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July 24, 2023

The NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee, chaired by Commissioner Jones, met this weekend at the NACo Annual Conference to discuss innovative policy strategies for child care workforce, nutrition assistance, and ARPA investments.

Pictured: Michelle Niedermier, Director, Montgomery County JFS
Shannon Jones, Warren County Commissioner
Kathryn Whittington, Ashtabula County Commissioner
Debbie Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner
Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Secretary of State sends election funds to county boards of elections

On Wednesday, CCAO was informed by the Secretary of State's office that funding for the August election, appropriated in House Bill 33, the main operating budget, had been mailed to each county. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Ohio Association of Election Officials, based each county's share of the $16 million appropriation on a formula that includes prior comparable election expenditures and current voter registration counts. You can access a list of funding by county here.

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

Additionally, as an important note, boards of elections are guaranteed by law to be covered by the state for all permissible costs of administering the special election, in accordance with ORC 3501.17(F), since the election is solely for voting upon a statewide ballot issue.

If you have questions about the reimbursement process, please contact either the Secretary of State's regional liaison for your county or CCAO Policy Director Kyle Petty at kpetty@ccao.org or at 614.220.7977.

Counties receive funds from First Responder Wellness, RecoveryOhio, and OhioBUILDS grant programs

Last week, the DeWine-Husted Administration announced recipients of the latest round of three grant programs. Several county entities received funding under these programs.

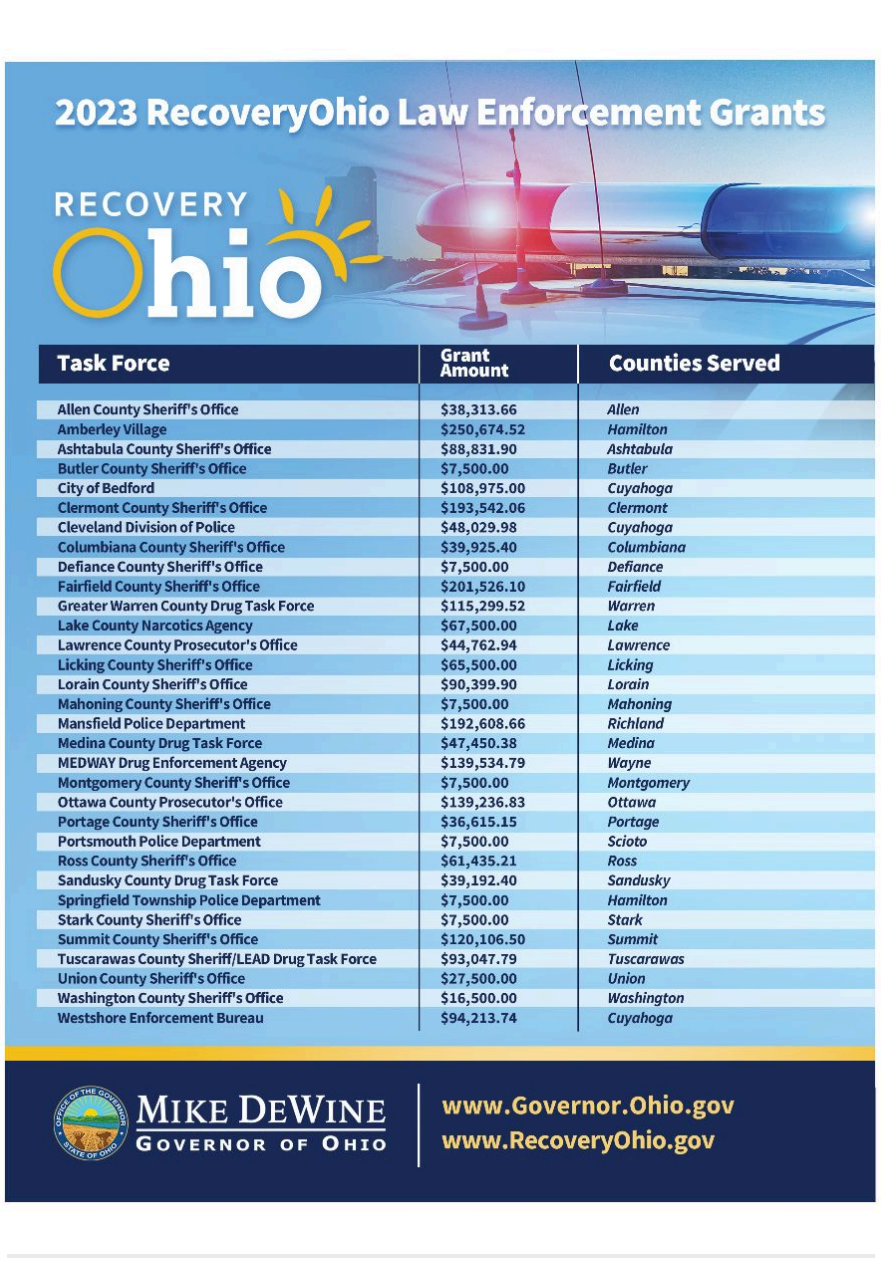
First Responder Wellness
On Tuesday, Governor DeWine announced $4 million in awards under the Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program. With the latest round of awards, $65 million of the $95 million allocated for the program has been distributed. Of the 20 first responder agencies that received awards last week, five were county entities:

- Crawford County Board of Commissioners - $37,946
- Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System - $10,000
- Hamilton County Sheriff's Office - $2,000
- Lake County Sheriff's Office - $12,000
- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office - $48,000

RecoveryOhio Drug Task Force Funding
On Wednesday, Governor DeWine announced grants to 32 drug task forces under the governor's RecoveryOhio initiative. A total of $2.4 million was distributed to these drug task forces, many of which are organized out of the county sheriff department or the county prosecutor's office. The full list can be found here or at the end of this article.

Water Infrastructure
On Friday, Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Director of Development Lydia Mihalik announced the latest round of water infrastructure grants under the Ohio BUILDS program. A total of $135 million across 90 programs in 64 counties were awarded. The boards of county commissioners that received grants were:

- Auglaize County - $129,900 (Wastewater)
- Belmont County - $858,750 (Wastewater)
- Butler County - $267,575 (Wastewater)
- Greene County - $5 million (Drinking Water)
- Guernsey County - $2,717,406 (Wastewater)
- Mahoning County - $584,958 (Drinking Water)
- Marion County - $3,925,000 (Wastewater)
- Montgomery County - $4,683,000 (Wastewater)
- Noble County - $522,045 (Wastewater)
- Pickaway County - $2,347,740 (Wastewater)
- Seneca County - $122,555 (Wastewater)
- Williams County - $3.3 million (Wastewater)

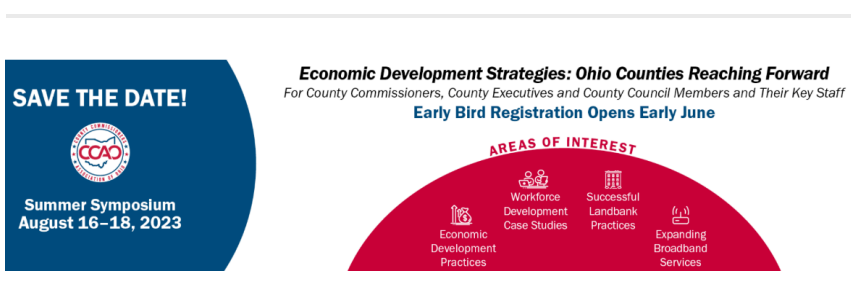


2023 RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Grants

RECOVERY Ohio

Task Force	Grant Amount	Counties Served
Allen County Sheriff's Office	$38,313.66	Allen
Amberley Village	$250,674.52	Hamilton
Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office	$88,831.90	Ashtabula
Butler County Sheriff's Office	$7,500.00	Butler
City of Bedford	$108,975.00	Cuyahoga
Clermont County Sheriff's Office	$193,542.06	Clermont
Cleveland Division of Police	$48,029.98	Cuyahoga
Columbiana County Sheriff's Office	$39,925.40	Columbiana
Defiance County Sheriff's Office	$7,500.00	Defiance
Fairfield County Sheriff's Office	$201,526.10	Fairfield
Greater Warren County Drug Task Force	$115,299.52	Warren
Lake County Narcotics Agency	$67,500.00	Lake
Lawrence County Prosecutor's Office	$44,762.94	Lawrence
Licking County Sheriff's Office	$65,500.00	Licking
Lorain County Sheriff's Office	$90,399.90	Lorain
Mahoning County Sheriff's Office	$7,500.00	Mahoning
Mansfield Police Department	$192,608.66	Richland
Medina County Drug Task Force	$47,450.38	Medina
MEDWAY Drug Enforcement Agency	$139,534.79	Wayne
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	$7,500.00	Montgomery
Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office	$139,236.83	Ottawa
Portage County Sheriff's Office	$36,615.15	Portage
Portsmouth Police Department	$7,500.00	Scioto
Ross County Sheriff's Office	$61,435.21	Ross
Sandusky County Drug Task Force	$39,192.40	Sandusky
Springfield Township Police Department	$7,500.00	Hamilton
Stark County Sheriff's Office	$7,500.00	Stark
Summit County Sheriff's Office	$120,106.50	Summit
Tuscarawas County Sheriff/LEAD Drug Task Force	$93,047.79	Tuscarawas
Union County Sheriff's Office	$27,500.00	Union
Washington County Sheriff's Office	$16,500.00	Washington
Westshore Enforcement Bureau	$94,213.74	Cuyahoga

MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO
www.Governor.Ohio.gov
www.RecoveryOhio.gov


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!

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 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.

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

Recently, 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.

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.

Lead service line replacement webinar to be held on Wednesday, OPEA eBusiness center webinar on August 22

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.

Additionally, on August 22, the OEPA will host a webinar regarding its eBusiness center and how it can be used to report and submit applications, report non-compliance, and more. The webinar will provide one hour of continuing education credit for wastewater operators and is currently in pending review for an hour of continuing education credit for registered environmental health specialists. You can register for this webinar here.

CCAO to host budget overview webinar on August 1

On August 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., CCAO policy staff will provide an overview of key takeaways from the recently passed state operating budget and discuss the budget's impact on counties. We will review topics such as Indigent Defense, Next Generation 9-1-1, Human Services, H2Ohio, the Local Government Fund, procurement, and changes in tax laws. Policy Staff will answer questions and identify issues that may see additional legislative activity during the remainder of this legislative session.

You can register for the webinar here. 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 her with your email address.

OSU Extension, BroadbandOhio partnering to host a virtual class; information session to be held Thursday

Ohio State University Extension and BroadbandOhio are partnering to host a a virtual course through OSU regarding broadband. The course is virtual and will begin on August 23 and conclude on November 8.

This Thursday, July 27, BroadbandOhio and OSU Extension will host a question-and-answer session via Zoom to help provide more information regarding the course. You can access the Zoom session here.

If you have other questions regarding the course or the upcoming Q&A session, please contact David Civittolo, Associate Professor and Interim Assistant Director for the Ohio State College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences.

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.

Upcoming webinar on H2Ohio Conservation Ditch Program

Applications for the 2023 H2Ohio Conservation Ditch Grant Program will begin to be accepted on August 1. The Department of Agriculture is hosting a rollout/training webinar on Friday, July 28, registration for which can be completed here.

Key facts about the program include.

- Only county engineer offices and SWCDs may apply.
- Projects must be self-forming or two-stage ditch designs.
- Projects must be placed on county ditch maintenance program (ORC 6137).
- Grant funds will not be distributed to grantee until after construction and placed on the maintenance program.
- This is a competitive grant program and approved projects will be announced in November/December.

If you have questions regarding the program, please contact CCAO Policy Analyst James Kennedy or Ohio Department of Agriculture Conservation Engineer Justin L. McBride

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.

Lt. Governor to participate in forum on artificial intelligence

On Thursday, August 1, Lt. Governor Jon Husted will be speaking at the secondOH | 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 the University of Cincinnati.

The forum, part of a series, 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 event is free but limited. 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 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.

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
Sales tax up in Hancock County
The Courier, July 19, 2023
Hancock County's sales tax receipts for the first seven months of 2023 rose 5.2% from a year earlier, to $10.95 million, Hancock County Auditor Charity Rauschenberg reported this week.

An increase in sales tax revenue bodes well not only for county coffers. It represents a healthy economy because it signals that consumers are spending more. Other data are also signaling a healthy economy.

Hancock County's unemployment rate of 2.8% in May was less than the 3.1% a year earlier, according to the Ohio Job and Family Services Department. The statewide jobless rate, which is seasonally adjusted, declined to 3.6% in May from 3.9% a year earlier.

Northeast District
Cuyahoga County Council withholds approval of Cleveland's proposed lakefront development authority
Cleveland.com, July 21, 2023
The City of Cleveland's proposal to create a new lakefront development authority in partnership with Cuyahoga County hit a roadblock at County Council's meeting Tuesday.

After an hourlong discussion over the county's potential participation in establishing the development authority, Council President Pernel Jones said the body would take no action and would discuss the matter at an upcoming meeting,

The council's hesitance could slow down the city's ability to embark on ambitious plans to extend the downtown Mall over lakefront rail lines and the Ohio 2 Shoreway to create a better connection to waterfront attractions including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Browns Stadium.

The development authority could also facilitate future private development around North Coast Harbor and upland portions of downtown. Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb is scheduled to present an early iteration of such plans for public comment at 3 p.m., Thursday, July 27, at the Great Lakes Science Center. Marie Zickefoose, the city's press secretary, said Friday that the city had no comment.

Central District
Franklin County OKs 30% raise for rides, escorts for county agencies (dispatch.com)
Columbus Dispatch, June 25, 2023
Twenty-three taxi or transportation firms that provide rides, wheelchair lift services and escorts to clients of Franklin County agencies are getting a 30% increase under contract modifications totaling $24.3 million approved this week by the county commissioners.

Senior clients of the county Office on Aging are the largest user of the ride services, though other agencies like the Veterans Services Commission, Job and Family Services, Child Support Enforcement and the Justice Policy and Programs also rely on the providers to get their clients to medical appointments, grocery stores, community centers and other places.

Depending on the vendor, the county will pay a range from $3.30 to $6.83 per mile for regular ride services and $6.23 to $8.45 per mile for lift ride services.

Southwest District
Montgomery County Jail to add more nurses to help with inmate intake
Dayton Daily News, July 19, 2023
The contract with Montgomery County Jail's health care staff has been modified to require the hiring of more registered nurses for the facility's intake portion.

The Montgomery County commission on Tuesday approved an amendment to the county's contract with Naphcare, the health services provider of the jail.

Four more nurses will be staffing the jail's booking section, where inmates first arrive and receive a health screening by medical staff, according to the commission. EMTs currently work with incoming inmates.

The contract change comes a month after a sixth inmate death was reported at the county's jail this year. More inmate deaths have been reported at the jail this year than the previous two years combined.

Southeast District
Commissioners place electric, gas aggregation issues on Nov. 7 ballot
Times Reporter, July 18, 2023
Residents in some unincorporated portions of Tuscarawas County will be asked at the Nov. 7 general election to approve ballot issues that would lead to creation of electric and gas aggregation programs for utility customers in those areas.

The two issues will appear on the ballot in townships that do not have aggregation programs. Auburn, Franklin, Lawrence, Mill, Sandy and Sugar Creek townships already have such programs.

Commissioners voted recently to place the issues on the ballot.

"If it's approved, we will be working with Palmer Energy, which works with our County Commissioners Association of Ohio, to look for the best electric rates for all those in the unincorporated areas that would qualify," said Commissioner Chris Abbuhl.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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AUGUST 1
CCAO Budget Overview Webinar

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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Montgomery County

Dayton played an important part in the Manhattan Project, the secretary development project during World War II to build the first atomic bomb. While the two most famous sites in the project are Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Los Alamos, New Mexico, a vital component of the triggering mechanism for the first atomic bombs was developed in Dayton.

The "Dayton Project" took place in numerous sites across the city and researched polonium development for the creation of the neutron initiator used in both the Little Boy and Fat Man bombs.

You can read more about the Dayton Project here.

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