



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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OCTOBER 31, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 7-10, 2008

CCAO MOVING DAYS – OFFICE CLOSED

NOVEMBER 7, 2008

CCAO AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, OHIO 4-H CENTER, COLUMBUS

NOVEMBER 12, 2008

OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON, STATEHOUSE ATTRIUM, COLUMBUS

NOVEMBER 21, 2008

CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

DECEMBER 7-10, 2008

CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2009

COMMISSIONERS TRAINING SEMINAR, DEER CREEK RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER, PICKAWAY COUNTY (MT. STERLING)

MARCH 7-11, 2009

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C.

JULY 24-29, 2009

74TH NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE), TN

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO ON THE MOVE...OFFICES MOVE TO NEW BUILDING ON NOVEMBER 7

On November 7, CCAO, CORSA and CEBCO will experience a momentous occasion when we move into our new office building in downtown Columbus. During the move-in and unpacking phase, the office will be closed for business with no phone or internet service on Friday, November 7 through Monday, November 10. If you need to contact a CCAO staff member, please call them on their cell phone during this time.

The building, located at 209 East State Street, is approximately two blocks east of the Statehouse.

State Street is the street that runs on the south side of the Statehouse. The building was constructed in 1979, is a three floor brick structure that has 22,152 square feet of space. Included with the building are 50 surface parking spaces.

The facility will be owned by the County Governance Facility LLC, which is a partnership between CCAO, CORSA, and CEBCO each having an equal share of ownership. The facility will be governed by the Boards Coordinating Council and managed by Tom Strup, CCAO Deputy Director of Operations.

We sincerely believe that this facility will serve as the foundation for continued and enhanced services to member counties. The purchase

provides long term cost savings for all the entities that comprise CCAO.

CCAO is anxious to share our new facility! There will be an **open house** held on **Sunday, December 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. during the CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference.** All conference attendees are invited to attend the open house. Transportation will depart from the second floor of the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

To permit staff time to move and unpack at our new location, CIDS will not be published on November 7. Election results will be published on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. Our regular publication schedule will resume on November 14.

CCAO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - NOVEMBER 7

Gary Bauer, Huron County Commissioner and CCAO Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Chair, has called a meeting of the committee on Friday, November 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ohio 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, in Columbus. This meeting will include a presentation from Keith Smith, OSU Extension Director. For directions to the center go to www.ohio4-hcenter.org/features.html.

Lunch will be provided. In order to have an accurate county for lunch, please notify Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7086, (888) 757-1904 or jerwin@ccao.org by November 3 if you plan to attend the meeting.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMITS TO THE CEBCO PROGRAM

Last week, the Washington County Commissioners voted to join CEBCO, the County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio, effective January 1, 2009. With the addition of the 321 employee lives, CEBCO will have nearly 9,500 county employees and the CCAO staff in the program. Washington County is the 20th county to join the plan. The consortium was created by CCAO to help stabilize the health insurance costs for the counties. Washington County will enjoy the benefits of the consortium membership along with the following CEBCO counties: Allen, Ashtabula, Athens, Butler,

Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Darke, Delaware, Geauga, Hardin, Hocking, Logan, Madison, Morrow, Putnam, Union, and Williams counties.

As with all of the existing CEBCO products, your county can choose any of the stand alone programs separately or in conjunction with any of the other CEBCO offerings include: medical, drug, dental, life, employee assistance plan, and vision coverage. Harnessing group buying power is a key benefit of CEBCO. For more information on the CEBCO Program please contact Benefit Specialists Melissa Bodey at (614) 220-7997 or mbodey@ccao.org or Wendy Dillingham at (614) 220-7992 or wdillingham@ccao.org or toll free at (888) 757-1904.

OCCO LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON – NOV. 12

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) legislative luncheon on Wednesday, November 12, 2008. CCAO will host the luncheon.

County officials need to continually communicate and build a partnership with members of the General Assembly. OCCO encourages you to invite your state senators and state representatives to the luncheon. Please schedule appointments with them to discuss issues of importance to your county while you are in Columbus. Since the Statehouse will be in a flurry of activity in November, take this opportunity to attend a committee meeting or Senate & House Sessions. Don't miss this opportunity to lobby the Ohio General Assembly!

Many county officials see your lawmakers regularly within your counties. OCCO encourages you to travel to Columbus on November 12 to physically show your support for your lawmakers, who will be looking to see if anyone from their district made the effort to come to this important event. Call your legislators and tell them you will meet them at the luncheon. **Please register by November 7, 2008.**

After you meet with your legislators at the Statehouse, please take some time to see the following:

- **County flags** on display on Veterans' Plaza on the east side of the Senate Building.
- **Ladies Gallery** – The room pays homage to the first female Ohio legislators who paved the way for women in government and honors all women who have served in the Ohio General Assembly.
- **Etch A Sketch Presidential Display** - featuring sketches of America's Presidents on display in the Crypt.

For more information please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

NEELY RESIGNS AS CEBCO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Last week Maggie Neely, CCAO's Managing Director of Health and Wellness, resigned her position. The CEBCO Board met in special session on Wednesday and accepted Maggie's resignation "with regrets". At the same time, the CEBCO Board appointed Wendy Dillingham as the Interim Managing Director and appointed a search committee to fill the position.

Neely joined CCAO/CEBCO almost 5 years ago. At that time CEBCO was a health insurance consortium for county governments that was still, in many ways, an experiment. A number of naysayer's thought such a self insured program for counties was dangerous. Many were skeptical that it could succeed. Since that time, and with Maggie's commitment to the program, the CEBCO Program has grown to 20 member counties that now comprise the consortium.

With Neely's help, a program was designed that provides excellent benefits for the most valuable resource the county has—it employees. At the same time, CEBCO has been able to stabilize the rate of growth in premiums to well below health care trend, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. Now that CEBCO has proved it is a viable program, we are working to position the program to move forward in the health and wellness arena. We believe this will reap significant benefits that will make a difference in the daily lives of county

employees and will also make long range cost containment and savings achievable.

In a letter to Neely after the CEBCO Board accepted her resignation, CCAO Executive Director Larry Long wrote: "As you move forward with your career goals in the health insurance industry and in management, I wanted to write you to express my appreciation for the service you rendered to the County Commissioners Association (CCAO) and the County Employee Benefits Consortium (CEBCO) during the past five years. As you move forward in your career, I wish you only success both in your work and personal life."

CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 128th CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show to be held December 7-10, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Register for the conference by November 14 to get the pre-registration discount. Everyone attending the conference must register, even if you are attending meetings only. Meetings only registrants must register for each day meetings are attended. No meals are included with the meetings only registration.

Open House at the New CCAO Office Building

All conference attendees are invited to attend an open house on Sunday, December 7 at the new CCAO Office Building located at 209 East State Street in downtown Columbus. CCAO, along with the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA), and County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO) purchased a building this year.

An open house/reception for all conference attendees will be held on Sunday evening, December 7 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Transportation departs from the second floor of the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Spouse/Guest Activity

The Kelton House, an authentic example of Victorian architecture, is filled with original furnishing and period dress used by the family. The home was in the Kelton family from its construction in 1852 by Sophia and Fernando Kelton until 1975. On Monday, December 8,

spouses/guests will be greeted at the door by “Sophia Kelton,” who will tell you about the family’s life in the 1860’s. Sophia also has a “family secret” she might share with you – if you keep it.

Bus transportation departs at 9:30 a.m. from the second floor of the Greater Columbus Convention Center and returns at 1:00 p.m.

CCAO/CEAO General Session

Auditor of State Mary Taylor will speak at the CCAO/CEAO General Session to be held on Monday afternoon, December 8. Leadership for the next session of the Ohio General Assembly will be invited to speak. Watch CIDS for announcement about additional speakers.

CCAO/CEAO and Affiliate Programs

Attendance at all sessions planned by CCAO, CEAO and affiliates are open for all conference attendees. To view the most recent copy of the agenda, please go to www.ccao.org and click on the link at the end of the article on the homepage.

Registration Information

To download registration, sponsorship, hospitality, or trade show information, go to www.ccao.org. Click on the link at the end of the article on the first page. Register for the conference by November 14 to get the pre-registration discount.

Hotel Reservations

The headquarters hotel is the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Rate: \$137 single/double. Reservation deadline: November 14. To reserve a room call (888) 421-1442, (402)592-6464 or <http://columbusregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/cmhrcccom2008>.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

THE FISCAL VALUE OF AGRICULTURE

The Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) recently completed a “Cost of Community Services (COCS) Study” for Madison Village and Township. The study was part of an initiative to gather scientific data that documents the fiscal and economic value of our agricultural land. According to the study, developing strategies

to retain agricultural and forested lands as a land base for future agriculture is a good long-term investment.

The study shows that while residential development is the backbone of any community and contributes the largest amount of revenue, it does not generate enough income for the services it requires. Industrial and commercial land uses can help offset the economic deficit of residential land uses, but they also tend to drive more residential development, which in turn requires more service. Agricultural lands consistently pay more in taxes than they require in services. Even with a reduced assessed value (with the Current Agricultural Use Value or CAUV program), agricultural land contributes a surplus of revenue to help pay for services provided to residential land uses.

The study concluded that Madison Village and Township should include a mix of land uses, including agriculture, to help achieve a fiscal balance. To download a copy of the report go to the Lake SWCD website at www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil.

STATE ACTIVITIES

2009 SALARY TABLES ON HOLD

CCAO plans to produce 2009 salary tables later this year given the uncertainty of whether most county elected officials will receive salary adjustments.

Ohio law provides annual increases through the 2008 calendar year. In order for an adjustment in 2009, the Ohio Legislature and Governor must enact legislation yet this year, and that legislation must be effective no later than January 1, 2009.

The Ohio Constitution prohibits elected officials, except for judges, from accepting a legislatively-enacted pay raise in-term. If the General Assembly and Governor do not take action before the newly-elected officials take office next year, those officials will be closed out of any legislative raise in 2009, as well as during their entire four-year term of office.

Commissioners elected in 2006 and who took office in 2007 already are prohibited from accepting a

legislatively-enacted pay raise the last two years of their current term of office (2009 and 2010) because the raise was not enacted before they began their term in 2007.

If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Subler, CCAO Managing Director of Policy, at (614) 220-7980, (888) 757-1904 or csubler@ccao.org.

HOUSE OF JOB PUBLIC RECORD REQUESTS HAVE COUNTIES SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS

This week, a number, if not all, counties received public records requests from the "House of Job." The request asked for various information regarding the form of each county's government (whether charter or alternative) and chief executive information. Of course, counties were befuddled by such requests as the only county not operating by statute is Summit County. Further, the information does not appear to be a request for a public record, but rather information. The Public Records Statute does not require county governments to provide research but only to reproduce public records. As such CCAO has recommended the following response to the House of Job:

"_____ County operates as a statutory form of county government with a three member Board of County Commissioners and has not adopted an Alternative Form of County Government pursuant to ORC Chapter 302 or a County Charter pursuant to Article X, Sections 3 and 4 and/or ORC Sections 307.94-307.97. As such there is no Chief Executive Officer as that term is used under an Alternative Form of County Government or a County Charter. The current President of the Board of County Commissioners is _____."

For more information on public record issues, please contact Josh Hahn, CCAO Policy Analyst at (614) 220-7082, (888) 757-1904, or jhahn@ccao.org.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT TESTIMONY

CCAO joined the Ohio County Child Support Directors' Association, Ohio County Job and Family

Service Directors' Association, and Public Children Services Association of Ohio in submitting testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee encouraging Congress to fix the funding hole left by the Deficit Reduction Act. This federal law prohibited states from using incentive dollars for federal match, which cost Ohio about \$20 million. The associations together asked Congress to include this funding fix in a rumored second economic stimulus bill. To read a copy of the testimony, go to www.ccao.org and click on the "Deficit Reduction Act Testimony" article on the front page.

FUNDING EXCEEDS \$422 MILLION – BEST YEAR EVER; RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S STRATEGIES INCREASE PROGRAM EFFICIENCIES

During Fiscal Year 2008, USDA Rural Development invested \$422.6 million into Ohio's rural communities to support essential community facilities and critical economic development projects. This funding represents the largest one year federal investment through USDA Rural Development in the history of the Agency.

This year's record setting achievement was lead by Rural Development's Housing Program which invested approximately \$273 million in Ohio. This funding helped 2,982 families secure safe, affordable housing. The Guaranteed Housing Program obligated more than \$205 million which helped add more than 2,200 new families to the home ownership roles. Additionally, the Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program, a top performer for the last seven years, shared national recognition with California as the most productive housing program among all Rural Development offices.

Rural Development's Business Program and its Community Program both contributed to this record year by targeting investments of \$53.9 million and \$95.7 respectively. While the Business Program's performance more than doubled from last year, it's important to acknowledge the extraordinary increase in the Renewable Energy Program. This year more than \$2 million in energy projects were funded; projects included aerobic digesters and a new solar photo voltaic system to provide energy to

homes. The staff's exhaustive efforts contributed to this impressive increase from last year's total program funding of \$212,000.

The Community Program's \$95 million in investment funding included numerous infrastructure and community facility projects like water and sewer systems, clinics and community and education centers. The water and sewer projects bought new and improved service to 70,712 households. Funding also emphasized community safety initiatives as the program financed first responder projects in 13 rural Ohio counties.

Rural Development invested \$36 million to bring additional broadband service to Ohio's rural communities. Open Range, a \$24 million national broadband proposal, will bring service to 51 rural communities in 30 Ohio counties, while an accompanying \$12 million project will bring service to residents of Mercer County.

These economic development funding programs can only help Ohioans if a cooperative, statewide effort is made to continue building awareness of their existence. Rural Development is soliciting your assistance to help promote the availability of local financing options for community economic development projects. If your community is planning economic development projects, or has specific economic development needs, contact your nearest USDA Rural Development office to discuss financing possibilities.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. Rural Development accomplishes this by providing equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in home ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs call Randy Hunt, State Director, USDA Rural Development, at (614) 255-2400, visit a local USDA Rural Development office, or USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SEEK ADDITIONAL MEDICAID AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

As Congress considers a second economic stimulus package, organizations representing state and local governments nationwide are lobbying for an increase in the federal government's Medicaid match. The calls for an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) come as 27 states face combined shortfalls of about \$26 billion that could double over the next few months, according to the letter from the National Association of Counties and other major national associations.

Surveys of local governments reveal similar revenue shortfalls, with property, sales, and income taxes down three to four percent from last year, according to the letter to Democratic and Republican congressional leaders. "Already states have made cuts to education, public safety and Medicaid and may be forced to make more as the downturn persists," the organizations said. "Providing federal funds directly to state and local governments allows them to reduce cuts and continue services. Most economists agree that this is one of the most effective countercyclical tools the federal government can implement."

The officials recommended that an economic recovery package include at least a two-year increase in FMAP and additional federal funding for infrastructure to invest in airports, highways, transit, clean water, sewer and schools.

FTC DELAYS IMPEMENTATION OF RED FLAGS RULES SIX MONTHS

In response to growing concerns over increasing identity theft, the federal government recently passed a law requiring federal agencies to develop and enforce guidelines requiring local governments, as well as financial institutions and creditors, to develop and implement written identity theft programs.

The regulations the Federal Trade Commission and other federal agencies developed have become known as the "Red Flags Rules." The Red Flags Rules require each local government, financial

institution, or creditor that holds any consumer account, or other account for which there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of identity theft, to develop and implement an Identity Theft Prevention Program.

On October 22, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced that enforcement of the Red Flags Rules will be suspended until May 1, 2009. The action was taken to give entities more time to develop and implement a written identity theft prevention program. The FTC acknowledged that many entities were not aware they were subject to the Rule and had learned of the requirements too late to come into compliance by the original November 1, 2008 deadline.

County Advisory Bulletin (2008-01) on the Red Flags Rules is posted on the web at www.ccao.org. Click on Publications>County Advisory Bulletins. For more information on the Red Flags Rules, please contact Josh Hahn, CCAO Policy Analyst, at (614) 221-5627, (888) 757-1904 or jhahn@ccao.org.

NACo ACTIVITIES

COUNTY LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK

The National Association of Counties (NACo) will publish an updated version of the *County Leadership Handbook* in November. The *Handbook* contains descriptions, tips, tools, and member-to-member advice in five topic areas: leadership perspectives, communications know-how, management and administrative savvy, information technology, and budget and finance. The Handbook will be available on-line in the “member’s only” section of NACo’s website at www.naco.org after January 1, 2009. For more information please contact Ruth Nybro, NACo Director of Education and Training, at (202) 942-4277 or rnybro@naco.org.

MANY URBAN COUNTIES STUNG BY ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The recent turmoil on Wall Street is adding insult to injury for counties already hurting from the national economic downturn and the foreclosure crisis. In a new NACo survey, entitled the *State of County*

Economy, 17 counties with populations of more than 500,000 residents from 12 states in all regions of the country were surveyed by NACo October 8–17, 2008.

Of the responding counties, 87 percent said they anticipate a revenue shortfall, and 27 percent said they expect increased expenses. Forty-seven percent of the counties said that they are experiencing a revenue shortfall in the current budget. Fifty-nine percent said they anticipate a shortfall in the next year’s budget, which will lead to more severe budget cutting measures such as furloughs and layoffs.

Of the counties that expect a current budget year shortfall, eight counties (80 percent) plan hiring freezes, six (60 percent) will cut budgets, and six (60 percent) will reduce services. To address next year’s anticipated budget shortfall, 10 counties (91 percent) cited employment freezes, 10 counties (91 percent) cited budget cuts, and eight counties (73 percent) cited services delivery cutbacks.

Seventy-one percent of responding counties said that high interest rates are the biggest difficulty in issuance of long term and short term bonds to raise necessary operating cash. Five counties (36 percent) said they have experienced failures to purchase bonds when issued.

This was NACo’s second survey in recent months gauging counties’ response to economic conditions. A June NACo survey on mortgage foreclosures found that 52 percent of responding counties were experiencing revenue shortfalls, either as a result of foreclosures or declining housing values.

To view a copy of the survey results, go to www.naco.org and click on the story on the front page.

NACo MOVES COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK TO MAY

NACo is making changes in two programs in 2009. National County Government Week (NCGW) will be held during the first (full) week in May next year and for all future years. In 2009, NCGW will be celebrated on May 3 – 9. This change means that NCGW will be held during the same week every

year and will enable counties to better plan and prepare for their activities and events. The theme for the 2009 celebration will be announced in December.

The other change involves the end of a program. Unfortunately, because of a lack of sponsor support, the Acts of Caring Awards, which had recognized the top county volunteer programs, is ending. The awards will not be presented next year or in future years. However, county volunteer programs can still receive recognition through NACo's Achievement Award program. There is a special Achievement Award category for volunteer programs. Applications for the 2009 program will be available in early December 2008.

CLASSIFIEDS

SENIOR MANAGER / OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

The Greene County Commissioners/Sanitary Engineering Department seek a senior manager to direct management staff for all Operations and Maintenance divisions; conducts meetings with engineering consultants & construction contractors; plans & facilitates supervisory staff meetings; and performs similar duties as assigned.

Bachelor's Degree in human resources, public administration, finance, business, or a closely related field and six years of progressively responsible experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job as listed in the position description.

A current Ohio Class IV Wastewater Operator License required and Class III Water Operator License preferred. Valid Ohio driver's license required. Salary: \$24.80 - \$35.35/hr. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For more information go to www.co.greene.oh.us/personnel.htm. EOE.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Butler County is seeking a Finance Director. Responsible for preparing, analyzing, communicating and reporting county-wide operational budgets. Prepares long-term financial/operational forecasts, financial analysis and research and is responsible for short and long-term financing transactions. Maintains records and reports as needed. Must have bachelor's degree in accounting, public finance, or equivalent, and extensive knowledge of accounting theory and principles, planning, and budgeting. CPA certification is preferred. Salary range \$79,806.47-\$105,188.48. For more information go to www.butlercountyohio.org/employment. Submit resume/application no later than **November 28, 2008** to: Timothy Williams, County Administrator, Butler County Government Center, 315 High Street, 6th Floor, Hamilton, OH 45011. EOE.

<p>CLASSIFIED ADS CCAO publishes the County Information and Data Service (CIDS) weekly. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will run for two weeks if space is available. Ads will also be published on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. When submitting your ad to CCAO please provide a link to the job posting online and a deadline. Please provide a copy of the classified ad by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. Transmit the copy to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, by e-mail mjneiman@ccao.org.</p>
