View this email in your browser

**May 13, 2024**

**Governor Mike DeWine and Lawrence County Commissioner DeAnna Holliday at the announcement of $12 million being awarded to the county through the Wonderful Waterfronts Initiative of the Appalachian Community Grant Program.**

*Photo courtesy of Lawrence County Commissioners*

---

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

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Dates to Remember

---

## ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

Back to Top

### Deadline to apply for EECBG extended, six counties still outstanding

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program is designed to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. The program is open to certain communities, listed here.

Ten counties in Ohio are eligible to apply, but the US Department of Energy (DOE) has not yet received completed applications from Butler, Clermont, Franklin, Montgomery, Stark, and Summit counties. Additionally, several eligible municipalities have not completed their applications, so please review the list provided above and contact any such municipalities in your community.

Eligible entities can choose to follow one of DOE's provided blueprints, which fall under six categories, to expedite their application.

Applications will be accepted until October 31.

You can find additional information regarding the program here.

### Swing for Scholarships: The County Classic Golf Outing

Step onto the lush greens of Safari Golf Club in Powell, Ohio, and immerse yourself in a day of swings, putts, and camaraderie for a noble cause. The second annual County Classic Golf Outing, organized by the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation, promises a day of fun-filled competition while supporting the dreams of aspiring students across Ohio.

**Date:** July 19th

**Location:** Safari Golf Club, Powell, Ohio

**Time:** Lunch and Registration at 11:30 a.m. | Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m.

As the midsummer sun bathes the fairways in golden light, golf enthusiasts and philanthropists alike gather for a day that blends sport with purpose. The scent of freshly cut grass mingles with the aroma of a delicious lunch spread, setting the stage for an unforgettable event.

**A Swing for a Cause:**
The heartbeat of the County Classic Golf Outing is its dedication to the CCAO Research and Educational Foundation Scholarship fund. With every swing of the club, participants directly contribute to the future of promising students throughout Ohio. The Foundation's commitment to education shines bright as it awards five deserving students with $2,000 scholarships, empowering them to pursue their academic endeavors and shape tomorrow's leaders.

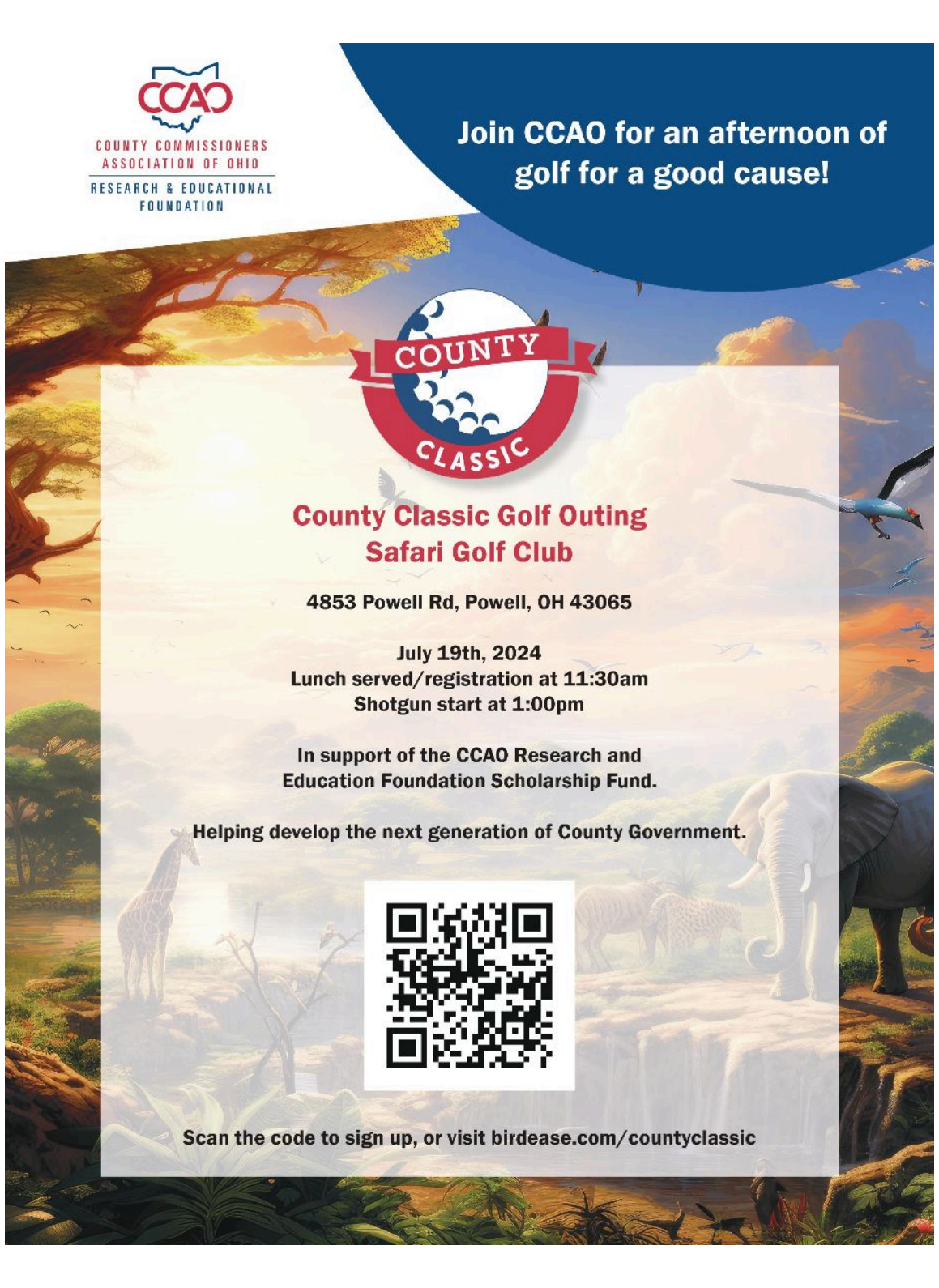
**Unleash Your Inner Champion:**
From seasoned pros to novice players, the County Classic welcomes golfers of all skill levels to join in the action-packed day. Whether you're aiming for the elusive hole-in-one or simply enjoying the scenic course, every participant plays a vital role in making a difference in students' lives.

**Bonding Through Birdies:**
Beyond the thrill of competition, the County Classic fosters connections that extend far beyond the greens. Amidst friendly banter and shared victories, participants forge lasting friendships, united by their passion for golf and their commitment to education.

**Join Us:**
Mark your calendars and prepare to tee off for a cause that transcends the game itself. The County Classic Golf Outing invites you to be a part of something truly special—a day where your love for golf merges seamlessly with your desire to support the next generation of leaders.

**Register Today:**
Secure your spot in this unforgettable event by registering early. Don't miss your chance to make a difference while enjoying a day of golf, laughter, and purpose at the County Classic.

For registrations visit: https://birdease.com/countyclassic



CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Join CCAO for an afternoon of golf for a good cause!

COUNTY CLASSIC

County Classic Golf Outing
Safari Golf Club

4853 Powell Rd, Powell, OH 43065

July 19th, 2024
Lunch served/registration at 11:30am
Shotgun start at 1:00pm

In support of the CCAO Research and Education Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Helping develop the next generation of County Government.

Scan the code to sign up, or visit birdease.com/countyclassic

### SAVE THE DATE! CCAO Summer Symposium in Hocking County

On August 21-23 (Wednesday to Friday), CCAO will host its annual Summer Symposium at the Hocking Hills Lodge and Conference Center in Hocking County!

The theme of the symposium is still being finalized, as are hotel arrangements. Watch for more information in future issues of *Counties Current* and through CCAO e-bulletins!

---

## STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Back to Top

### OneOhio Recovery Foundation grant process update

The application window for the first round of grants from the OneOhio Recovery Foundation closed on May 3. There is up to $51 million available across the 19 regions for this funding cycle. At the Foundation's May board meeting, Executive Director Alisha Nelson shared a high-level overview of the submissions. Upon initial review, a total of 1,530 applications were submitted by 797 different organizations. 415 of the proposals submitted requested $100,000 or less. Approximately 48 percent of the proposals seek to serve multiple OneOhio Regions.

During the meeting, the Foundation advised that the regions score all projects independently and if multiple regions would like to proceed with funding these multiple region projects, the Foundation would help coordinate those efforts. All regions had multiple applications and are anticipated to have a competitive grant selection process. The reported numbers may change following review of the applications to remove any duplicate or clean up submissions.

Additionally, during the Foundation's May board meeting, the board named its four officers:

- Chair: Don Mason, Region 12 Appointee (and Mayor of Zanesville)
- Vice-Chair: Julie Ehemann, Region 15 Appointee (and Shelby County Commissioner)
- Secretary: Keith Hochadel, Region 6 Appointee (and Executive Director of Men's Challenge)
- Treasurer: Michael Roizen, Attorney General Appointee (and Chief Wellness Officer at the Cleveland Clinic)

If you have questions about the grant process, please contact the Foundation at info@oneohiofoundation.com.

### DeWine-Husted Administration awards final rounds of Appalachian Grant funding

Last week, the DeWine-Husted Administration announced the remaining $204 million in Appalachian Community Grant Program awards. The funding was awarded under the Wonderful Waterfronts Initiative and goes to 39 projects across a number of counties.

With last week's awards, the full $500 million under the Appalachian Community Grant Program have been awarded. The $500 million was split across four components.

- **Shovel Ready Projects and Planning Projects**: $80 million
- **Appalachian Children's Health Initiative**: $64 million
  - Create or expand health clinics and launch healthcare-focused workforce development programs to train the next generation of Appalachian healthcare professionals.
- **Appalachian Downtowns and Destinations Initiative**: $154 million
  - Raise areas' profiles as travel destinations and improve quality of life for local residents by revitalizing historic downtown districts, creating new opportunities for recreation, and amplifying the experience for those visiting the region's cultural sites.
- **Wonderful Waterfronts Initiative**: $204 million
  - Expand access to local waterways, revitalize historic riverfront downtowns, and create new tourism and recreational opportunities.

A full list of awards under the program, separated by category, can be found here.

Appalachian Community Grant Program
OHIO'S WONDERFUL WATERFRONTS INITIATIVE
APPALACHIAN DOWNTOWNS & DESTINATIONS INITIATIVE
APPALACHIAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE
Previous Projects Funded in March 2023
TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT
$500,000,000
MIKE DEWINE GOVERNOR OF OHIO
JON HUSTED LT. GOVERNOR OF OHIO
Ohio Department of Development

### BroadbandOhio BEAD Challenge Process opens May 28

BroadbandOhio is pleased to announce that the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I has been approved by NTIA!

Following this approval, BroadbandOhio will soon be conducting its BEAD Challenge Process. This is our final chance to have the most accurate map to get broadband to every Ohioan.

The key dates for the Challenge Process will be as follows:

- **The Challenge Phase will take place starting Tuesday, May 28, 2024,** and will last for 21 days until Monday, June 17, 2024. The rebuttal phase is expected to begin July 1 and will also last for 21 days.
- **BroadbandOhio will host a technical assistance webinar on Wednesday, May 22, 2024,** to provide additional guidance on accessing and using the Ohio Challenge Portal through which the Challenge Process will be conducted. A link to register for the webinar will be sent out on a later date.

If you are a member of local government, a service provider, or represent a community anchor institution, you are eligible to participate in the BEAD Challenge Process. To prepare for launch, we recommend that you complete the following steps, if you have not already done so:

- If you are an eligible challenger who wishes to participate, register for access to Ohio's Challenge Portal at this link before May 28, 2024.
- If you are concerned about internet speed in certain areas, encourage residents of those areas to take speed tests at this link on our website. We've attached a flyer that provides instructions on how to do so, which we invite you to share.

For additional information on eligibility, how to register for participation in Ohio's BEAD Challenge Process, and how to access and use Ohio's Challenge Portal, please visit the BroadbandOhio Challenge Process Fact Sheet, FAQs, and Guidebook at this link.

For questions, please reach out to bbohchallenge@development.ohio.gov

### Department of Health conducting Title V Block Grant public comment survey

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is seeking feedback on the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program through a public comment survey. The survey, accessible here, will be open until May 30.

The program is intended to ensure the health and well-being of women, mothers, infants, children (including children with special healthcare needs), adolescents, and their families. Initiatives under Title V have been dedicated to improving maternal and child health through reducing infant mortality and improving coordinated care programs. You can read more about the successes that Title V has reached here.

ODH uses feedback from public comment surveys to help inform priorities and strategies through the five-year cycle of Title V block grants. Please share this comment link with maternal and child health stakeholders in your communities to ensure that the needs of your county are reflected in ODH's priorities.

If you have questions regarding the survey, please contact titlevmch@odh.ohio.gov.

---

## EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Back to Top

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

### WEDNESDAY: CCAO, Summit County to host webinar on Unite Us partnership

This week, on Wednesday, CCAO will host a webinar with Summit County to share details about a unique partnership.

In a truly connected community, help and resources are always within reach. This is why Summit County partnered with Unite Us, a software company that brings different sectors together to improve the health and well-being of communities. Using the "no wrong door" approach, residents in need receive referrals to services and resources from any entry point in the network. Providers on the network gain access to comprehensive information, updated in real-time, to assist more quickly and effectively those seeking help. As the network grows, it will help providers, community leaders, and funders respond quickly to trends in social needs.

Summit County's contract with Unite Us provides free access to ANY community-based organization that wants to join. Since launching in summer 2023, over 100 local organizations are active on the platform and the list grows daily. Partners range from a hospital and mental health providers to food pantries and shelters. The County Executive's Office has also integrated the network in its internal operations for Job and Family Services and Community Development programming.

Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro is excited to share her county's experience and lessons learned with fellow CCAO members.

Register Today!

If you have difficulties registering, please contact CCAO Administrative Professional Nedra Benson.

### OEPA to host webinar on new solid waste rules

This Thursday, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will host a webinar regarding updates to solid waste rules that were recently adopted by the agency.

The changes pertain to hazardous secondary material exclusions which allow some wastes that would normally be considered hazardous to be excluded when recycled.

The webinar will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and is free. Attendance can be used for one hour of Continuing Education Units for registered environmental health specialists or environmental health specialists in training.

### State grant round-up

CCAO posts grant opportunities on its Grants and Funding Opportunities page. Below a few current state grant opportunities are highlighted.

Nature Works Grant Program

- **Eligibility**: Local Governments
- **Purpose**: To provide reimbursement assistance to local governments for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas.
- **Funding Available**: Up to $150,000 per county
- **Deadline**: June 1

**Wetland Grant Program**

- **Eligibility**: Local Governments in NW Ohio
- **Purpose**: To provide reimbursement for natural-infrastructure projects focused on nutrient reduction and water quality improvement.
- **Funding Available**: $10 million available; Minimum award $50,000
- **Deadline**: June 7

**Benefits Bridge Employer Pilot Program**

- **Eligibility**: Employers ***(NON-COUNTY)***
- **Purpose**: To provide funding to employers to offer training programs to participating employees who are recipients of public assistance programs to encourage the employees to take advantage of training programs.
- **Funding Available**: Up to $5,000 per enrolled employee, no more than $100,000 per employers
- **Deadline**: June 30

### OEPA to host service line webinar on May 22

On Wednesday, May 22, the Ohio EPA will host a webinar regarding service line inventory and updates to lead and copper rules. The webinar will walk attendees through the Ohio EPA Service Line Inventory template, proposed lead and copper rule improvements, as well as upcoming funding opportunities regarding service lines.

You can register for the webinar here.

---

## COUNTY NEWS

Back to Top

*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, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.*

### Northwest District

https://thecourier.com/news/519348/county-agency-offers-programs-to-cover-college-expenses/
**The Courier, May 6, 2024**
OhioMeansJobs of Seneca county offer a program that covers college expenses, books, tuition, and travel. Two distinct programs make this possible.

Natalie Rhoades, a social service worker at Ohio Means Jobs, explains, "The programs are called CCMEP (Comprehensive Case Management Employee Program), which is designed for 14- 16-year-olds, and WIOA (Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act), which is tailored for 18-year-olds and up."

The WIOA program helps people who face challenges in getting a job. It focuses on job training, education, and economic development to help workers get the skills and qualifications they need to find and advance in employment. The CCMEP program is for younger adults who may need help with employment and training services. It may include support to obtain a high school diploma, job placement, work experience, and other supportive services such as child care and transportation.

"A lot of people don't know about these programs. There are so many jobs out there that we can help with, and it's a complete volunteer program," she said.

These programs aim to help people achieve a college degree, diploma, or license in a high-demand career that they strive for.

### Northeast District

https://chroniclet.com/news/390454/runway-paving-at-lorain-county-regional-airport/
**The Chronicle, May 9, 2024**
Construction work including paving is being done on a runway and other facilities at the Lorain County Regional Airport in New Russia Township over at least the next month.

According to an update provided by the Lorain County Administrator's office, the project was supposed to start in May 2023 but ran into supply chain issues and the time available to pave the runway during the season ran out.

The work includes milling down then repaving runway 07/25, upgrades to runway edge lights, beacons, the tie down-ramp for smaller aircraft and the segmented circle — a visual indicator that tells pilots about the traffic pattern at the airport.

The runway will be closed through June 4, will open for another week, then be closed again for five days to groove the runway. It will close again a week after that for striping, according to the county.

### Central District

https://www.newsbreak.com/crooksville-oh/3431219096010-first-responders-met-all-objectives-in-emergency-exercise
**Perry County Tribune, May 9, 2024**
On April 27, a Perry County full-scale emergency response exercise was held in Crooksville.

It started at 8:30 a.m. and lasted until 10:30a.m. This training exercise involved a tanker truck carrying anhydrous ammonia having a collision with a Perry County Transit passenger bus. This collision caused a white mist to start leaking from the truck, causing people's eyes to burn.

County personnel were evaluated on eight different objectives and passed all eight. Perry County Emergency Management Agency carries out these training exercises to give first responders and supporting agencies the chance to increase their training along with awareness if it is ever needed in real life.

The fire/EMS agencies that were involved in coming to the scene, assessing, as well as getting control of the incident successfully, were New Lexington Fire Department, New Straitsville Fire Department, Crooksville Fire Department, Monday Creek Fire Department, Corning Fire Department, Hopewell Township Fire Department, Zanesville Fire Department /Hazmat Team, Newton Fire Department, and Falls Township Fire Department, and AirEvac.

EMA sends out huge thanks to Randy Moore of Randy Moore Petroleum, who provided the tanker truck used as a prop in the exercise, and to Lisa Leckrone and Perry County transit, whose driver also played the role of a victim in the incident.

### Southwest District

https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/crime/2024/05/08/hamilton-county-prosecutor-launches-conviction-integrity-unit-defense-lawyers-call-a-political-stunt/73456260007/
**Cincinnati Enquirer, May 9, 2024**
In the wake of four overturned homicide cases in Hamilton County over the past 18 months, Prosecutor Melissa Powers announced the creation of a conviction integrity unit to evaluate wrongful conviction claims.

But the effort is drawing criticism from the attorneys who work on those cases. They say they suspect nothing will change – a sentiment Powers herself echoed in an interview with The Enquirer.

"It's not something that has just brand-new started," said Powers, who sent emails in March to police chiefs throughout the county announcing the unit's formation. "It's always been part of the office. What's different about it is that there's actually a written policy."

Experts in conviction integrity units – including one from a nationally renowned agency Powers said she consulted to help craft her policy – say that Hamilton County's does not adhere to best practices. It taps longtime, in-house assistant prosecutors to run it. It requires cases to have new evidence available, or for new technologies to be able to re-test old evidence. And applicants must waive their Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights to even apply for consideration.

In a county battling allegations of relying on questionable informant testimony and withholding crucial evidence to secure potentially false convictions, announcing a conviction integrity unit could have assuaged area defense lawyers that the office was focused on making changes.

### Southeast District

https://www.newsbreak.com/athens-oh/3425872545359-solid-waste-district-has-plans-for-more-and-better-recycling
**Athens Messenger, May 4, 2024**
During a Wednesday meeting, the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District (AHSWD) board looked at purchasing the building and infrastructure of the struggling Athens-Hocking Recycling Center and joining regional Southeast Ohio Regional Terminal Council of Government (COG), an organization that is just getting off the ground.

The board met Wednesday at the Nelsonville Public Library, 95 W. Washington St., Nelsonville. The board also the discussed its financial plans for 2025 through 2040, and it is "all good news," said district Director Jane Forrest Redfern.

Its plan is to purchase the building and infrastructure of the Athens-Hocking Recycling Center , and in the meantime to join the regional Southeast Ohio Regional Terminal Council of Government (COG), an organization that is just getting off the ground. It currently has only the village of Amesville as a member, but has courted the City of Athens, Athens Township, Nelsonville and Logan, among others, as potential members.

The idea behind the COG, floated first by former AHRC director Bruce Underwood in 2023, is to create a coalition that can, on a broader scale and more efficiently, bring recycling services to communities in the region.

---

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Back to Top

**MAY 15**
**CCAO Webinar: Summit County and UniteUS**

**MAY 16**
**CCAO General Government Committee**

**MAY 16**
**CCAO Executive Committee**

**MAY 17**
**CCAO Board of Directors Meeting**

**MAY 27**
**Memorial Day**

---

*Copyright © 2024 CCAO, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.