



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

Published weekly by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

37 West Broad Street, Suite 650 • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4195
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

VOLUME XXXXVIII

NO. 38

October 12, 2007

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER, 2007	NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
OCTOBER 26, 2007	CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, DEPARTMENT OF SANITARY ENGINEERING, GREENE COUNTY (XENIA)
OCTOBER 29, 2007	CCAO PERSONNEL AND LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
DECEMBER 2-5, 2007	CCAO/CEAO WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
MARCH 1-5, 2008	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, HILTON WASHINGTON & TOWERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 2008	OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BREAKFAST, RAYBURN BUILDING - ROOM 369, WASHINGTON, D.C

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

LAW LIBRARY REFORM - COMMENTS BY OCT. 17

The Board of Trustees is requesting comment on the law library reform proposal which the CCAO Legislative Committee has recommended that the Board of Trustees support.

A packet of information regarding the proposal was mailed to all county commissioners last week. Included in the packet was a comment form that you can mail or fax to CCAO staff with your feedback. You are encouraged to review this material and either returns the comment form via fax at (614) 221-6986

or contact John Leutz, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7994 or (888) 797-1904 or jleutz@ccao.org.

We ask that we receive your comments on or before **Wednesday, October 17**, so that they will be available for the Legislative Committee and the Board of Trustees meetings on October 18 and 19.

County commissioners are encouraged to provide their thoughts on this proposal to CCAO. If you have any questions, please contact John Leutz, Senior Policy Analyst, at jleutz@ccao.org or (614) 220-7994 or (888) 757-1904.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OHIO PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT

The state of Ohio was recently allocated \$29.3 million in federal funds for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant. The period of performance for this competitive grant is from the notice date of the federal grant award to June 30, 2010.

Counties or Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) groups are to submit their project pre-applications to Ohio EMA by 5 p.m., October 12, 2007. The pre-applications will be used to select projects that will be funded. Those selected for funding will need to submit a detailed investment justification, which will become a part of the state's December 3 grant submission. Grant funds will be awarded to interoperable communications projects in one of the following initiatives: 1. Expansion of existing 700/800 MHz multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional communications systems or the creation of a new 700/800 MHz multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional communications system. 2. Purchase of radios/systems compatible with the 700/800 MHz communications system. 3. Procurement of radio gateway or patching systems to enable entry of existing systems into current 700/800 MHz communications systems. 4. Legacy radio system improvements to link to the 700/800 MHz communications systems.

For more information please contact Mark Patcher, Technical Support Division Director Ohio Emergency Management Agency, at (614) 889-7155 or mpatcher@dps.state.oh.us.

THE OHIO STATEHOUSE LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

The Ohio Statehouse launched its new Web site: www.ohiostatehouse.org, on October 3. The new site features a 30-second public service announcement, "Come On Into the People's House," and enjoy everything that the building (and site) has to offer, including free guided tours, self-guided audio

tours and legislative sessions. It also provides quick and easy access to Capitol Square information, its programs and services, and Ohio Statehouse history.

The interactive site provides valuable information to legislators, educators, children, event planners, history buffs, media ... and anyone interested in Ohio and Statehouse history. It features an attractive, new design, a virtual tour, and easy-to-use navigation. In addition, visitors to the site can enter to win an Ohio-themed gift basket from the Statehouse Museum Shop, valued at more than \$200.

A 16-question quiz is featured on the front page. All answers can be found throughout the content of the new Web site. Web site visitors can print off the quiz, answer the questions, then fax or mail their answers to the Ohio Statehouse by October 29. All correctly answered sheets will be entered into a drawing which will take place on Friday, November 2.

CHILDREN SERVICES ADVOCATES SEND SACWIS LETTER TO ODJFS

On October 5, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) sent a letter to Helen Jones-Kelley, Director of (ODJFS), Ohio Department of Job and Family Services concerning the Statewide Automated Child Services Information System (SACWIS). Over the last year, as counties around the state gradually have been rolling out SACWIS to manage their child welfare information, the system has encountered many glitches.

On September 24, SACWIS experienced extremely limited functionality and connectivity and reached what PCSAO termed "crippling status." According to the letter, caseworkers are unable to log on to the system to access information, dependably save work, effectively provide supervision, and make informed management decisions.

As a result of this status, PCSAO Trustees and membership have agreed on several steps that must be taken. Public children service agencies (PCSA) that have not yet rolled out SACWIS will continue using their current information system. Counties that

have SACWIS will continue coping with the system as the ODJFS SACWIS Team continues to try to resolve issues.

The letter also addressed two partnership strategies for success, such as ODJFS engaging in full partnership activities with PCSAs and allowing an extended pilot with PCSAs that are fully live with SACWIS.

GOVERNOR RESPONDS TO OHIO FORECLOSURE PREVENTION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS; PROPOSES COMPACT BETWEEN STATE AND SUBPRIME MORTGAGE SERVICERS

This week, Governor Ted Strickland proposed the establishment of a compact between subprime mortgage servicers and the state aimed at tackling the increasing number of foreclosures in Ohio.

The proposed compact comes as part of Strickland's response to the Ohio Foreclosure Prevention Task Force's recommendations issued September 10. Strickland commissioned the Task Force in March 2007 to address Ohio's foreclosure rate, which has ranked among the highest in the country. Through the compact, Strickland is asking servicers to work with the state in making every possible attempt to prevent default loans and foreclosures in Ohio.

The compact calls for servicers to increase outreach and education to borrowers, especially in the areas of loan modifications and rate changes. Under the compact, the servicers are asked to take all measures to increase loan workouts including adjusting their staff and resources to accommodate major improvements in preventative efforts and loss mitigation.

If loan modification efforts fail, the compact calls for servicers to provide adequate and advanced notification of the intent to proceed with a foreclosure. Under the compact, servicers should also submit a monthly, public report to the Ohio Department of Commerce documenting the total number of subprime, owner-occupied residential mortgage loans, the type and percentage of workouts and

foreclosures initiated, and other information describing their progress and commitment to the compact.

Servicers are asked to submit any comments in response to the compact by Monday, October 22. In turn, the Governor's Office will publicly release the final proposed compact on Thursday, November 8. The compact will remain in effect until the foreclosure filings in Ohio decline for four consecutive monthly measurement periods or until December 31, 2010.

In addition to the compact, Strickland has directed state agencies to implement several of the Task Force's recommendations.

The Ohio Department of Development will serve as the leader in developing a more robust network of housing counseling services throughout Ohio. Among its efforts, ODOD will coordinate the distribution of \$2 million from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund for housing counseling services. In addition, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund will be asked to provide an additional \$1 million to ODOD for a vacant housing demonstration program.

The Ohio Department of Commerce will continue its borrower outreach programs, targeted at borrowers who are facing higher interest rates and larger monthly payments as their adjustable rate loans are reset. Approximately 1,100 Ohioans attended four recent borrower outreach events in Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo and Nelsonville.

At these events, several subprime mortgage servicers met one-on-one with borrowers who were having difficulty making their mortgage payments. Local, state and federal housing experts and housing counselors provided additional resources for homeowners.

Strickland has also sent letters to state legislators and the Ohio congressional delegation asking for their continued support of policies protecting homeowners and preventing foreclosures on the state and federal levels.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

HUD AWARDS OHIO 11 HOUSING COUNSELING GRANTS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced Housing Counseling Grants to almost 400 national, state and local organizations to promote home ownership and to help fight foreclosures. In Ohio, there were 11 organizations selected to receive a total of \$442,051.

Housing counseling grants will assist families in becoming first-time homeowners and remaining homeowners after their purchase. Renters and homeless individuals and families will also benefit from the counseling offered by the grants. These grants will help approximately 2,600 counselors receive the instruction and certification necessary to effectively assist families with their housing needs. HUD awards annual grants under the housing counseling program through a competitive process. Organizations that apply for grants must be HUD-approved and are subject to biennial performance reviews to maintain their HUD-approved status.

The following Ohio organizations received grants:

- Community Action Commission of Belmont County (St. Clairsville) - \$38,077
- Community Housing Solutions (Cleveland) - \$34,462
- Fair Housing Contact Services (Akron) - \$50,000
- Fair Housing Resources Center, Inc. (Painesville) - \$45,308
- Children's and Family Services aka Family Service Agency (Youngstown) - \$23,158
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (Columbus) - \$33,000
- Northwest Ohio Development Agency (Toledo) - \$36,000
- Ohio Housing Finance Agency (Columbus) - \$88,208
- Stark Metropolitan Authority (Canton) - \$32,146
- Working in Neighborhoods (Cincinnati) - \$38,077

- WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. (Fremont) - \$23,615

For more information please go to:

www.hud.gov.

SENATE FARM BILL MARK-UP POSTPONED AGAIN

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) postponed mark-up of the farm bill until the week of October 22. NACo has learned that the rural development funding has decreased significantly. The latest information is that a proposal that started out at \$2 billion over five years is now down to \$550 million over five years. Senator Harkin and Ranking Minority Member Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), as well as all Senate members, need to hear from counties about the importance of rural development programs. The Senate will be on recess this week which would be a good opportunity to contact Senators Voinovich and Brown. Contact: Jennifer Wilson, NACo Associate Legislative Director, (202) 942-4230 jwilson@naco.org.

GETTING STARTED ON CENSUS 2010

In August, chief county elected officials should have received a letter inviting their counties to participate in the 2010 Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). This activity asks each local government in the country to participate in the creation of the address list that will be used by the Census Bureau for the 2010 Census.

Each local government is asked to choose one of three options to participate in the LUCA program:

1. Review and update the Census Bureau's master address list.
2. Submit their local address list to the bureau in a specified format.
3. Review and update the legal boundaries and features on Census Bureau maps.

Even though participation is optional, every county in the country should participate. First, think about the growth and development that has occurred in your

county since Census Day 2000. Second, federal and state funding formulas use the data from the census to make allocations.

Finally, the use of this data for local government planning can determine the need for service delivery changes, roads, bridges and other forms of transportation, schools and target services to special populations, budgetary planning, housing forecasts and monitoring local demographic trends.

If your county decides to participate, you should select one of the address update options and complete the product preference form and return it to the Census Bureau. Complete and sign the registration form and return it. Designate a program liaison and appropriate reviewers. Counties have until the end of January to reply to their invitation letters and register for LUCA. Upon completing the registration process, the Census Bureau will ship your LUCA materials to your county.

Governments have until March 2008 to review and update the address lists with their current files and return the data to the local regional office. The Census Bureau has until October 2008 to review a county's submission and to update its master address file and the geographic database using the information it received from your county.

For more information about your county's participation in LUCA please contact Jacqueline Byers, NACo Director of Research, at (202) 942-4285 or jbyers@naco.org. Additional information about the LUCA program can be found at www.census.gov.

NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK DRAFT UNVEILED

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released the draft version of the National Response Framework (NRF) for public comment. The framework would replace the current National Response Plan (NRP), which was heavily criticized in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Following the release, members of Congress, state and local officials have voiced strong objections to the plan.

In 1992, the federal government operated under what was then called the Federal Response Plan (FRP). This plan focused largely on federal roles and responsibilities during a disaster. Following the Sept. 11 attacks, the federal government revised the Federal Response Plan and directed DHS to develop a new National Response Plan. This new plan was much broader than the FRP, and the NRP sought to introduce common incident management and response principles for all levels of government.

Released in 2004, the NRP was provided to all levels of government and the first responder community. After the tragic events of hurricane Katrina, it quickly became apparent that the NRP needed further revision. As a result, FEMA convened a working group to revise the NRP. This group was comprised of a broad segment of practitioners in the emergency management and first responder community, and a collaborative process was implemented to enhance the NRP.

In March, the work of the group was halted by DHS and was handed over to a small group within the department to complete. This resulted in a draft document of the National Response Framework (NRF) and the new version completely changed the approach and focus from the earlier draft. Composed of an 84-page core central document outlining federal, state and local roles in emergency response, the NRF was simultaneously released on the FEMA Website.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) strongly encourages counties to submit comments to FEMA on the draft National Response Framework (NRF) and supporting annexes. The comment period will be for 30 days for the NRF and 60 days for the supporting annexes. To comment, please visit the FEMA NRF website at www.fema.gov/nrf.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROJECT ALLOWS COUNTY OFFICIALS TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR FAVORITE CANDIDATE

The goal of NACo's Presidential Election Project is to reach candidates seeking to become U.S. President

in 2008 and to get them to focus on county issues. The goal of the project, which is a non partisan effort, is to restore the federal-county government partnership and to educate all candidates on county issues. As part of NACo's 2008 Presidential Election Project, NACo is gathering information about which candidate county official's support at this stage of the 2008 Presidential Election. The hope is that county officials will communicate the same message to the candidates which will encourage the candidates to focus on these issues as part of their campaigns. NACo has established a blog that contains a wealth of interesting and valuable information on the 2008 Presidential Election; how county officials are making candidates aware of priority county needs and issues; and, also posts various new articles on the various candidates and their campaigns. This blog is at the following address: <http://nacoblog.blogspot.com/>. In addition, individual county officials may show their support for a candidate by going to www.naco.org/presidential. This site allows a county official to show support for their candidate, comment on why the county official supports this candidate, and explains the role the county official is playing in the campaign of the candidate, if any. **County officials who go to this web site and support a specific candidate need to be aware that their name will then be published on the blog as supporting their preferred candidate.**

COUNTY ENERGY STAR CHANGE A LIGHT CAMPAIGN

NACo, in cooperation with Office Depot, is holding the 2nd Annual County Energy Star Change a Light Campaign, part of the U.S. EPA's national Energy Star Change a Light Campaign. The Campaign asks individuals to pledge to change a light in their home to an energy efficient one. This will prevent over 2.7 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions thanks to an energy savings of more than 1.7 kWh.

This year, the Campaign has expanded to include county residents, who may sign up from October 3 to November 30, 2007. Each individual who pledges will receive \$3 off the purchase of an Energy Star light bulb from Office Depot. To register your county as a participant, go online today to register your county at

www.naco.org/regCAL. For more information contact Kelly Zonderwyk, NACo Senior Associate, Community Services, at (202) 942-4224 or kzonderwyk@naco.org.

GRANTS

OTUPCF COMMUNITY GRANT RFP RELEASE

The Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation (OTUPCF), also known as the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation, announces the availability of funds for Community Grants to help achieve its mission of preventing and reducing tobacco use in Ohio. RFP #08-3 can be downloaded from the OTUPCF website at www.otpcf.org/communitygrantrfp.aspx. Please share this announcement with agencies and organizations who might be interested in responding to this RFP.

There will be two opportunities to attend an RFP Orientation on Wednesday, October 17, 2007: 10:00 am–12:00 pm or 1:30 pm–3:30 pm at the following location: Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation, O'Keefe Conference Room—Main Floor, 300 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215. It is mandatory that at least one representative from a potential lead fiscal agent attend one of these RFP Orientations. Letters of Intent (which are explained in the RFP) will automatically be rejected if an applicant did not send a representative to one of these orientations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via e-mail to idickerson@otpcf.org. OTUPCF will not accept questions via telephone. For more information please contact: Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation, 300 E Broad Street, Suite 310, Columbus, OH 43215, or (614) 466-1738, www.Otpf.org.

PUBLICATONS

NEW NACO PUBLICATIONS PROFILE STRATEGIES TO PROTECT WATER AND WETLAND RESOURCES

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has

released publications designed to help counties use technology to protect their water and wetland resources. The "County Wetlands Data Guidebook" and the County Water Quality Issue, Brief entitled "using GIS Tool to Link Land Use Decisions to Water Resource Protection" are posted on the NACO website at www.naco.org.

The issue brief focuses on GIS-based decision support tools commonly used by counties and the data guidebook offers practical tips for obtaining the important wetland and water resource data that is needed to operate these tools. These decision-support tools bring together data and computer models to create real-life scenarios depicting the benefits and consequences of decision options. Both resources outline practical steps to obtain and utilize these tools and data, while also profiling county success stories from across the country.

For additional information about these resources or any of NACO's water quality technical assistance, please contact Erick Johnson, NACO Community Services Associate, at (202) 942-4246 or ejohnston@naco.org.

WORKSHOPS/TRAINING

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) INTRASTATE MUTUAL AID COURSE

The IS-706 NIMS Intrastate Mutual Aid Web-based course provides state, local and tribal emergency response and coordination personnel an introduction to NIMS intrastate mutual aid. The course discusses the purpose and benefits of mutual aid and assistance, the emphasis that NIMS places on mutual aid and assistance, and explains how to understand mutual aid and assistance agreements and mutual aid operational plans. The IS-706 course takes approximately 2.5 hours to complete. The course is available at <http://training.fema.gov>. The final exam is also online. The prerequisite for this course is IS-700: National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction.

EMERALD ASH BORER RESEARCH UPDATE

Shortly after the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in North America in 2002, many researchers realized there was a lot to learn about this tree-killing wood borer. The challenging lack of knowledge quickly became an opportunity to learn through research. Join OSU's EAB Outreach Team to learn about the latest in research findings from insect biology to insecticide trials.

A workshop on "Emerald Ash Borer Research Update: What We Know and What We Need to Learn" will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at All Occasions Catering, 6869 Waldo-Delaware Road, in Waldo. Registration deadline: November 2. Registration materials and program information are available at <http://ashalert.osu.edu> or by contacting the OSU Extension Office at the Toledo Botanical Garden at (419) 578-6783.

E-210 RECOVERY FROM DISASTER: THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will conduct an "E-210 Recovery from Disaster: The Local Government Role" on October 22-25, 2007 and August 11-14, 2008 at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), Emergency Management Institute (EMI), in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The goal of the Recovery from Disaster course is to discuss the recovery process roles and responsibilities at the local government level to facilitate the development of a disaster recovery plan.

The course is intended for teams of emergency management staff and allied professionals who normally are involved in local recovery operations. Allied professionals include; elected officials, public works directors, building inspectors, housing officials, community planners, public information staff and recovery personnel from state and local government.

To apply, complete a FEMA Form 75-5, General Admissions Application with the signatures of the student and supervisor or sponsoring agency official.

Applications are to be submitted through the state emergency management training office. For additional information go to <http://training.fema.gov>.

CLASSIFIED

DEPUTY SANITARY ENGINEER

The Jefferson County Water and Sewer District seeks a Deputy Engineer for the Water and Wastewater District.

The position under general direction of the County Sanitary Engineer is responsible for design, construction and maintenance of the water distribution system and collection and treatment of the wastewater. The District includes 7,000 water customers and 2,000 wastewater customers.

Qualifications for the position require a college degree in Civil Engineering and P.E. license in Ohio, or the ability to obtain one in six months. Candidate must have a minimum of five years of design and construction experience on a water and wastewater system and be proficient in Microsoft Excel and Project. Working knowledge of water and wastewater collection and treatment and State and Federal E.P.A. regulations is essential. Electrical Systems Background is a plus. Major duties will also include project management, budget preparation and expenditure control reports. Candidate must possess a valid driver's license. Competitive benefits package included. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Interested parties should send a resume to Ohio Job & Family Services, Bobbie Jones, Customer Service Representative, P.O. Box 130, Steubenville Ohio, 43952. Applications must be received by October 31, 2007. Applications will not be accepted at the Water and Sewer District office.

CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

Trumbull County is soliciting resumes for the position of Chief Building Official in the County's Building Inspection Department. The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications: Class 1 License as defined by State of Ohio Building Standards, minimum of five years supervisory experience in a

unionized environment, and proven ability to motivate others towards both short and long range goals. This exempt position is considered as senior management and is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. Excellent salary with a full array of benefits. Preference will be given to applicants who are certified as a Plans Examiner.

Interested candidates should forward a current resume, with references, no later than **October 31, 2007**, to: Trumbull Co. Human Resources Dept., 160 High Street, N.W., Warren, OH 44481-1090, Attn: Director. EOE

DIRECTOR OF JOBS AND FAMILY SERVICES

Under the control and direction of the Board of Mahoning County Commissioners, the Director shall have full charge of the Mahoning County Department of Job and Family Services. The Director is responsible for the planning, implementation, management and evaluation of all services; preparation of the annual department budget, and monitor all expenditures throughout the year. This is an unclassified position.

This position requires at minimum a bachelor's degree in human services, public administration, business administration, or a related field. An ideal candidate will have an advanced degree from an accredited program. Seven to ten years of experience as a department head or assistant of a human services agency is preferred. Must have strong written and verbal skills.

Applicants interested in the above named position must submit a resume and cover letter to the Mahoning County Human Resources Office, 21 West Boardman Street, Youngstown, OH 44503 no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2008. For more info go to: www.mahoningcounty.oh.gov. EOE