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June 2, 2025

Congratulations to Mike Kindell on his retirement! After 11 years as Managing Director of Health and Wellness at CEBCO, Mike leaves behind a legacy of leadership, dedication, and meaningful impact. Thank you for everything, Mike!

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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$50 million in jail project grants awarded by DeWine Administration

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine and Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Annette Chambers-Smith announced the awarding of $50 million in grants to support county jail projects across the state. The funding comes from an appropriation in House Bill 2 of the 135th General Assembly, the current state capital budget. The awards bring the total invested in county jails by the DeWine Administration to $228 million.

Seven counties received funding for new construction, expansion, or major renovation projects, while 11 received funding for structural upgrades, security enhancements, or smaller renovations, and one county received funding for a needs assessment/feasibility study.

The awards are summarized below.

Construction or Major Renovation

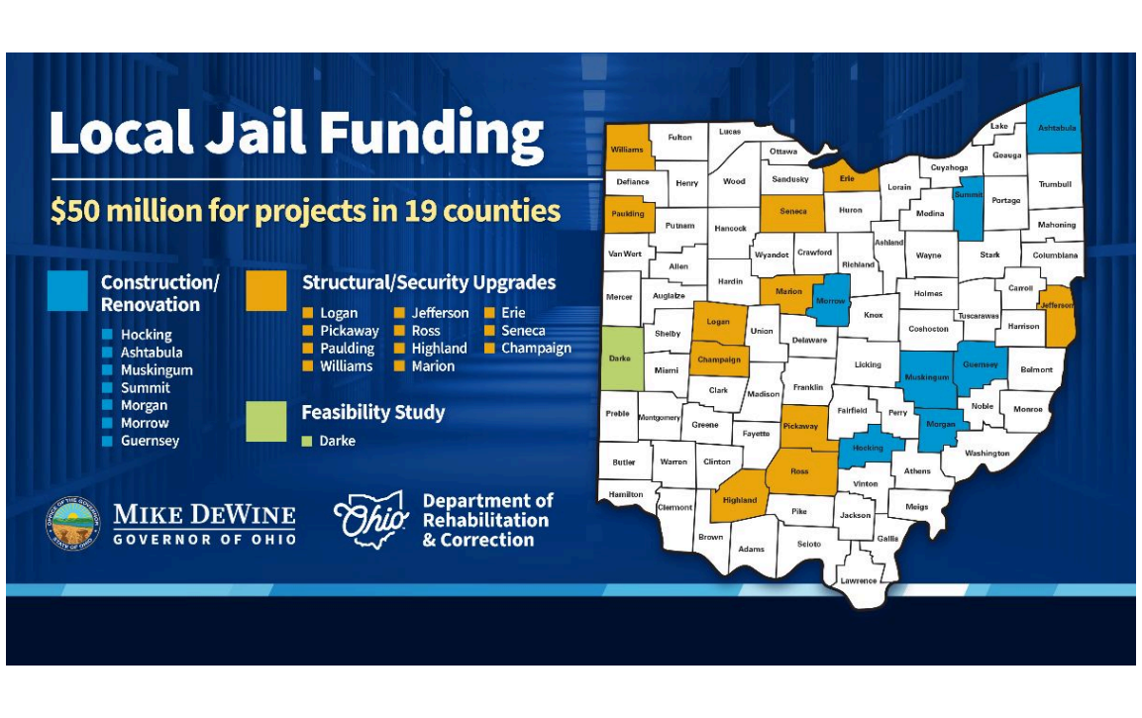
- Ashtabula - $15 million to increase beds and add special housing, court holding, and medical and mental health areas.
- Guernsey - $7.4 million to increase the number of beds and to add medical space and confidential interview rooms.
- Hocking - $6.8 million to complete a new female jail facility which will hold female inmates and a substance-use treatment program.
- Morgan - $1.2 million to renovate and add new intake and booking areas and holding cells. The renovations will allow the jail to open after several years of non-operation.
- Morrow - $1.2 million to add 44 beds, two housing units, and upgrade security features.
- Muskingum - $7 million to construct a new jail which will have 347 beds and replace the existing facility which is 48 years old.
- Summit - $3.0 million to expand the facility's secure entrance, intake, and booking areas, and to add specialized mental health and recovery units and space.

Structural or Security Upgrades

- Champaign - $46,568 for renovations to provide video services for court hearings and private space for mental health services.
- Erie - $200,000 for security enhancements.
- Highland - $379,504 to renovate restrooms and make security enhancements.
- Jefferson - $622,804 to renovate plumbing systems and HVAC units.
- Logan - $549,012 for HVAC, mechanical, and plumbing improvements, and to make renovations to the intake, booking, and medical areas.
- Marion - $200,000 to replace doors. This facility also serves Hardin County.
- Paulding - $1.1 million to acquire a new chiller and boiler replacement for the HVAC system.
- Pickaway - $4.5 million to replace windows and to support a security enhancement project.
- Ross - $400,397 for a security enhancement project.
- Seneca - $124,781 for security enhancements.
- Williams - $225,000 for life safety enhancement projects. This facility also serves Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Lucas counties.

Feasibility Study

- Darke - $136,809 to assess the need for a new jail.



Federal Advocacy: SNAP Changes in Reconciliation Package

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the federal reconciliation budget package, by a vote of 215-214. The package includes several policy changes, which are summarized here. The U.S. Senate will now consider the bill and likely make several changes.

CCAO and the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association (OJFSDA) have partnered to advocate regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provisions of the bill. If passed in its current form, the legislation would:

- Reduce the federal match for SNAP administration from 50% to 25%, resulting in a statewide increase of $65 million, up to $40 million of which could fall to the responsibility of the county JFS agencies without an additional revenue source.
- Require the state to contribute to the cost of SNAP benefits on a sliding scale, based on the statewide SNAP error rate. In Ohio, this could be up to $800 million in each fiscal year.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA) sent letters to House leadership prior to the vote expressing concerns over the changes. CCAO also shared information with Ohio's congressional delegation regarding the proposal's specific impact on Ohio budgets.

Our advocacy now turns toward the U.S. Senate. CCAO sent a letter to Senator Jon Husted and Senator Bernie Moreno to share our concerns about the impact of the SNAP provisions on county administration and budgets. We urge our members to share information about the local impact your county will feel if these changes become law. Below are some statewide talking points that might be useful in your conversations:

SNAP federal match reduction

- H.R. 1 would reduce the federal match for SNAP administration from 50% to 25%.
- If no other administrative factors changed, Ohio's portion of the costs would increase by $65 million per fiscal year.
- In Ohio, the state and counties share the cost of administration. This shift could increase administrative costs by up to $40 million per fiscal year for counties.
- County budgets are already tight, and this would put a strain on an already underfunded system.

SNAP state benefit cost share

- H.R. 1 would require states to contribute to the cost of SNAP benefits beginning in Federal Fiscal Year 2028, which is State Fiscal Year 2028. The required state share increases if a state has a higher error rate.
- **Ohio would likely need to contribute at least $640 million per state fiscal year, but depending on Ohio's error rate, this amount could rise to $800 million per state fiscal year**.
- H.R. 1 also reduces the tolerance level for SNAP errors from $37 in 2014 dollars ($57 in 2024) to $0, meaning all states' error rates would likely increase. If Ohio's error rate increases, the state would pay a higher cost-share percentage.

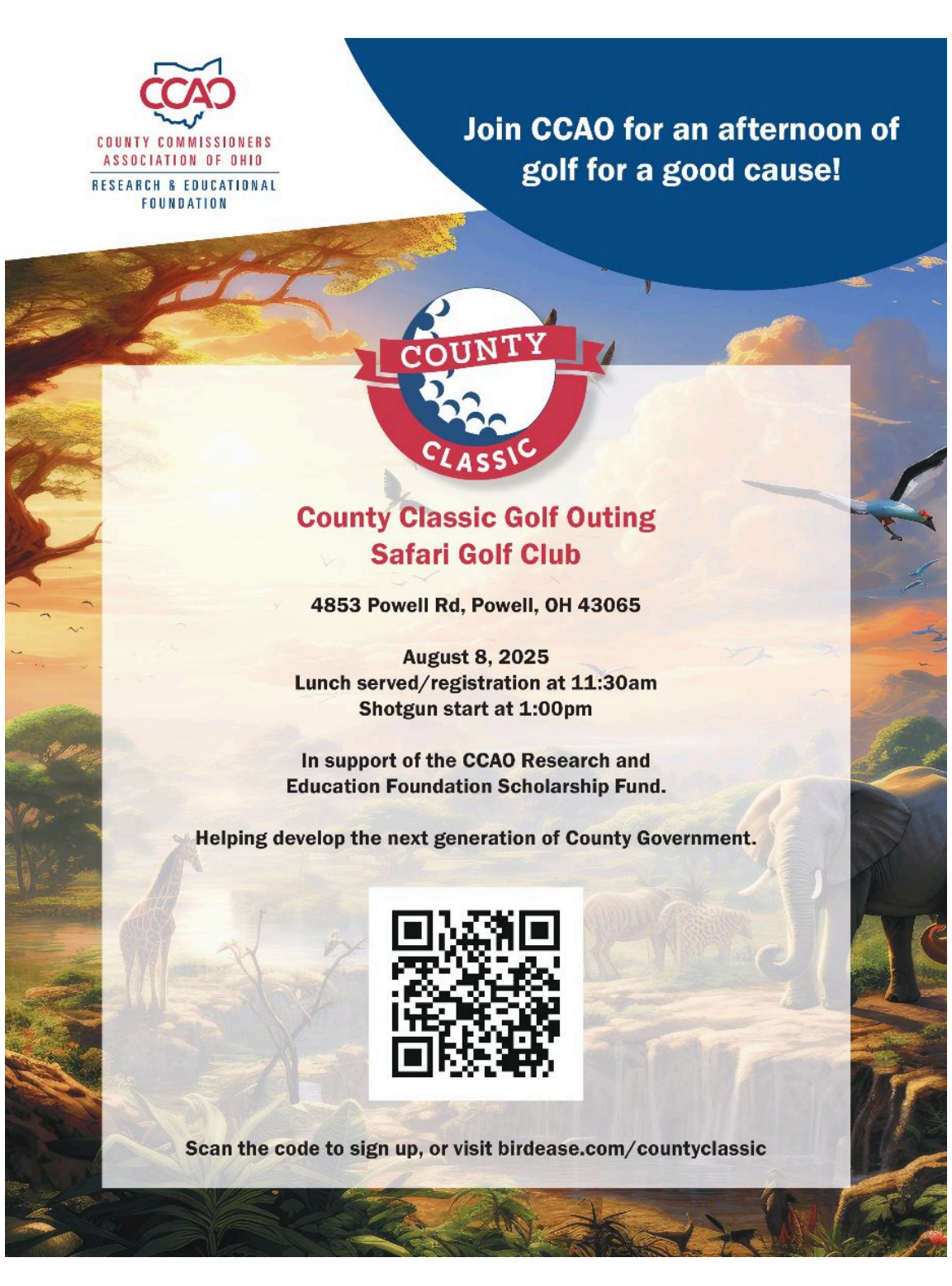
If you have questions about the SNAP provisions, please contact Rachel Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org. If you have questions about other provisions of H.R. 1, please contact policy@ccao.org.

Two upcoming CCAO events to be held in August

In August, CCAO will be hosting the 2025 iteration of two events: the County Classic Golf Outing and the Summer Symposium.

Registration is currently open for the 2025 County Classic Golf Outing, which will take place at the Safari Golf Club in Powell on August 8. Proceeds from the event will support the CCAO Research and Education Foundation Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for graduating high school students who plan to pursue work in the public section. You can register for the event or donate to the fund through the event page.

Later in the month, the Association will hold its 2025 Summer Symposium at the Hocking Hills Lodge and Conference Center. The event will be held from August 24 - 26, Sunday to Tuesday. Registration and room reservations will open on June 6.


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
August 8, 2025
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!

August 24-26, 2025

(Sunday-Tuesday)

CCAO SUMMER SYMPOSIUM 2025

Hocking Hills
LODGE & CONFERENCE CENTER

Registration & Reservations
opening June 6!

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

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STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Expanded sales tax holiday to be held in August

Governor Mike DeWine recently announced the dates for the 2025 Expanded Sales Tax Holiday. It will occur from Friday, August 1, through Thursday, August 14.

During the period, state and local sales taxes are waived for purchases in-store and online for items up to $500 and excluding motor vehicles, watercraft, outboard motors, alcohol, tobacco, vapor products, and any items containing marijuana.

The state reimburses itself, counties, transit authorities, the Local Government Fund, and the Public Library Fund for the foregone revenue during the holiday.

The state is required to consult with CCAO regarding the length of the holiday. During the meeting CCAO had with the Department of Taxation, CCAO stressed that the most important consideration for counties is ensuring that there are proper funds for reimbursement and that reimbursements are made in a timely manner.

NACo accepting platform amendments, policy resolutions until June 11

Ahead of the 2025 NACo Annual Conference in July, the national association is accepting policy resolutions until June 11.

The American County Platform is NACo's permanent policy document. When necessary, it is amended at the annual meeting.

Platform changes are permanent amendments to the American County Platform that broadly guides NACo's federal advocacy efforts and publicly state NACo's general policy goals. Please submit a document that utilizes the Word Track Changes feature to denote any additions or removals from the American County Platform.

Policy resolutions are generally single-purpose documents addressing a specific issue or piece of legislation. Resolutions draw attention to a topic of current concern, clarify parts of the broadly worded platform, or set policy in areas not covered by the platform. All interim policy resolutions submitted at the 2025 Legislative Conference must be renewed.

You can submit platform amendments and policy resolutions here.

Contact NACo Government Affairs staff with any questions regarding the policy resolution process.

NOTE: If you submit a policy resolution or platform change, you or a designee must appear in person at the 2025 Annual Conference to explain the resolution.

Information on how to register for the 2025 Annual Conference can be found here.

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 Plan on Aging Community Listening Sessions

Throughout June 2025, the Ohio Department of Aging will be hosting community listening sessions to learn from the experiences of older adults and caregivers across Ohio. These sessions will be facilitated by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio and will be hosted in six Ohio communities:

- Trotwood (Montgomery County)
- Waverly (Pike County)
- Youngstown (Mahoning County)
- Marietta (Washington County)
- Maumee (Lucas County) — *flyer coming soon*
- Cleveland (Cuyahoga County) — *flyer coming soon*

Please see the attached recruitment flyers for the SPOA community listening sessions and share with your networks. Registration is limited at each event to create an environment conducive to conversation. Lunch or refreshments, as well as gift cards, will be provided to participants.

They are hoping to hear diverse perspectives from older Ohioans and their caregivers!

Federal grants on transportation, domestic violence, and agriculture available

Five federal grants across different policy areas are available for applications, with the deadlines coming in late June and early July. These grants are listed below in order of when applications close.

Safe Streets and Roads Program

- Close Date: June 26
- Purpose: To support planning, infrastructure, and behavioral and operation initiatives to prevent fatalities and serious injuries on roads for all users (drivers, public transportation, cyclists, pedestrians, etc.).
- Funding available: $580 million for implementation grants, $402 million for planning grants.
- Eligible entities: Political subdivisions (among others).

Farmers Market Promotion Program

- Close Date: June 27
- Purpose: To support direct-to-consumer sales of farm products
- Funding available: $11 million
- Eligible entities: Local governments (among others).

Regional Food System Partnerships Program

- Close Date: June 27
- Purpose: To support regional coalitions working to coordinate food systems.
- Funding available: $4.5 million
- Eligible entities: Local governments (among others). Must be in partnership with another eligible entity.

Local Food Promotion Program

- Close Date: June 27
- Purpose: To support intermediaries (aggregators, distributors, processors) in local and regional food chains.
- Funding available: $11 million
- Eligible entities: Local governments (among others).

Prevention and Response to Violence Program

- Close Date: June 30
- Purpose: To support comprehensive,, community-based efforts to develop and expand prevention, intervention, treatment, and response strategies to address the needs of children and youth impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sex trafficking.
- Funding available: $9.5 million
- Eligible entities: Local governments (among others).

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 hears update on transportation plan

Advertiser-Tribune, May 29, 2025

Jim Oliver, mobility management coordinator at the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, updated the Seneca County Commissioners about the Coordinated Public and Human Services Transportation Plan at the board's regular meeting Thursday.

"Every four years we have to submit a Coordinated Public and Human Services Transportation Plan to the Ohio Department of Transportation," Oliver informed the board. Overall, he said, the plan is a total of about fifty pages, "most of it is data and statistics."

He later praised the North Central Area Transit for providing transportation to local area residents, but reported there are still some gaps in services provided, specifically for seniors and those with disabilities.

As a summary of the plan says, the purpose of the plan is to "identify existing transportation resources, assess gaps and unmet mobility needs and outline strategies to address them."

The plan allows for agencies like NCAT, Flat Rock Care Center, or the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities to receive funding to buy new vehicles and provide more services.

The commissioners later approved a resolution accepting the Seneca County Coordinated Public and Human Services Transportation Plan.

Northeast District

New sanitary engineer has full plate

The Vindicator, May 29, 2025

Mahoning County commissioners today will officially appoint the county's new sanitary engineer.

But Bernie Petro has already been on the job for a month and has his work cut out for him.

"We have about 28 projects going on," he said, "so it's a very active part of our county government right now."

Petro started the job April 28, working with Patrick Ginnetti, who has served as both Mahoning County Engineer and Sanitary Engineer since 2013.

"I think Bernie comes with a wealth of knowledge," said Commissioner Carol Rimedio-Righetti. "He has a lot of new ideas we may use, things that I think will help us out."

Rimedio-Righetti said the board did not want to make the official introduction of Petro as sanitary engineer until her colleague, Anthony Traficanti, returned from his absence for health reasons.

Central District

Richland County commissioners approve filing of CDBG application

Richland Source, May 27, 2025

Richland County commissioners Tuesday approved a plan to apply for $341,200 in Community Development Block Grant funds.

That figure includes a $50,000 commitment from the Richland County Regional Planning Commission out of a revolving loan fund, said Jotika Shetty, the commission's executive director.

"We had some balances and the state asked that we move those balances," she said.

Combined with the $290,000 in CDBG funds the state is giving Richland County, Shetty said the total allocation is $341,200.

Of that amount, $210,000 is earmarked for a new generator at the Dayspring Assisted Living and Care Facility and $75,000 for Richland County Transit to cover reduced bus fare for disabled and elderly passengers.

The county's application to the state is essentially the approval process for how the funds are being used and allowing projects to proceed or not, Shetty said.

Remaining funds will be used for Fair Housing education and grant administrative costs.

Southwest District

Commissioners award paving contract, discuss airport improvements

Record Herald, May 29, 2025

The Fayette County Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 27, due to the Monday holiday.

The first item was the opening of bids by Faye Williamson, director of Fayette County Job and Family Services, for professional services for Workforce Development. Commissioners awarded the single bid received to Workforce Services Unlimited of Circleville for $47,000, the estimated cost of the work by JFS.

Representatives Larry Gray and Lori Moore from the Fayette County Department of Developmental Disabilities (Board of DD) received approval for planned building renovations at their Robinson Road facility. Gray noted the approximately 40-year-old building requires updates to accommodate their services.

Kate Wells, OSU Extension economic development director, presented a proposed detailed list of job duties for the commissioners, county administrator, and administrative clerk for review and discussion at a future meeting.

Airport Manager Jerry Van Dyke discussed the new airport hangar being constructed to accommodate larger planes. He outlined a proposed overnight rental fee of $1 per square foot of plane (wingspan times length) and said weekly and monthly rates are also being developed. The rental fee includes airport services such as bringing the aircraft out of the hangar and fueling it for takeoff. Van Dyke noted that smaller planes could be moved into the new hangar for safety during large storms if space is available. He reported one aircraft owner has requested monthly hangar space.

Southeast District

Belmont County commissioners apply for grant to pay for new playground

Times Leader, May 29, 2025

Belmont County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution Wednesday to apply for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Nature Works grant.

If awarded, the grant will be used to develop an accessible playground adjacent to the Dave M. Lucas dog park, situated off Ohio 331 west of St. Clairsville.

"This is an idea of former Sheriff Lucas, who came up with the idea for the dog park, and it's named after him and now he would like to try to secure a grant to put a playground next to the dog park," Commissioner Jerry Echemann said. "If you are at the dog park with your dog and your kids, everybody will have a place to play.. It's mainly the former sheriff who's doing most of the work on this, but he has to run it through the board of commissioners."

Commissioner Vince Gianangeli made a motion for Echemann to sign the inter-agency agreement between the Commission, the dog park and Recreation Funds Inc.

"I'll note that the Belmont County commission shall act as the applicant for the Natureworks Round 31 grant," Gianangeli added.

According to ODNR's website, the grant provides up to 75% reimbursement assistance for local government subdivisions such as townships, villages, cities, counties, park districts, joint recreation districts and conservancy districts for the acquisition, development and rehabilitation of recreational areas. The cutoff date to apply for the grant is June 2.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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JUNE 6
Central District Meeting
Registration for the 2025 CCAO Summer Symposium Opens

JUNE 13
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

JUNE 19
Juneteenth - Holiday

JUNE 27
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

JULY 4
Independence Day - Holiday

AUGUST 8
2025 County Classic Golf Outing

AUGUST 24 - 26
2025 CCAO Summer Symposium

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