May 28, 2024

Lorain County Commissioner Dave Moore and Elyria Mayor Kevin Brubaker commence Lorain County's Bicentennial

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CCAO Summer Symposium: Registration Open!

CCAO SUMMER SYMPOSIUM 2024
TEAMWORK FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
AUGUST 21-23, 2024
Hocking Hills Lodge & Conference Center | Logan, Ohio

Join us for the CCAO Summer Symposium 2024, set amidst the serene beauty of Hocking Hills. This year's event promises to deliver relevant and timely sessions, foster valuable relationships across the state, and align with our 2024 President's vision: "Teamwork for a Better Tomorrow, Stronger Counties, Stronger Ohio."

Stay tuned for the Symposium Schedule which will be released in the coming days!

Register

If you haven't attended a CCAO Summer Symposium since its inception in 2022, we invite you to register at a discounted rate. Contact Robin Garrett at rgarrett@ccao.org to see if you qualify and learn how you can save 25% off the registration fee.

Early Bird Registration: $249 (until July 19)

Standard Registration: $295 (after July 19)

Reserve Your Room:

To book your room, call 1-800-282-7275 and mention the CCAO Summer Symposium block or use Block Code #1017E3. A deposit for the first night's room, taxes, and fees is required at the time of reservation. This deposit is fully refundable up to 72 hours prior to arrival. Cancellations made within 72 hours of arrival will incur a no-show fee.

Room Rate: $107 + tax and fees (available until July 19, 2024)

Note: Rooms are limited, so reserve yours today.

We look forward to seeing you in the picturesque "Hills" of Hocking County!

Hocking Hills Lodge and Conference Center

20020 OH-664

Logan, OH 43138

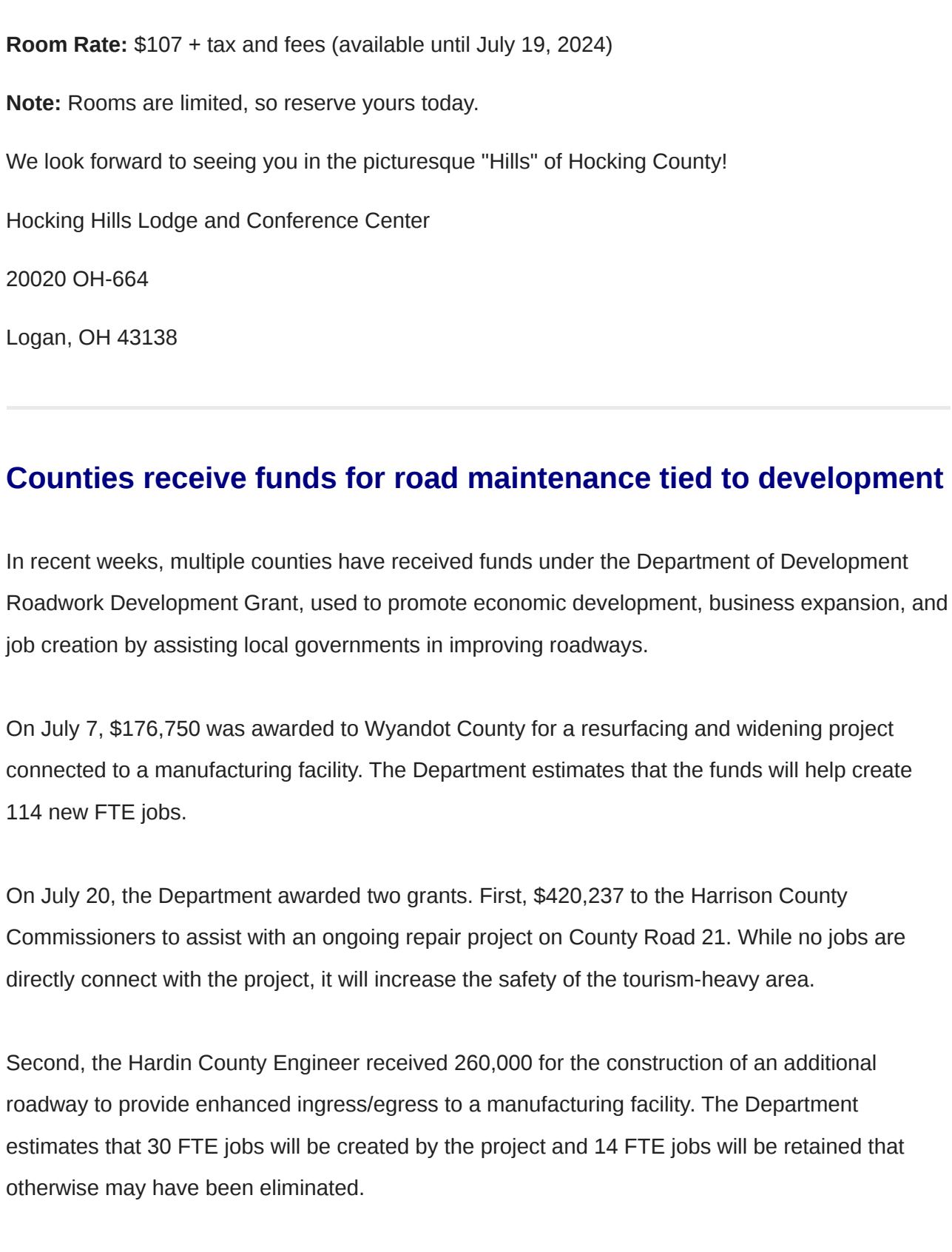
Counties receive funds for road maintenance tied to development

In recent weeks, multiple counties have received funds under the Department of Development Roadwork Development Grant, used to promote economic development, business expansion, and job creation by assisting local governments in improving roadways.

On July 7, $176,750 was awarded to Wyandot County for a resurfacing and widening project connected to a manufacturing facility. The Department estimates that the funds will help create 114 new FTE jobs.

On July 20, the Department awarded two grants. First, $420,237 to the Harrison County Commissioners to assist with an ongoing repair project on County Road 21. While no jobs are directly connect with the project, it will increase the safety of the tourism-heavy area.

Second, the Hardin County Engineer received 260,000 for the construction of an additional roadway to provide enhanced ingress/egress to a manufacturing facility. The Department estimates that 30 FTE jobs will be created by the project and 14 FTE jobs will be retained that otherwise may have been eliminated.



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

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STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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BroadbandOhio BEAD Challenge Process opens ***TODAY***

The Challenge Phase of the BroadbandOhio BEAD process will take place starting TODAY, 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.

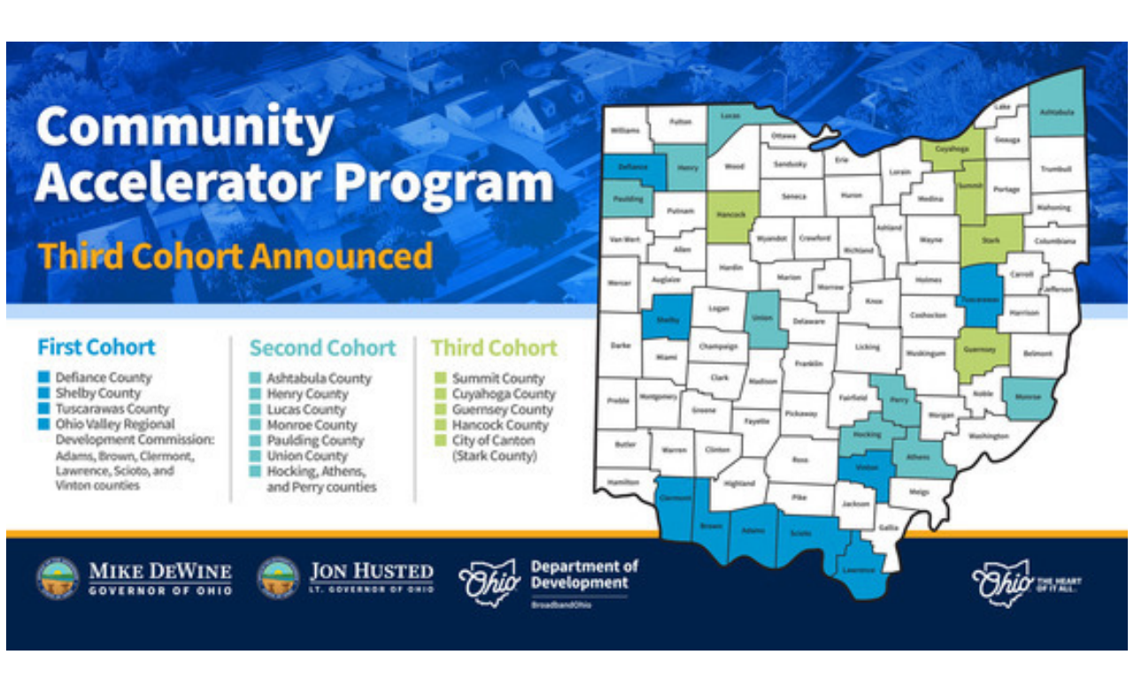
If you are a member of local government, a service provider, or represent a community anchor institution, you are eligible to participate in the BEAD Challenge Process. To prepare for launch, we recommend that you complete the following steps, if you have not already done so:

- If you are an eligible challenger who wishes to participate, register for access to Ohio's Challenge Portal at this link ***by the end of the day***.
- 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

Governor DeWine announces third BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator Program cohort


Community Accelerator Program
Third Cohort Announced
First Cohort
Defiance County
Shelby County
Tuscarawas County
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Lawrence, Scioto, and Vinton counties
Second Cohort
Ashtabula County
Henry County
Lucas County
Monroe County
Paulding County
Union County
Hocking, Athens, and Perry counties
Third Cohort
Summit County
Cuyahoga County
Guernsey County
Hancock County
City of Canton (Stark County)
MIKE DEWINE GOVERNOR OF OHIO
JON HUSTED LT. GOVERNOR OF OHIO
Ohio Department of Development
Ohio THE HEART OF IT ALL

This week, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik announced the next cohort of the Broadband Community Accelerator Program to help communities create localized broadband expansion plans.

Five teams are participating in the third cohort of the BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator Program, which is a collaboration between the Department of Development's BroadbandOhio office and Ohio State University Extension.

Participating in the third round of the program is a team representing the City of Canton in Stark County, as well as teams from Cuyahoga, Guernsey, Hancock, and Summit counties.

Participants will receive support to help their communities prepare for funding opportunities at the state and federal levels by identifying broadband goals, understanding available funding options, targeting capital dollars to support implementation, and expanding workforce development.

Four teams, made up of 50 representatives from 11 counties across the state, participated in the inaugural cohort of the Accelerator program in 2022. Another seven teams from nine counties participated in the second cohort announced last August.

The third round of the Accelerator program runs through June 27.

OHFA opens public comment period for SFY 2025 OLIHTC and PY 2024 BGF guidelines

Drafts of the SFY 2025 Ohio Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program and PY 2024 4% LIHTC with Bond Gap Financing Guidelines have been posted for public comment.

Ohio Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program

The draft SFY 2025 4% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) with Ohio LIHTC (OLIHTC) guidelines are now available on the Ohio Housing Finance Agency's (OHFA's) website here.

OHFA will accept comments on the draft guidelines through Friday, May 31, 2024 at 5 p.m. Comments may be submitted in writing to StateTaxCredits@ohiohome.org. Please do not combine comments related to these draft guidelines with other draft programmatic guidelines, such as the PY 2024 4% LIHTC with Bond Gap Financing (BGF) program.

PY 2024 4% LIHTC with Bond Gap Financing

The draft PY 2024 4% LIHTC with BGF guidelines can be found on OHFA's website here. OHFA will accept comments on the draft guidelines beginning through Friday, May 31, 2024, at 5 p.m. Comments may be submitted in writing to 4PercentComments@ohiohome.org.

Please do not combine comments related to these draft guidelines with other draft programmatic guidelines, such as the SFY2025 4% LIHTC with OLIHTC program.

OHFA invites you to participate in a forum to discuss both of these draft guidelines and processes. Staff will walk through the draft guidelines to seek input on proposed changes. The meeting will take place virtually (via Microsoft Teams) on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Click here to register.

Participants will be given the opportunity to express their views regarding either draft guideline. If you are unable to attend the meeting, comments may also be submitted in writing to the following email addresses:

statetaxcredits@ohiohome.org
4PercentComments@ohiohome.org

Attorney General Opinion regarding compost zoning released

Earlier this month, Attorney General Dave Yost released OAG 2024-004, which responds to a request from the Logan County Prosecutor concerning whether compositing facilities are "agriculture" under R.C. 519.01 and thereby exempt from township zoning authority in R.C. 519.21. While the request (and opinion) deal only with the township zoning language in Chapter 519, the definitions in the chapter generally align with those in Chapter 303, the county zoning chapter, so the opinion may still serve as a guide for counties.

The OAG finds that whether an individual composting facility is "agriculture" is a question of fact to be determined by the township, not one that can be broadly decided by an Attorney General Opinion. If the township determines that an individual facility is non-agriculture, it can only regulate it via zoning if the township zoning regulations include compositing (or solid waste facilities) as a permitted conditional use. Finally, if there is a dispute concerning whether the township zoning resolution(s) apply to a compositing facility, the township may go through the existing process in R.C. 519.23 and 519.24.

Finally, the request also asked what permissions the township may have if the Ohio EPA issues a permit for a compositing facility when the property owner does not have a zoning (or conditional use) permit. The Attorney General finds that facilities must still comply with township zoning regulations if it receives an OEPA permit, unless it is considered "agriculture" by the county.

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.

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

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

Northwest District

Allen County commissioners, sheriff's office discuss fleet maintenance

LimaOhio.com, May 21, 2024

As members of the public deal with higher costs for goods and services, local governments are dealing with that issue, as well. On Tuesday, Allen County Commissioners met with Chief Deputy Todd Mohler of the Allen County Sheriff's Office to discuss this issue as it relates to the sheriff's office's vehicle fleet.

The tricky part when it comes to fleet maintenance, Mohler said, is knowing that "sweet spot" where the value of a patrol cruiser or a vehicle for the detective bureau can be maximized as far as how much the sheriff's office has been able to utilize the vehicle without compromising public safety or affecting the value for another agency should the county decide to retire that vehicle and replace it.

"We've always had a great relationship [with the county] to get equipment and cars, but the price of cars has gone up so much lately," he said. "The mission is to get money out of our cars that we did use for a certain amount of years and get some value out of them."

To aid in that determination, the county has been working with Enterprise Fleet Management to help watch the markets for vehicles and provide guidance on the right time to retire a vehicle for maximum returns and how to get the best value in vehicles added to the fleet.

Northeast District

Alliance Meals on Wheels gets additional Healthy Aging Grant funds

Canton Repository, May 23, 2024

An additional $15,275 in grants to support seniors will go to YWCA of Alliance to serve Meals on Wheels.

A total of $1,041,703 in Ohio Healthy Aging Grants was originally allocated to eight local nonprofits and charities, with $40,000 going to the Regional Planning Commission for grant administration. The state grants will fund internet, food, housing and other programs for seniors 60 and older in Stark County.

Stark County commissioners approved a revised Ohio Healthy Aging budget on Wednesday to include the additional funds from the state.

Stacie Bacorn, executive director of the YWCA of Alliance, said the grant money will support the organization's Meals on Wheels Plus program, which provides food and interaction to seniors in need.

Central District

Commissioners Approve $200K Tornado Siren Contract With Vasu

WMFD.com, May 21, 2024

The Richland County Commissioners approved a $193,837.36 contract with Vasu Communications to upgrade the county's 44 tornado sirens to be compatible with the MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communication System) radio system.

MARCS is a 700/800 MHz radio and data network that utilizes state-of-the-art trunked technology to provide statewide interoperability in digital clarity to its subscribers throughout Ohio and a 10-mile radius outside of Ohio.

Richland County EMA Director Rebecca Owens said the Mansfield Fire Department will soon join the network with its new radio upgrade.

The City of Shelby maintains four tornado sirens independent of those managed and maintained by the county. The upgrade will begin this summer with a projected completion date of May 2025.

Southwest District

Commissioners declare May to be CAO Month in Scioto County

Portsmouth Daily Times, May 21, 2024

The Scioto County commissioners have declared May to be Community Action Organization Month in the county and passed a resolution to that effect at their Thursday meeting.

The commissioners, of which both Cathy Coleman and Scottie Powell were in attendance, noted the organization's 59 yeras of "innovation and impact"

"I'd just like to thank you for all your organization does for our community and working with us as well and moving things forward in a productive way," Coleman said.

Powell remarked on the importance of the organization to Scioto County residents of all ages, and the diversity of the programs, assistance, and opportunities for collaboration CAO offers in the community.

"We appreciate our partnership with Community Action, this organization really touches lives from life to death, really, in our community," Powell said. "From our Head Start to winterization to Meals on Wheels, economic development, housing … it's just on and on and on."

Southeast District

Guernsey Country receives $1.2M in emergency grants following heavy April rains

The Daily Jeffersonian, May 20, 2024

The Guernsey County Engineer's Office has received $1.2 million in emergency funding to fix county roads following heavy April rains . The money came from the Ohio Public Works Commission's (OPWC) emergency program.

The money will repair three of 22 slips on two Guernsey County roads; two slips on Claysville Road and one on Rose Hill Road . Rose Hill Road is the worst of all 22 slips and will be closed until further notice. Work on the three slips is expected to start in July after bids for the work go out and are awarded.

"(The grant) will cover up to 90% of the cost of stabilizing the embankment and repairing the road," said Guernsey County Engineer Paul Sherry of fixing the slips. "It takes about two to three months each to repair."

The slips show themselves as cracks in the road, which stem from the heavy rains making the soil both under the road and on the hillsides slip. The permanent fix is to build a retainer wall under the road, refill it with dirt, and re-lay the road. The engineer's office will work hand-in-hand with a geological team to ensure the soil is also in the right condition to repair the issue.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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MAY 29
CCAO JEDI Committee Meeting

JUNE 14
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

JUNE 20
CCAO General Government Committee Meeting

JUNE 26
Northwest District Meeting (Hancock County)

JUNE 28
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

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