available to governments under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It provides a more in-depth examination of potential conflicts of interest with stimulus funds, including a discussing regarding vendors.

CCAO encourages members refamiliarize themselves with this Advisory Opinion and conflict of interest laws to ensure good stewardship of ARPA and Appalachia funds.

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.

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
Longtime Lucas County Commissioner to retire
13ABC.com, July 13, 2023
Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak is set to retire at the end of the year, one year before the end of her term.

The commissioner announced her retirement Thursday after 21 years in the position. Her last day on the job will be Dec. 31, 2023.

Wozniak does not intend to run for reelection and is looking forward to spending time with her grandchildren.

"This is an incredibly difficult decision, but one made easier knowing Lucas County is in supremely capable hands," Commissioner Wozniak said. "I am proud each and every day of how well-served our Lucas County residents, businesses, and visitors are because of the hard work and dedication of our staff."

Northeast District
Wayne County commissioners approve 2024 tax budget, OK grants
The Daily Record, July 13, 2023
Key action: Approved a resolution setting up the tax budget for fiscal year 2024.

Discussion: Commissioners held a public hearing after the July 5 meeting to discuss and propose the tax budget. Commissioners must adopt a tax budget for the following year by July 15 of the current year. The tax budget was filed with the county auditor on June 28.

Other recent actions by the commissioners:

- The commissioners on July 5 approved a resolution giving authority to Medway Logistics to apply for and accept a grant award agreement from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services for Narcotics Task Force Funding on behalf of the Medway Drug Enforcement Agency. The grant in total will be in value of $108,813.28.
- Approved a resolution giving authorization for a grant acceptance for the Office of the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney to the Grant Acceptance with the U.S. Department of Justice through the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services for the STOP Violence Against Women Act totaling $58,696.46.

Central District
County transit system gets emission-reductions grant
Perry County Tribune, June 25, 2023
Perry County Transit is among 10 local transit systems across Ohio that will receive federal grant funding to lower emissions from their vehicle fleet.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown announced on June 23 that the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) had awarded a $29,331,665 Low-No Grant to the Ohio Department of Transportation, on behalf of 10 sub-recipients. This investment will support the Ohio Zero Emission Ready Ohio (OH-ZERO) project by allowing transit authorities across Ohio to replace older buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. Funding for this investment was made possible through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

According to Brown's office, Perry County Transit, which is operated by Perry County Job and Family Services (PCJFS), will receive $2,825,473.68 from the DOT. According to PCJFS, when state funding is taken into account, the award is around $3.5 million.

"We are thrilled to be selected for the Low-No Emissions Grant," PCJFS Director Cheryl Boley said. "Perry County is becoming a leader in environmentally responsible rural public transportation, as this new award is in addition to our current Ohio Rural Zero Emissions Project grant (of $1.8 million). Together, the investments from the U.S. and Ohio transportation departments will allow Perry County Transit to offer transportation solutions that advance economic and social well-being for our community, all while reducing carbon emissions."

Southwest District
Butler County passes 'pivotal' $497M tax budget
Journal News, July 13, 2023
The Butler County commissioners have passed a structurally balanced $120.3 million general fund tax budget that was dubbed a "pivotal" spending plan because increased spending is outpacing revenue hikes.

The general fund tax budget for next year is structurally balanced at $120.3 million, meaning planned spending matches revenues and carryover isn't required to pay bills. The commissioners have required a structurally balanced budget for many years.

The general fund is the main operational fund, but there are a number of entities that rely on outside resources such as state and federal funding, service fees like water and sewer and independent tax levies. All combined, the total tax budget for next year amounts to $497.4 million.

County Administrator Judi Boyko is cautioning the commissioners that if spending and revenue collections continue to grow at its current rate, over the next few years the county's budget will require carryover to balance.

Southeast District
Jackson County partners with Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia
WSAZ.com, July 6, 2023
There are plenty of natural wonders to enjoy in Jackson County, Ohio. Local residents enjoy lakes and trails throughout the county. Public officials would like to see more attention brought to those areas, and they have partnered with the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) to develop and promote outdoor tourism.

County Commissioner Paul Haller says outdoor tourism can have a huge economic impact in local communities, if done correctly, and that ORCA will help Jackson County do just that.

"We want to harness that right here in Jackson County and ORCA can help us do that. We don't have the know-how and the planning and the strategy," Haller said.

The Athens-based group has already helped several southeast Ohio communities develop outdoor tourism from both a strategic and financial standpoint.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the CCAO Calendar for a comprehensive list of events to note.

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JULY 21 - 24
NACo Annual Conference (Austin, Texas)

AUGUST 8
Special Election

AUGUST 9
CCAO-CEAO Northwest District Meeting

AUGUST 11
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

AUGUST 16
County Classic Golf Outing

AUGUST 16 - 18
CCAO Summer Symposium (Newark, Ohio)

County Fair Dates:
You can access a full schedule here.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Lorain County

One of the United States' largest and oldest disability services advocacy group was born out of a tragedy in Elyria.

In 1907, Edgar Allen's son was involved in a streetcar accident. he lack of adequate medical services available to save his son prompted Allen to sell his business and begin a fund-raising campaign to build a hospital in his hometown of Elyria. Through this new hospital, he learned that children with disabilities were often hidden from public view. This led Allen, in 1919, to create the National Society for Crippled Children, today known as Easterseals.

Among Easterseals' achievements is the Americans with Dsiabilities Act passed in 1990. Despite being founded in Lorain County, Easterseals is now based out of Chicago, IL.

OPPORTUNITY for CRIPPLED CHILDREN
OPEN WIDE THE DOOR FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN
JOYOUS LIFE CRIPPLED CHILDREN
CRIPPLED CHILDREN 1939
1941 CRIPPLED CHILDREN
HELP CRIPPLED CHILDREN

The "Easter Seals" that the organization sold early in its history to raise funds. The seals are the source for the Easterseals' current name.

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