October 15, 2024

The 2024 CORSA Board Retreat took place last week. Staff and CORSA board members came together to collaborate and strengthen CORSA's mission of providing counties with property & liability coverage and state-of-the-art risk management services.

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Education and Grants | County News |
Job Postings

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Dates to Remember

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Winter Conference is less than two months away!

The 2024 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference is approaching! Join us at the Hilton Columbus Downtown on December 4 through 6 for the 144th annual Winter Conference.

You can register for the event here and book a hotel room here. Regarding hotel bookings, the federal prevailing per diem rate was recently increased to $131, so the rate for the Hilton is now $151 per night before tax.

CCAO will host sessions discussing child care capacity building, reducing the mobility gap, increasing successful reentry, potential strategies to mitigate rural EMS and fire shortages, and more. CEAO will host sessions concerning ethics, petition ditch law, and surveying. A joint session regarding artificial intelligence is also planned.

CCAO's website has more information about the upcoming Winter Conference, including forms to become a sponsor, registration forms for those who would prefer to mail or fax a registration, and information about becoming an exhibitor.

CEBCO welcomes new Benefit Specialist

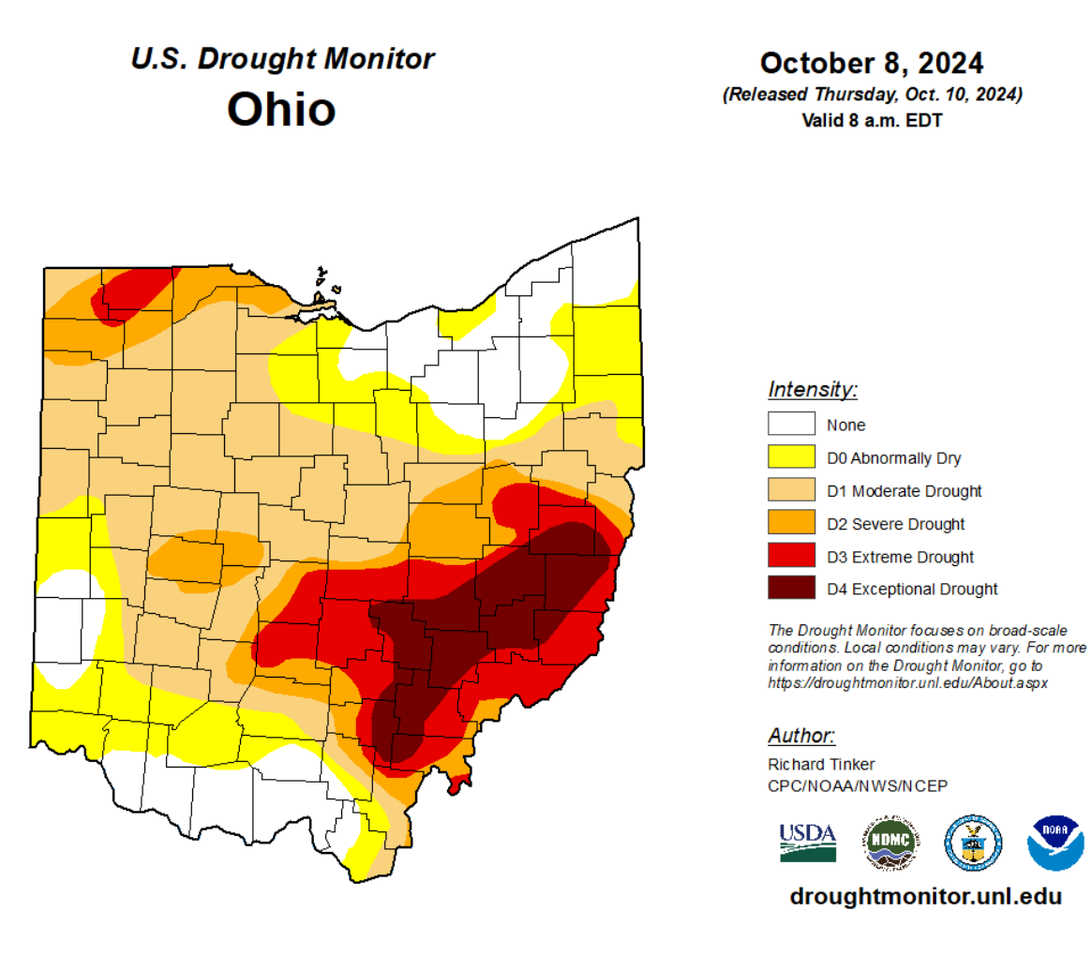
Earlier this month, CEBCO welcomed Cindi Herring as their new Benefit Specialist! A native of Delaware County, Cindi earned her B.S. in Business Management from Mt. Vernon Nazarene College. Cindi brings over 25 years of experience in employee benefits and property and liability insurance.

Welcome to CEBCO and CCAO, Cindi!

Drought Update: Open Burn Ban lifted

On Friday, the State Fire Marshal officially lifted the open burn ban that had encompassed much of the state's southern portion. Improving drought conditions allowed the ban to be lifted.

Based on last week's data from the US Drought Monitor, about 17.2% of the state is not currently in drought conditions, the highest figure since August 27. While conditions are improving across the state, much of the southeast region is still categorized as an "Exceptional Drought," the most extreme intensity drought.



A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

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STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Impact of Sales Tax Holiday on State GRF less than expected

House Bill 33, the current state operating budget, established an expanded sales tax holiday that provided an exemption for tangible goods with a cost of $500 or less. The expanded holiday took place for ten days between July 30 – August 8.

Automobiles and watercraft that require titling, as well as alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana products, were not eligible for the exemption. The expanded holiday replaced the previous "back-to-school" sales tax holiday in years in which the state has a year-end General Revenue Fund (GRF) budget surplus of at least $60 million. For the expanded sales tax holiday, the state set aside $750 million to reimburse the state GRF, county general funds, and the Local Government Fund and Public Library Fund for expected revenue reductions resulting from the expanded holiday.

Revenue from July non-auto sales, reported to the state in August, were 2.5% less than the year prior. Part of the reduction, however, was due to larger than average refunds that were unrelated to the sales tax holiday. Given the eight days of the expanded sales tax holiday in August, most of the impact from the expanded holiday was expected on final returns that vendors submitted to the Tax Department in September.

These results for the state have been reported in the Ohio Office and Budget and Management (OBM) Monthly Financial Report for October. OBM had estimated that the sales tax holiday would reduce September non-auto GRF sales tax to a level of $249.3 million, compared to $945.4 million received in September 2023 (Table 1). Actual non-auto receipts, however, were $815 million, about 14% less than September 2023, but approximately $566 million or 227% more than the monthly estimate.

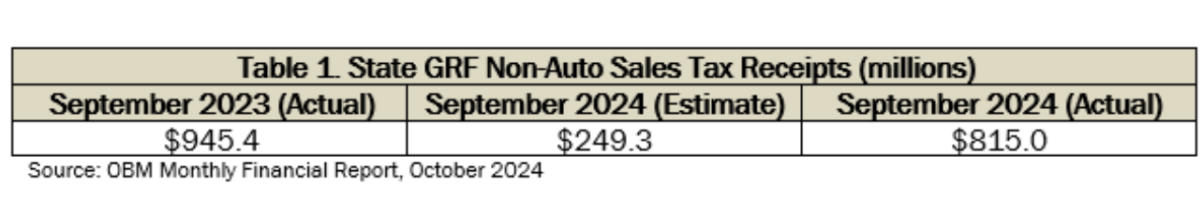


Table 1. State GRF Non-Auto Sales Tax Receipts (millions)		
September 2023 (Actual)	September 2024 (Estimate)	September 2024 (Actual)
$945.4	$249.3	$815.0

Source: OBM Monthly Financial Report, October 2024

Anecdotal evidence suggests that some vendors did not properly program their IT systems to include all of the products covered by the exemption. Also, many consumers may have remained unaware of the holiday which minimized the expected shift in consumer demand into the ten-day holiday time period. The unexpectedly high level of actual receipts will result in the state transferring less from the $750 million reserve fund to the GRF and local governments than originally anticipated.

OBM cautions that, "[t]o the extent the GRF year-to-date variance comes from overestimating the impact of the holiday, the overall positive variance to the state GRF is only temporary." Resources remaining in the reserve fund will be available for reimbursements for revenue losses created by future sales tax holidays.

Fiscal year-to-date non-auto sales tax receipts are nearly $2.8 billion, about 5.7% below the level of SFY 2024 (Table 2). As a reminder, the state fiscal year runs from July to June, so the "Year-to-Date" period in the tables below cover July 2024 through September 2024.

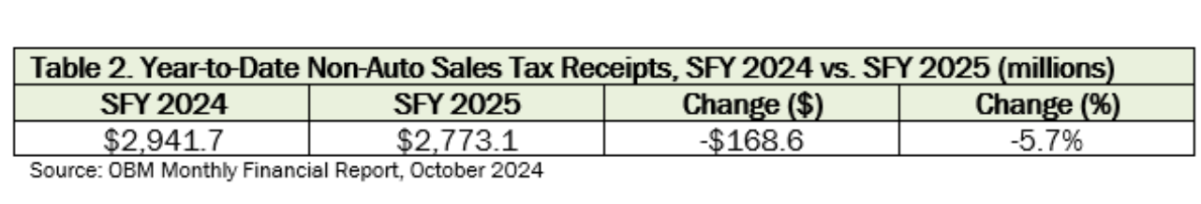


Table 2. Year-to-Date Non-Auto Sales Tax Receipts, SFY 2024 vs. SFY 2025 (millions)			
SFY 2024	SFY 2025	Change ($)	Change (%)
$2,941.7	$2,773.1	-$168.6	-5.7%

Source: OBM Monthly Financial Report, October 2024

Due to rate cuts, personal income tax receipts deposited into the GRF also lag behind last year's results by 4.5% on a year-to-date basis. The sales tax and the income tax are the largest sources of tax revenue for the GRF, so shortfalls in these returns contribute to a reduction in overall tax revenue for the state during the first three months of the fiscal year compared to FY 2024 (Table 3).

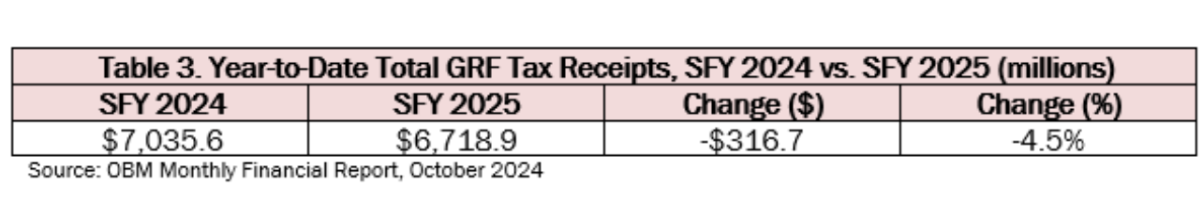


Table 3. Year-to-Date Total GRF Tax Receipts, SFY 2024 vs. SFY 2025 (millions)			
SFY 2024	SFY 2025	Change ($)	Change (%)
$7,035.6	$6,718.9	-$316.7	-4.5%

Source: OBM Monthly Financial Report, October 2024

Revenue from August sales (September accounting period) will be distributed to counties in November, at which time the tax department is expected to provide reimbursements for revenue lost due to the sales tax holiday.

Members with questions should contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org, 614-220-7982.

OneOhio Recovery Foundation announces first grant recipients

On October 9, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board announced its first grant recipients, awarding 18 organizations $2.1 million in abatement funding. Regions 5, 8, 16, and 17 recommended the awards.

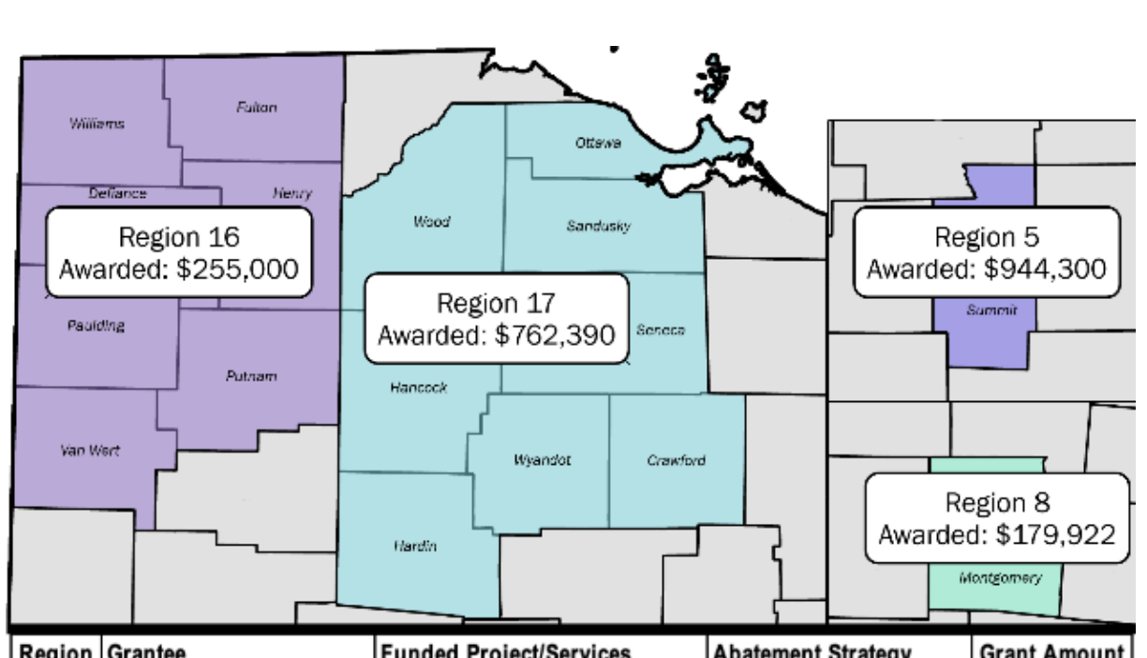
The first awards included funding for the following abatement strategies: services for impacted children and families, public safety and first responders, prevention, recovery supports, treatment and healthcare services, criminal legal system, intervention and crisis support, infrastructure, and innovation.

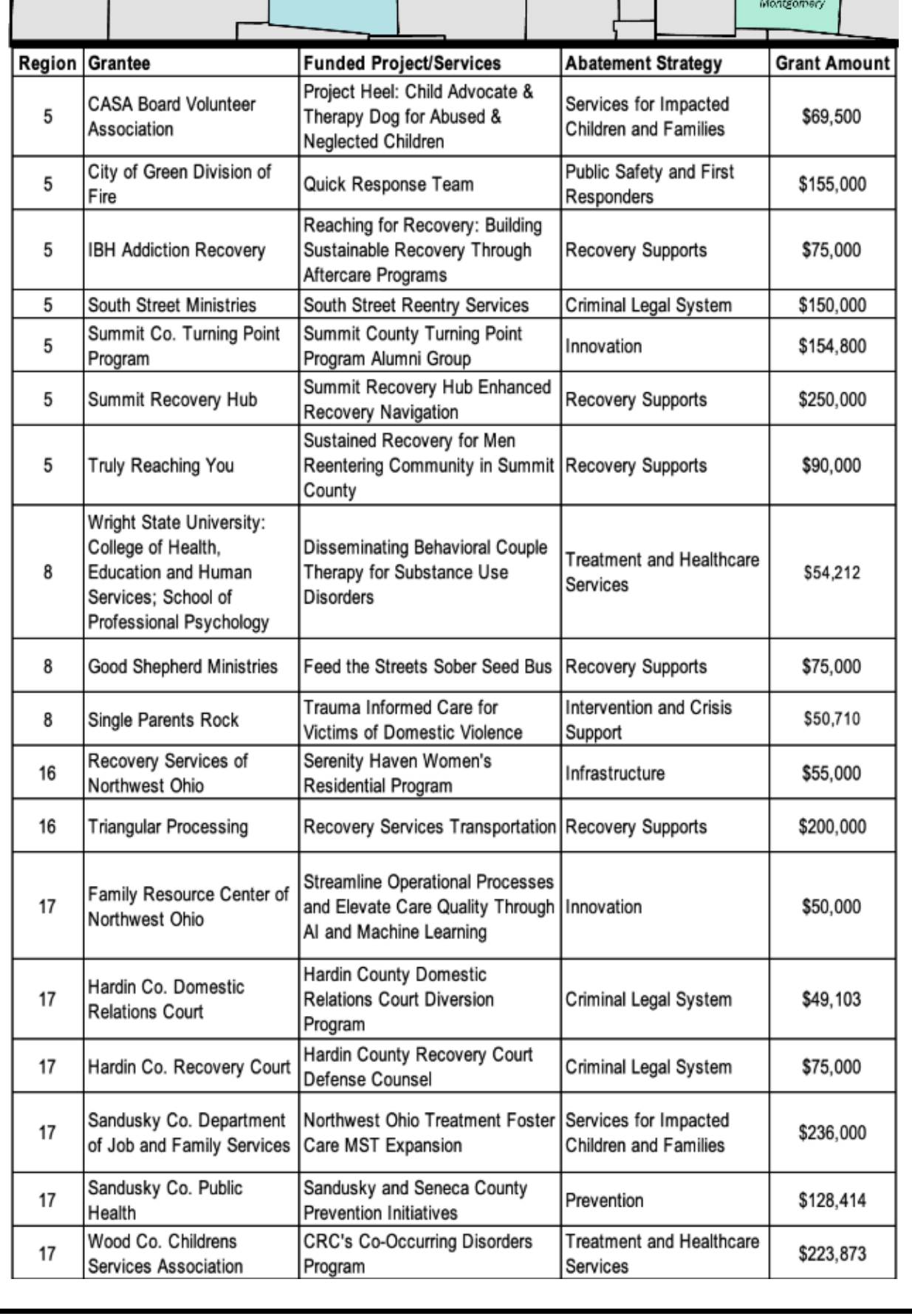
The Foundation allocated $51 million for the first round of grant funding, and the grant review process is ongoing. Moving forward, grants will be announced on Wednesdays.

The Foundation will post the grant awards publicly on its website's Grant Awards page. All 19 regions are anticipated to announce additional grant awards.

Also at last week's meeting, the Board also gave preliminary approval for 118 additional grant awards totaling more than $22.7 million. Foundation staff will now finalize grant agreements with the recipient organizations prior to announcing awards.

If you are interested in receiving future announcements of grant awards directly, sign up here.





Region	Grantee	Funded Project/Services	Abatement Strategy	Grant Amount
5	CASA Board Volunteer Association	Project Heel: Child Advocate & Therapy Dog for Abused & Neglected Children	Services for Impacted Children and Families	$69,500
5	City of Green Division of Fire	Quick Response Team	Public Safety and First Responders	$155,000
5	IBH Addiction Recovery	Reaching for Recovery: Building Sustainable Recovery Through Aftercare Programs	Recovery Supports	$75,000
5	South Street Ministries	South Street Reentry Services	Criminal Legal System	$150,000
5	Summit Co. Turning Point Program	Summit County Turning Point Program Alumni Group	Innovation	$154,800
5	Summit Recovery Hub	Summit Recovery Hub Enhanced Recovery Navigation	Recovery Supports	$250,000
5	Truly Reaching You	Sustained Recovery for Men Reentering Community in Summit County	Recovery Supports	$90,000
8	Wright State University: College of Health, Education and Human Services; School of Professional Psychology	Disseminating Behavioral Couple Therapy for Substance Use Disorders	Treatment and Healthcare Services	$54,212
8	Good Shepherd Ministries	Feed the Streets Sober Seed Bus	Recovery Supports	$75,000
8	Single Parents Rock	Trauma Informed Care for Victims of Domestic Violence	Intervention and Crisis Support	$50,710
16	Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio	Serenity Haven Women's Residential Program	Infrastructure	$55,000
16	Triangular Processing	Recovery Services Transportation	Recovery Supports	$200,000
17	Family Resource Center of Northwest Ohio	Streamline Operational Processes and Elevate Care Quality Through AI and Machine Learning	Innovation	$50,000
17	Hardin Co. Domestic Relations Court	Hardin County Domestic Relations Court Diversion Program	Criminal Legal System	$49,103
17	Hardin Co. Recovery Court	Hardin County Recovery Court Defense Counsel	Criminal Legal System	$75,000
17	Sandusky Co. Department of Job and Family Services	Northwest Ohio Treatment Foster Care MST Expansion	Services for Impacted Children and Families	$236,000
17	Sandusky Co. Public Health	Sandusky and Seneca County Prevention Initiatives	Prevention	$128,414
17	Wood Co. Childrens Services Association	CRC's Co-Occurring Disorders Program	Treatment and Healthcare Services	$223,873

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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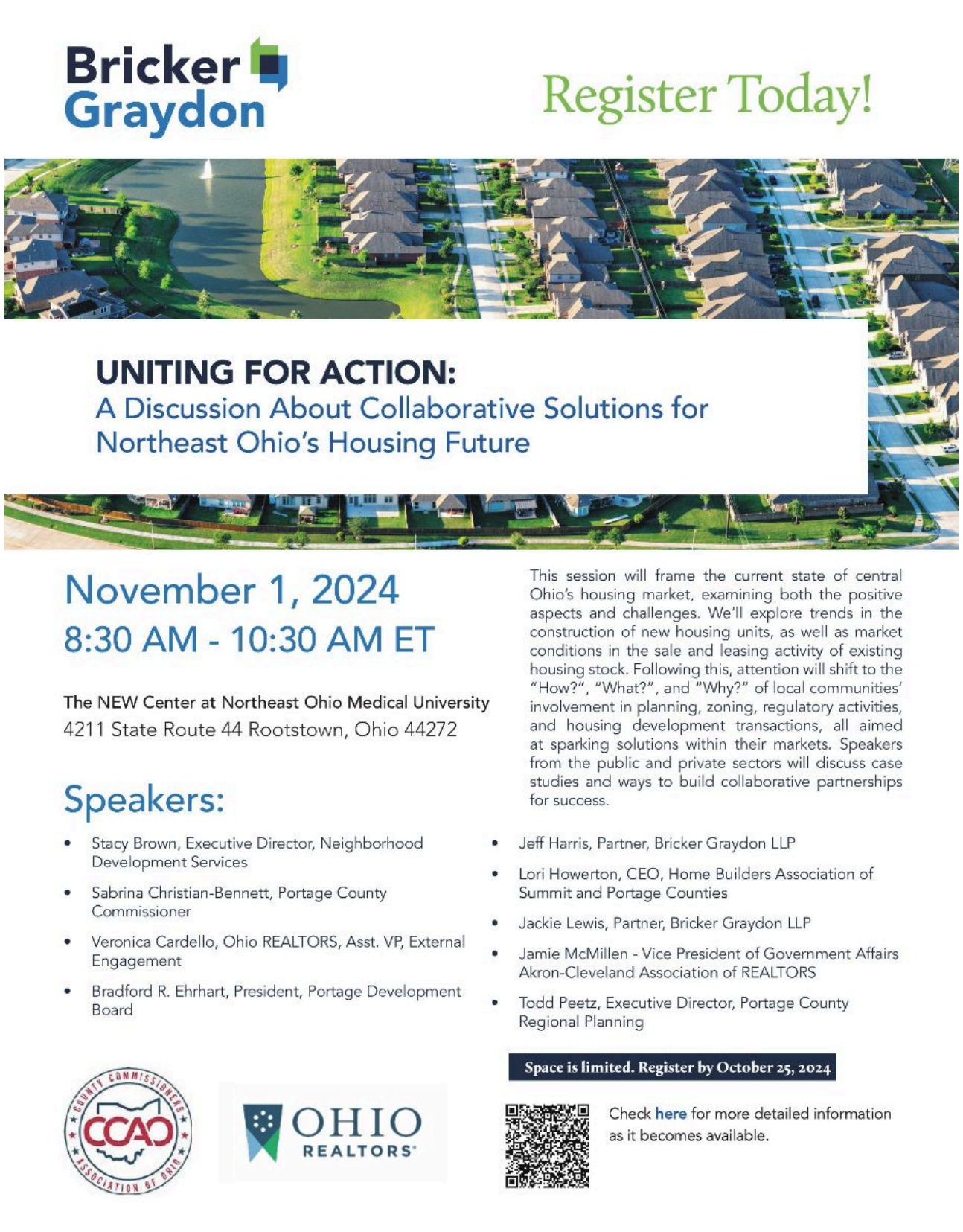
Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

Registration for Portage County Housing Forum closes open, event to be held November 1

On November 1, BrickerGraydon, Ohio REALTORS, and CCAO will host a collaborative discussion on the future of housing in Ohio in Portage County, the third in a series of events held across the state.

The session will frame the current state of Ohio's housing market, examining both the positive aspects and challenges. Attendees will explore trends in the construction of new housing units, as well as market conditions in the sale and leasing activity of existing housing stock. Following this, attention will shift to the "How?", "What?", and "Why?" of local communities' involvement in planning, zoning, regulatory activities, and housing development transactions, all aimed at sparking solutions within their markets.

The event will be held at the NEW Center at Northeast Ohio Medical University and is free, but space is limited. ***Registration will close on next Friday, October 25***. Registration for the event can be completed here.


Bricker Graydon
Register Today!
OHIO REALTORS

UNITING FOR ACTION:
A Discussion About Collaborative Solutions for Northeast Ohio's Housing Future

November 1, 2024
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM ET

The NEW Center at Northeast Ohio Medical University
4211 State Route 44 Rootstown, Ohio 44272

This session will frame the current state of central Ohio's housing market, examining both the positive aspects and challenges. We'll explore trends in the construction of new housing units, as well as market conditions in the sale and leasing activity of existing housing stock. Following this, attention will shift to the "How?", "What?", and "Why?" of local communities' involvement in planning, zoning, regulatory activities, and housing development transactions, all aimed at sparking solutions within their markets. Speakers from the public and private sectors will discuss case studies and ways to build collaborative partnerships for success.

Speakers:

- Stacy Brown, Executive Director, Neighborhood Development Services
- Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Portage County Commissioner
- Veronica Cardello, Ohio REALTORS, Asst. VP, External Engagement
- Bradford R. Ehrhart, President, Portage Development Board
- Jeff Harris, Partner, Bricker Graydon LLP
- Lori Howerton, CEO, Home Builders Association of Summit and Portage Counties
- Jackie Lewis, Partner, Bricker Graydon LLP
- Jamie McMillen - Vice President of Government Affairs Akron-Cleveland Association of REALTORS
- Todd Peetz, Executive Director, Portage County Regional Planning

Space is limited. Register by October 25, 2024

Check here for more detailed information as it becomes available.

Ohio Grants Summit to hold 2024 event in late November, registration now open

On November 19 and 20 (Tuesday and Wednesday), the Office of Budget and Management will host the 2024 Ohio Grants Summit, the latest iteration in the annual event that works to connect local governments with the partners and expertise needed to successfully compete for grants at both the state and federal level.

Registration for the event is free and must be completed separately for Day One and Day Two. The event is virtual and will be streamed on The Ohio Channel. Registration is not required to watch the stream, but those registered will have the opportunity to ask questions of speakers.

Each day runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The agenda for each day is below:

Day One:

- Grant Writing 101: Tips for a Successful Grant Application
- Ohio's Unified Approach to Federal Funding
- People, Policies, and Systems: The Foundation for Establishing Sustainable Grants Capacity

Day Two:

- Obligating and Closing Out ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Uniform Guidance Update
- Water/Wastewater Roundtable

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One story from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

County discusses budget, voting

Advertiser-Tribune, October 11, 2024

The Seneca County Commissioners Board met Thursday morning briefly to give updates and pass appropriations and resolutions.

With Commissioner Board President Anthony Paradiso absent, Commissioner Tyler Shuff took over leading the meeting. There were no appointments and no one in attendance to give public comment, the board heard commissioner reports.

Commissioner Bill Frankart told the board he had recently taken the needed training to be a poll worker and urged people to take advantage of early voting if possible. Frankart and Shuff both said they had attended the budget commission meeting and County Administrator Barb Patterson advised she hoped a new budget would be ready to be approved before Thanksgiving.

Shuff also said the next downtown Third Thursday of the month event is Oct. 17 and is the Fall Flannel Fest and Pumpkin Drop.

In her report, Patterson said she hoped the county auditor's office would be made whole again at the beginning of November after some recent renovations and said money was getting tighter for the county and discussions would be had with county departments about expenditures to cut and to focus on needs rather than wants.

Northeast District

Commissioners OK tutoring, workforce funds; state gives grants to suicide prevention, clothing programs

Chronicle Telegram, October 13, 2024

Millions of dollars in federal and state funding for community programs including child welfare and workforce development is on its way to Lorain County and surrounding counties, local and state officials announced this week.

At Tuesday's county Board of Commissioners meeting, the board OK'd agreements with social, developmental, and educational organizations for mentoring and tutoring grants for low-income children.

Much of the funding came from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or TANF funding provided to the state by the federal government.

The TANF program "is designed to help families with children experiencing low-income achieve economic security and stability. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish one of the purposes" of TANF, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Central District

Richland County Jail to implement biometric monitors for at-risk inmates

Richland Source, October 10, 2024

Richland County Jail officials plan to use biometric monitors to provide real-time medical updates on high-risk inmates.

The Richland County Board of Commissioners on Thursday approved a request to contract for one year with a 4Sight Labs, a San Francisco-based company, at a cost of about $41,000 for its Overwatch program.

Richland County Sheriff's Office Capt. Chris Blunk, administrator of the 234-bed county jail, said wrist monitors will be placed on inmates deemed to be at-risk by the jail's medical staff.

Blunk said the monitors will provide real-time data on vital signs such as heart rate, blood oxygen levels, and skin temperature, alerting staff to potential emergencies, allowing for prompt medical attention and potentially saving lives.

He said he hopes to have the program up and running by the end of 2024. The initial cost includes equipment, set-up and training. The annual cost to continue the effort after that first year would be $24,000, Blunk said.

"This is just a tool to be used to help us in our efforts to maintain safety and security for our inmates," Blunk told commissioners during a meeting also attended by Sheriff Steve Sheldon.

Southwest District

Commissioners endorse, 'strongly encourage support' of Children Services levy issue

Highland County Press, October 10, 2024

The upcoming Nov. 5 general election was one of the primary topics at the Wednesday, Oct. 10 county commission meeting, where Highland County commissioners David Daniels, Brad Roades and Terry Britton endorsed the Children Services levy issue and heard comments from a congressional candidate.

As previously reported, commissioners also endorsed a previous attempt to renew the 0.9-mill levy, which failed in the March 19 primary. Wednesday's resolution takes it a step further, by both endorsing and "strongly encouraging the citizens of Highland County to support the Highland County Children Services Renewal Levy for approval in the Nov. 5, 2024 election."

The agency is seeking a 0.9-mill levy in the Nov. 5 general election. Along with the renewal being rejected by voters in the March primary, a proposed five-year, one-mill replacement levy for the agency failed in the November 2023 general election.

The previous tax levy, which was first approved in November 2013 and renewed by voters in November 2018, was a five-year, .9-mill levy for Children Services placement costs and expired Dec. 31, 2023. The levy the agency is seeking this November would be at the same rate.

Southeast District

Athens County 911 seeks contract with Hocking College

Athens Messenger, October 11, 2024

During this week's Athens County Commissioners meeting, 911 Emergency Communications Director Teresa Fouts-Imler sought the board's approval to negotiate a contract with Hocking College for 911 dispatch services.

However, in emails responding to the Messenger's request for comment, Hocking College President Betty Young denied any plans for changes, stating negotiations are not in progress. Fouts-Imler asserted that Hocking College Police Chief Jennifer McClain-Eskey initiated the contact and Young expressed support for a dispatch contract.

The commissioners met Tuesday in the conference room on the second floor of the courthouse annex.

Fouts-Imler requested permission from the commissioners to negotiate and recommended that Athens County 911 enter a contract with Hocking College, similar to the one it has with Nelsonville. Fouts-Imler also serves as the county's Emergency Management Agency director.

Under such an agreement, Hocking College would pay $85,968 for dispatching services. The contract would last three years and increase by 3% annually.

"We'll be handling all dispatchable calls, just we won't be handling any non-emergency traffic for them," Fouts-Imler explained. "I think that we can offer them a better service and offer them the backup, or the redundancies, versus one dispatcher."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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OCTOBER 16
Northwest District Meeting - Henry County

OCTOBER 18
Fairfield County Housing Forum

OCTOBER 25
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 5
General Election

NOVEMBER 8
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 12
OCCO Legislative Reception

DECEMBER 4 - 6
CCAO / CEAO Winter Conference

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