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October 27, 2025

Last week, CCAO received Groundwork Ohio's 2025 Groundwork Champion Award, in recognition of the Association's elevation of child care access and affordability as a key policy priority, as well CCAO's education efforts to state leaders and local communities about the importance of investing in child care.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Two weeks for Early Bird Pricing for 2025 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference!

Early Bird Registration Fee Ends November 7, 2025!

Click Here to Register!

Early Bird Registration Fees:

Full Conference $525

One Day Only $380

Spouse or Guest Flat Fee for Full Conference or One Day Only $200

Affiliate Groups Have Option to Choose Meetings Only + Coffee Breaks $125

Rates after November 7, 2025

Full Conference $625

One Day Only $480

Spouse or Guest Flat Fee for Full Conference or One Day Only $300

Affiliate Groups Have Option to Choose Meetings Only + Coffee Breaks $175

Sessions at this year's conference will include best practices for energy and economic development, information on data centers, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and changes to the children services landscape.

There will also be five sessions focusing on different aspects of property taxation and the potential ramifications of if property taxation is eliminated.

The full tentative agenda can be viewed here.

Call for Letters of Interest for NACo Board of Directors Representative Position

As part of the upcoming CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference, CCAO will be electing two members to the National Association of Counties (NACo) board of directors, per NACo bylaws, during the CCAO Annual Business meeting.

We ask that individuals interested in running for these two positions submit a 1-2-page letter of interest to Robin Garrett at rgarrett@ccao.org by Noon, Monday, November 17. CCAO will distribute these letters to Ohio NACo members on Thursday, November 20.

On Thursday, Dec. 4 during the annual meeting, CCAO will conduct an election for these two positions. This vote will be by paper ballot. Each NACo county will receive two votes, and the top two vote-getters will be the new representatives to the NACo board of directors. The elected board members would begin their terms in July 2026. This election will not impact any other NACo board positions Ohio members may hold, such as those receiving board appointments from the NACo president or due to previous service as NACo president.

Commissioners Shannon Jones (Warren) and Lisa Sobecki (Lucas) are currently representing Ohio during the term of 2025-2026 on the NACo Board of Directors.

Should there be a two-way tie for first place, both individuals will receive board seats. If there is a three-way tie for first place, there will be a runoff election. If there is a tie for second place, there will be a runoff election. If a tie remains after two elections, a coin toss will be conducted to determine the winner.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact Cheryl Subler or Robin Garrett.

Notice from Glenn Miller, Henry County Commissioner & CCAO Nominating Committee Chair

2025 Nominating Packet And Form

CCAO President David Painter has appointed me to serve as chair of the CCAO Nominating Committee for 2025. Other members of the Committee include Commissioners Pete Gerken (Lucas), Mike Halleck (Columbiana), Steven Hess (Champaign), and Amy Norris (Harrison).

The CCAO Code of Regulations entrusts us with the responsibility of nominating candidates for the offices of president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, treasurer, and eight members of the Board of Directors for a two-year term of office.

If you are interested in serving on the Board for a two-year term or as an officer, please complete the attached Nominating Committee Request Form found in the link above. You can request consideration for more than one office.

Also note that if you request consideration to serve on the Board for a two-year term and/or as an officer and are not nominated, your name will automatically be submitted for a Presidential Appointment to the Board of Directors. ***Please fill out and return the candidate questionnaire above with your CCAO Nominating Committee Form.***

Finally, both forms must be returned no later than **November 1, 2025**, to the committee chair: **Glenn Miller, 1853 Oakwood Ave., Napoleon, OH 43545-4016, or by email at glenn.miller@henrycountyohio.gov.**

In addition, mail copies to **CCAO, 209 E. State Street, Columbus, OH 43215-4309, in an envelope marked: NOMINATING COMMITTEE – ATTENTION: Robin Garrett, or you may email your forms to rgarrett@ccao.org.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Chair Glenn Miller at (419) 779-0020, or call CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler at (614) 746-8507.

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

RUMPKE

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Federal government shutdown update

Below is an update on the federal government shutdown's impact on human service functions.

SNAP
At the federal level, the most recent information available is the October 10th FNS letter, which is available here. The FNS letter states that funds will be insufficient to pay full benefits in November.

While some states that issue all benefits at the beginning of the month have passed the point of issuing November benefits in time, should the shutdown end, Ohio, which issues benefits on a staggered schedule, has not yet reached that point. That date is on or about October 29 to load benefits for Nov. 1. The state has already made changes to the processing of expedited cases in Ohio Benefits so that approved November benefits cannot be accessed.

ODJFS will continue to make funding available for the federal portion of SNAP administration until it is depleted, which the department believes will last until mid-November. The amount will continue to match agency spending of other allowable GRF allocations or local dollars.

To help ODJFS continue funding, the department is asking agencies to request cash draws only for immediate needs.

As it currently stands, once these remaining funds are depleted, counties will not receive federal SNAP funding until the federal shutdown ends.

It is important to ***note that this will not impact other allocations*** received from JFS – only the federal match for SNAP operations.

For clients seeking additional help, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks maintains a list of county-level partners on its website.

Medicaid
ODM has issued the following statement, which includes non-emergency medical transportation. Medicaid coverage for current enrollees will continue uninterrupted. This is because Medicaid is a mandatory program with funding that does not require annual congressional approval.
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has confirmed it has sufficient funding to support Medicaid through at least the first quarter of fiscal year 2026.

TANF/Childcare
Due to their block-grant nature, we do not anticipate interruptions to benefits funded by the TANF or child care development block grants in the near future.

NACo Great Lakes Regional Forum offers opportunities to learn from other Great Lakes counties

The Great Lakes Regional Forum is a new NACo body, chaired by Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne, which focuses on issues facing the states bordering the Great Lakes. NACo members interested in serving on the Forum can do so through the association's Committee Application portal.

Members with questions about the Forum should reach out to the NACo staff liaison, Ben Gilsdorf at bgilsdorf@naco.org.

Last week, the Forum held a meeting to hear from Helena Volzer of the Alliance for the Great Lakes about a report on water constraints in the Great Lakes region. The report discusses how the growing demand for data centers could strain the region's water resources.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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TOMORROW: Informational webinar on Brownfield Remediation Program

On Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., the Department of Development will host a webinar about the Brownfield Remediation grant program. The program guidelines were recently released and are available here.

The webinar will cover changes to the program made since prior cycles, eligibility requirements, how to apply, and a question-and-answer segment with program staff.

You can register for the webinar here.

2025 Cyber Summit to be held November 19

Join cybersecurity leaders, government officials, education and nonprofit professionals at Ohio's premier cybersecurity gathering. Hosted by the Ohio Innovation and Technology Association in partnership with the State of Ohio, the CyberOhio Summit is your chance to dive into the state's cyber landscape — from new standards and legislative updates to best practices and collective defense. The event will take place on November 19 at the Fawcett Center in Columbus.

Registration is available here.

6th ANNUAL
Ohio Grants Summit
Ohio Office of Budget and Management
SAVE THE DATE!
Dec. 9 - 11, 2025 | 9 a.m. - Noon
Grants.Ohio.gov

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
Lucas County leaders look for solutions to shutdown-caused loss of SNAP
WTOL, October 21, 2025
Federal food assistance may not be disbursed for the month of November, which concerns Lucas County officials.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said if the government shutdown continues, there's not enough money to keep the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program going.

Almost 72,000 people in the Lucas County, roughly 17% of the total population, received SNAP benefits in September, and about 44% of them are kids. So, $13.1 million of SNAP benefits would not come to the county.

"We have 11 days to the 11th month before people are in the 11th hour where they're not going to have what they need," state Rep. Erika White (D-Springfield Township) said.

Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken said the potential loss of SNAP benefits will have far-reaching impacts.

"As well as the people not being fed, it's the people that feed them with that money and that EBT card," Gerken said. "We're harming families. We're harming small businesses. We're harming the economic development of this community."

"This is a crisis," he added. "This is a storm that was inflicted on us."

Community leaders are asking the state to step in and use its budget stabilization fund, comparable to a rainy day fund, to help fill the gap.

"Release the money," said county commissioner Lisa Sobecki. "This is Lucas County taxpayer dollars that went to Columbus that they held on to."

There is a potential solution making its way through the Statehouse: House Bill 502. If passed, it would set aside funds for programs like SNAP and WIC during lapses in federal funding. But, state representatives said it takes time to get it passed. They're looking for other solutions before it's too late.

State Rep. Josh Williams (R-Sylvania Twp.) said he has similar concerns if benefits don't come through, but he said people should call on the legislators in Washington.

Northeast District
Commissioners learn about jail-project phases at meeting with architecture firm
Gazette News, October 18, 2025
The Ashtabula County commissioners, along with Sheriff William Niemi and members of his staff, recently met with a representative of DLZ Architecture, Inc. to review the status of the Ashtabula County Jail/Public Safety Center project.

They met with Eric Ratts, a vice president with DLZ, on Thursday, Oct. 9, for an "owner and architecture meeting."

In late May, the County received a $15 million grant from the State for the 55,000-square-foot, 209-bed expansion project.

Ashtabula County will receive $15 million for renovations at the jail from the Ohio Jail Safety and Security Program, as well as use another $15 million in reserved county funds. The remaining construction costs would likely require the county to issue bonds.

As proposed by Niemi, the 55,000-square-foot expansion would be built on the parking lot to the north of the current jail. The $36 million project would add 209 beds, more than tripling the current jail's capacity.

The expansion would include some amount of renovation to the first floor of the current space and would include a new booking area and flexible space for education and rehabilitation programs, such as GED classes or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for people in custody, according to Ratts.

The project will also add special housing and court holding as well as include renovations to the jail's sallyport, intake, booking and medical and mental-health areas.

While this meeting was public, Commissioner Casey Kozlowski said as they move along, and the meetings start to include intricate details about the inner workings of the facility, they will be in executive session for security reasons.

That said, Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV said there will still be public engagement as part of the process.

Central District
Mental health services at risk if levy fails in November
Knox Pages, October 22, 2025
Knox County voters will see a levy for Mental Health & Recovery for Licking and Knox Counties on the Nov. 4 ballot.

The MHR Board is asking voters to renew a 10-year, 1-mill property tax levy. The levy generates $1.264 million a year in Knox County.

Levy income accounts for 40% of the agency's funding. The levy costs property owners $35 for each $100,000 in appraised property value.

Kay Spergel, executive director of the MHR Board, said losing approximately $1.264 million a year means all services could be severely reduced.

"That level of funding loss could mean hundreds of residents losing access to care each year," she said.

"It would greatly impact all outpatient care for mental health, addiction and prevention services. This means adults in treatment for counseling or psychiatric services may face longer wait times or no local care at all."

The levy funds an array of services, including 24/7 crisis response, youth prevention programs, addiction recovery, and mental health urgent care.

"Several community providers who are currently fully funded through the levy could face major service cuts or closure of key programs. Programs that residents rely on every day could disappear," Spergel said.

"Local law enforcement, schools, and hospitals would shoulder more of the burden as more residents in crisis go without timely, appropriate behavioral health care."

Southwest District
Commissioners concerned sheriff already hired 19.5 unbudgeted staffers
Journal-News, October 23, 2025
All three Butler County commissioners were "flabbergasted" when they learned Sheriff Richard Jones has already hired 19 staffers he requested in his 2026 budget without consulting them.

Jones' $61 million budget submission included adding 18 more employees next year than he budgeted this year— for a total complement of 425 staffers. During his budget hearing last week he revealed they've already hired 19.5 new staffers, despite the commissioner-imposed hiring freeze.

"We started the hiring phase before you put that in place," he told the commissioners during his annual budget hearing. "So a little lack of communication on our part, so we'll take the blame for that."

Commissioner Cindy Carpenter told the Journal-News, "I think everybody was a little flabbergasted by it."

She said normally elected leaders would inform the commissioners if they wanted to make such a move but "sadly he did not choose to do that and apparently they've been on the payroll for months."

The commissioners issued a hiring freeze for the remainder of this year and next in May. Sheriff's personnel counts are always very fluid but Jill Cole, finance director for the county auditor's office, said 431 employees were paid on Jan. 3 — 373 were full-timers — and 473 employees received paychecks last week, 419 are full-time.

Vickie Barger, the sheriff's finance director, told the Journal-News 15 of the new hires are jail corrections officers and the rest are contracted positions, paid for by other jurisdictions and schools.

Commissioner T.C. Rogers told the Journal-News the hiring freeze was instituted due to economic concerns, but the influx of prisoner revenue should cover the new hires.

"I'm not upset that he already made the hires, I'm disappointed that he didn't have the confidence in us to ask us first," he said. "I thought we had a stronger relationship than that."

Southeast District
Commissioners approve $1.3 million in state-funded projects and agreements
YourOhioNews, October 24, 2025
Three agreements were approved by the Harrison County commissioners at their Oct. 8 meeting.

The first, Agreement 43-25, was between the board and the Ohio Department of Transportation under the title LPA Federal Local-Let Project Agreement. It noted that the National Transportation Act provides federal funding "for use by local public agencies," with ODOT designated by the Federal Highway Administration to administer those funds.

"The purpose of this agreement is to set forth requirements associated with the federal funds available for the project and to establish the responsibilities for the local administration of the project," the agreement stated.

"This is a grant that will fund up to $313,168.75 for various guardrail projects throughout the county," Commissioner Dustin Corder said, adding that the projects would be fully funded.

A letter dated Sept. 15, 2020, from the County Engineers Association of Ohio to former Harrison County Engineer Douglas Bachman approved a funding request consisting of $288,500 for a construction contract estimate, a 4% construction engineering estimate of $11,500 and 100 percent HSIP funding totaling $300,000.

The second agreement, 44-25, was also between the commissioners and ODOT and covered a county road pavement rehabilitation project on Harrison 24. Corder said the project was awarded $487,860.

The final agreement, 45-25, was between the board and the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. Corder said the total amount of funding obligated under the 33-page agreement is up to $500,000 for the purpose of accepting grants.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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OCTOBER 31
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 4
General Election

NOVEMBER 7
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 14
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 21
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 27
Thanksgiving - Holiday

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