October 2, 2023

Congratulations to our Finance and Benefits Manager, Thisbe Butcher, who earned the Ohio Auditor of State Award for excellent financial reporting for CEBCO! Thank you for all the great work you and your team do, Thisbe!

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Budget effective date is tomorrow, review CCAO budget materials

Tomorrow, October 3, is the effective date for most of the provisions in House Bill 33, the state operating budget. To prepare for the changes that will take effect, please review CCAO's County Advisory Bulletins on the budget!

- Budget CAB: A comprehensive look at the county provisions of the bill.
- Jail Funding Formula CAB: A walkthrough and a simulation of how the formula that will allocate jail project funding operates.
- Credit Card CAB: An explanation of the new county credit card authority that counties received in the budget and how it interacts with other procurement law provisions.

If you have any questions concerning provisions of the budget, please contact a member of the Policy Team!

Registration now open for CCAO-CEAO Winter Conference!

Register today!

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the County Engineers Association of Ohio invite you to the CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference! The event will be held December 6 - 8 at Hilton Columbus Downtown (402 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215). You can reserve rooms now, at a rate of $142/night, plus applicable taxes.

Registration for the event itself can be completed here. Registration is $495 through November 6, after which the cost increases to $595.

Sessions will cover topics such as community-based solar, broadband, cybersecurity and more! Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear from guest speaker retired Rear Admiral Peter Cressy, who will share leadership strategies used by President George Washington.

Additionally, for the future you imagine, you will have the opportunity to secure an appointment for a one-on-one meeting with a dedicated Empower Retirement Plan Advisor during this year's conference. Registration details for these appointments are coming soon!

If you prefer to print a copy of the registration forms for affiliate associations, click here. For the county registration and or sponsor form, click here, and for the spouse or guest registration form, click here.

When you register for the first time, you will automatically be prompted to establish a username and password. If you have already created a username and password and you happen to forget your password, an automated 'Forgot My Password' utility will send a new temporary password to your email address on file (be sure to check your spam folder if you don't receive it right away). If you still have issues logging in, please contact Nedra Benson at 614-221-5627, or by email at nbenson@ccao.org. She will be happy to assist you in updating your username and password.

CCAO, OACBHA issue Joint Recommendation on Changing ADAMH Board Governing Board Size

Ahead of tomorrow's effective date of the changes to section 340.02 of the Revised Code that were included in HB 33, that will allow for a determination of the number of members that will be appointed to the governing board of ADAMH Boards, CCAO and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) have collaborated and agreed upon recommendations for implementation of the new requirements. The following is a summary of the governing board requirements, both new and unchanged, and the joint CCAO-OACBHA recommendations.

A standalone PDF version of this article can be found here.

Summary of Requirements

Governing board size:

- County commissioners are authorized to determine the size of governing boards with options of 9, 12, 14, 15 or 18 members. In a joint-county district, all county commissioners must jointly determine board size. In a joint-county district, the decision among the boards of county commissioners must be unanimous.
- To change the size of an existing governing board, the board(s) of county commissioners must send a representative to a meeting of the governing board to solicit feedback on the change and must consider the feedback received. If the commissioners decide to proceed with a change after considering the feedback received, the board(s) of county commissioners must adopt a resolution specifying the selected board size and notify OhioMHAS of the size that has been selected in order to implement the change.
- A change in board size may not occur more frequently than once every four calendar years.
- When a board size decreases, the reduction in board members must be implemented by not filling vacancies as they occur.
- No action is required of existing 18 and 14 member boards that will stay with the current number of members.

Governing board appointments:

- 1/3 of members must be appointed by OhioMHAS and 2/3 by the county commissioners.
- The current requirement for the members of a joint-county ADAMH Board's governing board to be appointed by each county in as nearly as possible the same proportion of each county's population to the total population of the ADAMH Board's service district, with at least one member appointed from each county, remains unchanged.
- Also unchanged is the requirement for governing boards to reflect the composition of the population of the ADAMH Board's service district as to race and sex.
- The requirement for certain categories of appointments to be filled by the appointing authorities remains. If a governing board size provides for fewer than 6 appointments by OhioMHAS, the board(s) of county commissioners will also be responsible for ensuring these appointments are made. These categorical appointments are:
  - At least one person who has received or is receiving mental health services;
  - At least one parent or other relative of a person who has received or is receiving mental health services;
  - At least one person who has received or is receiving addiction services;
  - At least one parent of other relative of a person who has received or is received addiction services;
  - At least one clinician with experience in the delivery of mental health services;
  - At least one clinician with experience in the delivery of addiction services;
    - The clinician requirements may be fulfilled by a single board member if that person meets both qualifications.

Joint CCAO-OACBHA Recommendations

In consideration of the questions and considerations that will occur with the implementation of the new requirements, CCAO and OACBHA make the following joint recommendations:

- If an ADAMH Board is currently a 14-member governing board or will change to a 14-member governing board, it is recommended that to comply with the new requirement for 2/3 of members to be appointed by the county commissioners and 1/3 by OhioMHAS, 9 appointments should be board(s) of county commissioners' appointments and 5 should be OhioMHAS appointments. This split provides for county commissioners to appoint 64% of members which is as close to the required 66% as possible.
- If a change will be made to the size of a joint-county ADAMH district's governing board, it is recommended that, prior to deciding which county will appoint new members or lose them through attrition, the entity should determine if the existing board appointments are proportional to county size as currently required. This determination will inform what alterations need to be made with the forthcoming change in board size and allow the entity to factor in any needed re-basing.
- If either a board of county commissioners or an ADAMH Board is interested in a change in the size of the existing governing board, it is recommended they communicate about a potential change prior to engaging in the statutory process required to implement a change.

Please contact CCAO Outreach & Member Engagement Manager Rachel Reedy, rreedy@ccao.org, 513-543-3723, with any questions about the requirements or these recommendations.

CCAO to host regional budget briefings

The CCAO policy team is excited to announce regional meetings to bring together CCAO members and key staff from across the state and discuss pertinent policy issues and funding included in the state operating budget.

The events will begin at **9:30 a.m. and end at 1:15 p.m**. Lunch will be served. You are welcome to attend any of the events listed below. An event agenda is also included below.

Please RSVP to Nedra Benson at nbenson@ccao.org or 614-221-5627 and specify which event you plan to attend. Please also include any dietary requirements in your RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

- **OCTOBER 10 – NORTHEAST REGION**
  - Reed Memorial Library: 167 East Main Street, Ravenna, OH 44266
- **OCTOBER 16 – SOUTHWEST REGION**
  - Rocky Fork Lake East End Overlook Restaurant: 6452 Lucas Ln, Hillsboro, OH 45133
  - ***Please note Rocky Fork Lake East End Overlook Restaurant does not have handicap accessible restrooms available.***
- **OCTOBER 20 – CENTRAL REGION**
  - Delaware County Byxbe Meeting Room: 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015
- **OCTOBER 30 – NORTHWEST REGION**
  - Allen County OhioMeansJobs: 951 Commerce Pkwy, Lima, OH 45804

Event Agenda

9:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration & Networking
10:00 am – 11:00 am	State Budget Overview Presentation Part 1
11:00 am – 11:10 am	Break
11:10 am – 12:10 pm	State Budget Overview Presentation Part 2
12:10 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch with county updates and "Ask the Policy Team"

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Federal advocacy requested! ARPA obligation definition

NACo has requested that counties reach out to their federal senators and urge them to work with the Senate Appropriations Committee to have the Treasury Department clarify the definition of "obligation" as it pertains to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

The issue arises out of a difference between how the Treasury final rule defines "obligation" and a wider definition of how the US Government Accountability Office defines "obligation" as it pertains to the US federal government.

NACo, along with California Senator Alex Padilla, Illinois Senators Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin, and Texas Senator John Cornyn, are seeking to have Treasury adopt the language below to the final rule.

CCAO respectfully requests our members reach out to Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator J.D. Vance and urge their support for the NACo effort.

"FAQ 13.17. In the definition of "obligation" in the final rule, what does Treasury mean by "similar transactions that require payment?"

As stated in the final rule, obligation means "an order placed for property and services and entering into contracts, subawards, and similar transactions that require payment." See 31 CFR 35.3.

As stated by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, "An obligation is a definite commitment that creates a legal liability of the U.S. government for the payment of goods and services ordered or received, or a legal duty on the part of the U.S. government that could mature into a legal liability by virtue of actions on the part of another party that are beyond the control of the U.S. government." See GAO-23-106647, February 2023.

As contemplated by these definitions, Treasury recognizes that recipients may obligate funds through means other than contracts or subawards. In these circumstances, recipients must follow state or local law and their own established practices and policies regarding when they are considered to have incurred an obligation and how those obligations are documented. Other examples of obligations include, but are not limited to:

- *A recipient's legislative body approving a plan or resolution on how to spend its ARPA award;*
- *A recipient's ARPA-eligible subrecipient agreement executed prior to December 31, 2024, including when the distribution of funds by the subrecipient is after December 31, 2024, but before December 31, 2026;*
- *Payroll costs for ARPA-eligible services rendered by a recipient's employee, including administrative services, after December 31, 2024, and before December 31, 2026;*
- *Payroll costs for audit-related work provided by a recipient's employee through the full reporting cycle of the grant; and,*
- *A recipient's internal memorandum of understanding or directive executed prior to December 31, 2024, between departments to implement ARPA-funded programs through December 31, 2026."*

Times announced, registration open for DAS NG 9-1-1 regional briefings

This month, the Department of Administrative Services will be holding regional meetings to discuss rollout plans for Next Generation 9-1-1. The meetings are open to 9-1-1 coordinators, public safety answering point (PSAP) directors, local GIS representatives, and other local stakeholders. Registration can be completed here. If you have questions regarding the program or have difficulty registering, please contact Ohio9-1-1@das.ohio.gov or call 614-728-2114.

The meetings will be held in the state's Homeland Security regions, with some regions combined for the purposes of holding the meetings. The meetings will discuss DAS' deployment plan, the GIS data that will need to be collected, expected timelines for money from the new fee to flow, and more. The schedule is below:

- Tuesday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. to Noon - Regions 2 & 5, held in Medina County at 4355 Greenwich Road, Seville, OH 44273.
- Wednesday, October 18, 10:00 a.m. to Noon - Regions 7 & 8, held in Athens County at 701 E. State Street, Athens, OH 45701.
- Thursday, October 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Regions 3 & 6, held in Warren County at 406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, OH 45036.
- Friday, October 20, 10:00 a.m. to Noon - Region 1, held in Allen County at 951 Commerce Parkway, Lima, OH 45804.
- Monday, October 23, Noon to 3:00 p.m. - Region 4, held in Franklin County at 4200 Surface Road, Columbus, OH 43228.

The presentation at the Franklin County meeting will be recorded and shared online.

US EPA approves Ohio's plan for Maumee River Watershed

Last Thursday, the US EPA announced that it had approved of Ohio's plan to reduce the flow of phosphorus from the Maumee River into the western basin of Lake Erie.

The state plan establishes a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for phosphorus runoff to help reduce harmful algal blooms. These blooms produce toxins that make drinking water dangerous and can adversely impact aquatic creatures. Phosphorus runoff is a key contributor to harmful algal blooms.

States are required by the Clean Water Act to develop and maintain TMDLs for impaired waterways.

US EPA documentation regarding the approval of Ohio's Maumee Watershed TMDL plan is available on the agency's website. If you have questions regarding the county role in fulfilling the plan, please contact Policy Analyst James Kennedy at jkennedy@ccao.org or 614-220-7981.

Public employer workers compensation rate reduction for 2024

Ohio's public employers will pay nearly $8 million less in premiums next year to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) thanks to a rate cut that will go into effect Jan. 1, 2024.

This 3.9% rate reduction was made possible by declining injury claims and relatively low medical inflation costs by Ohio's counties, cities, public schools, and other public taxing districts.

"I applaud Ohio's employers for their dedication to workplace safety," said Governor Mike DeWine. "This commitment allows us to continue reducing rates for employers so that they can invest these savings back into their employees and workplaces."

Approved by BWC's Board of Directors at this month's board meeting, the reduction improves the already historically low rates for Ohio's employers. Overall, the average rate levels for the 257,000 private and public Ohio employers in the BWC system are at their lowest in over 60 years.

"We are always looking for ways to save Ohio's employers money," Administrator Logue said. "Thanks to organizations' improvements in workplace safety, we are able to continue dropping rates for both private and public employers."

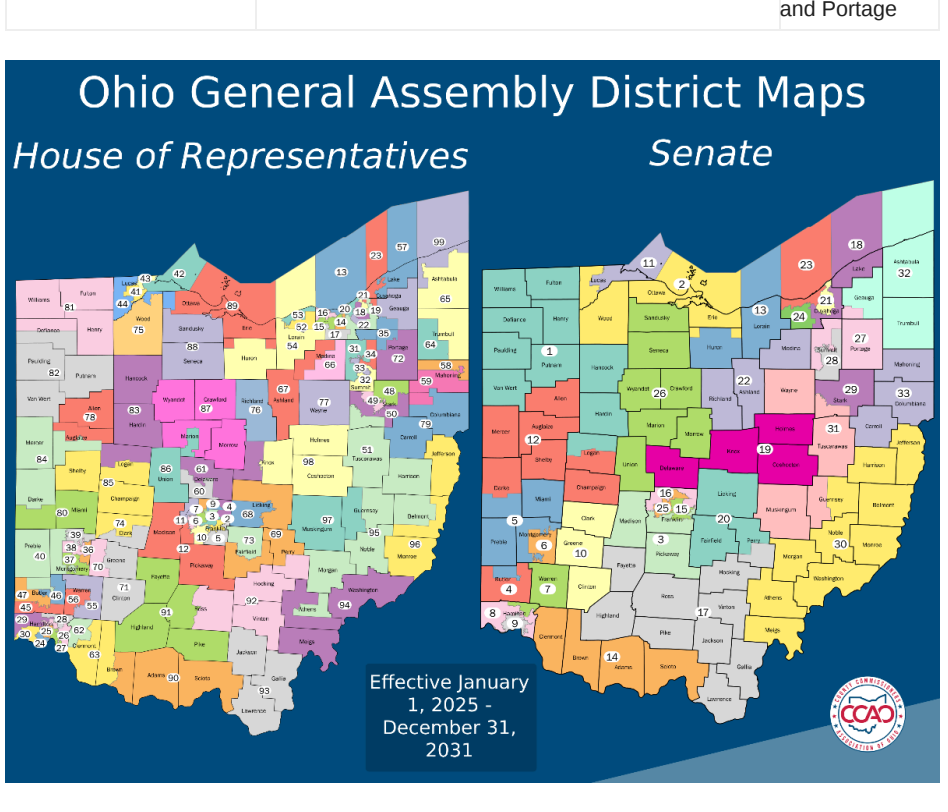
The reduction represents a statewide average. The actual premium change for an individual county will differ based on multiple factors, including employer type or classification, payroll levels, recent claims history, and their participation in various BWC programs.

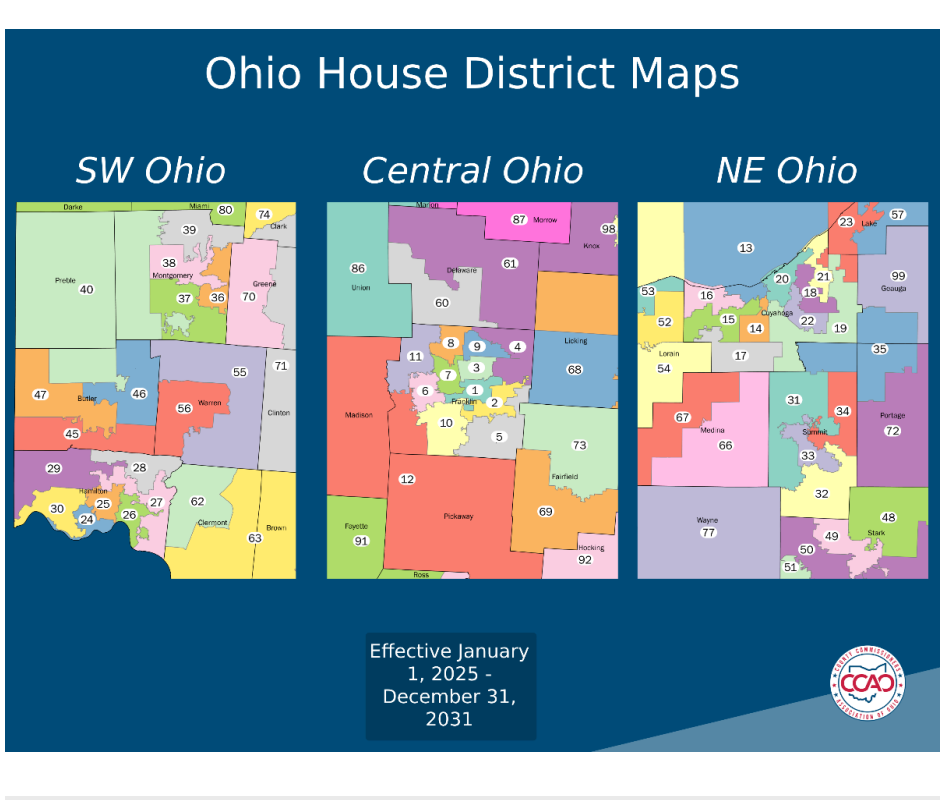
New General Assembly maps adopted, to last until 2032

Last week, the Ohio Redistricting Commission unanimously adopted state legislative maps for the remainder of the decade. The maps are similar to the maps used for the 2022 General Assembly elections and feature few county-shifts. These are listed in the table below. After the table are the maps themselves; you can click the maps to enlarge.

County Shifts in General Assembly Maps

District	Counties	County Shifts
House 54th District	Huron, Lorain	**LOST** Erie
House 91st District	Fayette, Highland, Pike, Ross	**LOST** Brown
House 94th District	Athens, Meigs, Washington	**LOST** Morgan
House 95th District	Athens, Belmont, Guernsey, Harrison, Morgan, Noble	**ADDED** Morgan, Athens **LOST** Washington
Senate 3rd District	Franklin, Madison, Pickaway	**ADDED** Madison, Pickaway
Senate 13th District	Huron, Lorain	**LOST** Erie
Senate 16th District	Franklin	**LOST** Madison and Pickaway
Senate 17th District	Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Perry, Pike, Ross, Vinton	**LOST** Brown
Senate 27th District	Geauga, Portage, Summit	**ADDED** Geauga and Portage
Senate 28th District	Summit	**LOST** Geauga and Portage


Ohio General Assembly District Maps
House of Representatives
Senate
Effective January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2031
CCAO



SharedWork Ohio program can help employers avoid layoffs

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder reminds employers considering layoffs that the SharedWork Ohio program can help them retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity.

"With SharedWork Ohio plans, employers can reduce the affected employees' hours by 10 to 60%, and the affected workers can receive unemployment benefits proportional to that reduction," Damschroder said. "SharedWork is an excellent option for both employers and workers."

To participate in the program, employers must meet the following criteria:

- Have at least two affected employees that do not work on a seasonal, temporary or intermittent basis.
- Are current on all Ohio unemployment insurance reporting, contributions, reimbursements, interest, and penalties due.
- Agree to the program requirements.

After ODJFS approves an employer's plan, the affected employees may apply for SharedWork Ohio benefits. Both full-time and part-time employees may be eligible, but all employees in an affected unit must have their hours reduced by the same reduction percentage. Reduction percentages must be at least 10% but no more than 60% of the normal weekly hours of work.

For more information, visit jfs.ohio.gov/job-services-and-unemployment/unemployment/for-employers/employer-resources/02-sharedwork-ohio.

Interested employers also can email SharedWork_Ohio@jfs.ohio.gov, send a message through the "Contact Us" form at odjfs.force.com/OUIForm/s/employerinquiryform, or call 1-866-733-0025 and select option 3.

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.

Save the Date! Fishel Downey to host labor and employment law seminar in November

On November 29, the law firm of Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff, LLP, will be hosting a seminar on labor and employment law.

The seminar, being held at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, is recommended for local government administrators, HR professionals, prosecutors, department heads, supervisors, and more. Attendees will learn about the latest in discipline, civil service law, and policy updates and review.

The cost for the event is $175 per attendee, although entities that register two or more will receive a discounted rate of $150 per attendee.

Continuing legal education credit has been requested for attendees.

Registration is not yet open; CCAO will note in a future edition of *Counties Current* when registration begins.

Ohio EPA to host webinar on pollutant discharge permits

Next Thursday, October 12, the Ohio EPA will host a webinar to provide local governments with an overview of new and proposed rules and policies, as well as upcoming regulations, that could impact non-stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. The webinar, which also provides certain continuing education units, will also discuss the statewide water quality management plan. Registration is free and can be completed here.

Additionally, applications for the 2024 round of Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants are now open. These grants are available to many entities, including counties, solid waste management districts, and park districts. Grants may be awarded under one of five categories (Community and Litter, Academic Institution, Market Development, Scrap Tire, and Water Bottle Refilling Station), each with different match requirements. Applications are open through December 1. More information, including how to submit applications, is available on the OEPA's website.

Applications open for local sponsor certification for Agriculture Easement Purchase Program

Applications to be certified as a local sponsor for the Agriculture Easement Purchase Program are being accepted through October 13. Soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, cities, townships, and counties may apply.

Selected local sponsors will be allocated a portion of the funding available through the program to use to purchase agricultural easements on Ohio farms. These easements preserve the land for agricultural purposes.

You can learn more about the program and the application process on the Department of Agriculture's website. If you have questions, please contact the Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Office at 614-728-6238 or farmlandpres@agri.ohio.gov.

County allocations for Lead Safe Ohio available; applications due October 12

Earlier this year, Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 45 into law, providing $150 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding for lead poisoning prevention and mitigation. The Ohio Department of Development has allocated $95 million to promote primary prevention and reduce immediate and presumed lead hazards in residential properties, congregate care settings, and childcare facilities built before 1978.

The Lead Safe Ohio program will achieve this goal by funding lead-safe renovation, lead abatement, and supportive measures in all 88 Ohio counties. Each county has been allocated an amount under the program. You can view your county's allocation here. Applications are due by October 12.

More information is available here.

The Department of Development will host a webinar for counties to discuss the Lead Safe Ohio program, the Brownfield Remediation Program, and the Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program, both authorized under the state's operating budget. Registration for the webinar can be completed here.

Treasurer of State and Auditor of State hosting fiscal officer educational event in October

On Tuesday, October 26, the Center for Public Investment Management (CPIM), a joint body of the Ohio Treasurer and the Ohio Auditor, will be hosting an event on the role of fiscal officers.

The event, titled "Leadership in Public Finance and Economic Development," will provide information and training tailored to the role that government fiscal officers play in economic development planning. Up to six hours of continuing education credits are available through the event.

Members of CPIM do not have to pay any cost to attend the event, as it is covered in the annual $100 fee. Non-members may still attend the event but must pay a $100 registration fee.

Registration can be completed here. More information, including course descriptions and speakers, are expected in the coming weeks.

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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NACo provides analysis of new allowable uses and guidelines for ARPA funds

On August 10, the US Department of Treasury released a new Interim Final Rule (IFR) for ARPA funding in light of an amendment that recently passed which expanded the allowable usages for the funds. All of the existing allowable usages are unchanged.

NACo has provided an analysis of the new IFR, available here. Additionally, last week NACo held a membership call to discuss the IFR. The slide deck is available here and a recording is available here.

The new IFR added three new allowable uses, discussed in turn.

Emergency Relief from Natural Disasters
Counties may now use ARPA funds to provide relief from natural disasters or mitigate the negative economic effects of a natural disaster. The eligible uses are broad, as long as they are tied to the natural disaster. The NACo analysis has a lengthy, but non-exhaustive, list of allowable usages.

Additionally, ARPA funds can be used to mitigate the threat of future natural disasters. Examples of eligible usages include structure elevation, structural retrofitting, and others.

Surface Transportation Projects & Community Development Block Grant Projects
ARPA funds can now be used for surface transportation projects and CDBH projects, subject to some limitations. These limits include a limitation on contribution, a prohibition on supplanting funds, and a compliance with other laws.

Counties may only use an amount equal to the greater of $10 million or 30% of the county's total ARPA allocation for transportation and CDBG projects. For example, if a county received a total allocation of $58 million, 30% of that is $17.4 million. That is the maximum amount the county can use for these two types of projects. It can be split between the two in any proportion as long as the total does not exceed $17.4 million.

Counties must use ARPA funds to supplement, not supplant, other funds being used for the project. For example, if a county is working on a surface transportation project and has already allocated $4 million for it, it cannot withdraw that $4 million and replace it with ARPA funds. The ARPA funding can be added to it to enhance the project, but not to keep the project scope the same while withdrawing local funds.

Generally speaking, using ARPA funds for surface transportation projects and CDBG projects must comply with other applicable laws. This includes certain environmental laws, procurement laws, and more. The NACo analysis provides more detail on this issue.

Finally, funds used for surface transportation or CDBG must be expended by September 30, 2026. This is earlier than the deadline for other usages (December 31, 2026).

Please utilize the resources linked to above to help gain an understanding of the guidelines for the new allowable usages.

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 make plans for new administration building

LimaOhio, September 28, 2023

Allen County is making progress on the construction of two new buildings. During Thursday morning's agenda meeting, the Allen County Commissioners passed an amendment on the agreement with building designers WDC Group, LLC.

"We are continuing on the process to build a new structure for our Child Support Enforcement Agency," Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan said. "We have been working with the architect of the design group to get an outline or a sketch of the building. Today, we had to amend our agreement to allow for phase two to happen."

The county hopes to not only construct a new Child Support Enforcement Agency but also a new administration building. The county purchased the building where the Hofeller, Hiatt and Clark men's clothing store was previously located. Noonan said the county plans to tear down the building and rebuild a new structure to house the Allen County offices.

Northeast District

Cuyahoga County Council approves jail site purchase, but construction funding unclear

Cleveland.com, September 26, 2023

Cuyahoga County has finally committed to a site where it wants to build a new jail.

Tuesday, the county council approved a $38.7 million purchase of a jail site in Garfield Heights. The 72-acre site is currently owned by Craig Realty Group – Cleveland LLC.

The legislation was approved in an eight-to-three vote. Those voting in favor of the legislation were Jack Schron, Meredith Turner, Patrick Kelly, Dale Miller, Martin Sweeney, Michael Gallagher, Pernel Jones and Scott Tuma. Yvonne Conwell, Cheryl Stephens and Sunny Simon were opposed.

The purchase will be funded by the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund, which was created when County Council deposited $53.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars into an account in 2022.

As for construction of the new jail – the most recent estimate places that price tag at $750 million – no funding source has yet been approved.

Central District

Pick. Co. Board of Developmental Disability announces tax rollback

Circleville Herald, September 29, 2023

The Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities has voluntarily requested a property tax levy rollback for the seventh consecutive year.

"The Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities (PCBDD) proudly announces its continued commitment to fiscal responsibility and community support by voluntarily requesting a property tax levy rollback for the seventh consecutive year," Marie Willbanks, assistant superintendent, said. "The Board has consistently demonstrated its dedication to being good stewards of taxpayer dollars while expanding services to meet the growing needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in our community.

PCBDD thanks the Budget Commission for its partnership and oversight, and the Board would like to thank this community for its ongoing support."

Southwest District

Butler County Auditor gives local entities the chance to respond to increases in property tax

The Miami Student, September 28, 2023

Come Jan. 1, Oxford residents could see a significant increase in their property tax bills. The county auditor wants to ease the financial burden for residents, but not without a cost.

Earlier this year, 41 counties in Ohio underwent either a state-mandated triennial update, which happens every three years, or a full property reappraisal, which happens every six years. Butler County received a triennial update, and the Ohio Department of Taxation looked at the auditor values across the county and paired it with the sales in 2022. The results determined that the property taxes in Butler County were, on average, 37% below the market value.

"Then, they individually set other areas like West Chester Township, Liberty Township, City of Hamilton, City of Middletown," said David Brown, communications manager for the Butler County Auditor's Office. "They pull collectively a number for those as well to get to that overall 37%, and that changes depending on properties and areas of the county that might see more robust sales."

To offset the steep increase in taxes for residents, Nancy Nix, Butler County's auditor, is offering local government entities a proposal to collect the same amount of money they collected last year.

Southeast District

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District seeks continued funding to help homeowners replace failing septic systems

WTOV9, September 28, 2023

Since 2011, the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District has been working to assist medium to low-income homeowners find funding to replace failing septic systems.

The district applies for this funding through the Ohio EPA each year.

At Thursday's Jefferson County Commissioners meeting, they asked for support to be nominated for another round of funding.

Representatives presented their work to commissioners and stressed the importance of the funding, as water and sewer issues continue to impact several parts of the Ohio Valley, especially rural ones.

Natural Resources Specialist Wendee Dodds says they are committed to $150,000 a year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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OCTOBER 6
Central District Meeting (Knox County)

OCTOBER 9
Columbus Day - Legal Holiday

OCTOBER 10
CCAO Regional Budget Briefing - Portage County

OCTOBER 16
CCAO Regional Budget Briefing - Highland County

OCTOBER 20
CCAO Regional Budget Briefing - Delaware County

OCTOBER 30
CCAO Regional Budget Briefing - Allen County

DECEMBER 6 - 8
CCAO-CEAO Annual Winter Conference

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