



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 7-10, 2008	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, HYATT REGENCY, COLUMBUS
DECEMBER 8, 2008	CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 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	74 TH NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, DAVIDSON COUNTY (NASHVILLE), TN

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO - OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT 209 EAST STATE STREET!

Thank you for your patience as CCAO has moved into and gotten settled into our new office building, located at **209 East State Street**, 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. 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.

The facility is 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.

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.

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 today-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 furnishings 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 has been 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.

Hotel Reservations

The headquarters hotel is the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street, in Columbus. Rate: \$137 single/double. The reservation deadline was November 14. A few rooms are still available on select nights. To reserve a room call (888) 421-1442, (402)592-6464 or <http://columbusregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/cm/hrcccom2008>.

2009 COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

HOLIDAY	LEGAL HOLIDAY
New Year’s Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Day	January 19
President’s Day	February 16
Memorial Day	May 25
Independence Day	July 3
Labor Day	September 7
Columbus Day	October 12
Veteran’s Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 26
Christmas Day	December 25

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

STUDY OF SHERIFF SALE DATA SHOWS RISING FORECLOSURE IN OHIO; OVERALL FILINGS REMAIN HIGH

The number of Ohioans losing their homes to foreclosure last year rose an estimated 18% over the previous year, according to a study of county sheriff sales issued last week. In the 75 counties that participated in the Policy Matters Ohio survey,

nearly 69,000 foreclosed properties were put up for sale in 2007. That means for every 1,000 people in Ohio, more than six houses were sold off in a sheriff sale last year. The increase follows a more dramatic rise the previous year that saw an estimated 50.6% jump over 2005 figures for sheriff sales, the report says.

Sandusky and Cuyahoga counties reported the greatest two-year rise in sheriff sales of any reporting county by far, according to the report. However, the increases reflect improvements the counties made in processing foreclosed properties. Hardin and Cuyahoga counties reported the greatest number of sheriff sales per capita in 2007, followed by Montgomery, Knox and Franklin counties.

Predatory lending was cited as the driving force behind local foreclosures according to 20 out of 36 sheriff's departments, the group said. The finding is in line with past survey results. To stem the rising foreclosure problem, more aggressive efforts should be taken to modify mortgages, Policy Matters recommended. In addition, Ohio should create county land banks to reclaim tax-foreclosed properties and protect renters affected by foreclosure.

Meanwhile, the nationwide housing crisis has propelled fast-growing states ahead of Ohio in terms of new foreclosure filings, according to a separate report issued this week. Ohio had the 10th highest foreclosure rate in the country last month, with 4,546 notices of default and 3,240 notices of foreclosure sale, according to RealtyTrac's monthly report. Nevada, Arizona, Florida topped the organization's October's state foreclosure rate list. Michigan and Illinois also had higher rates than Ohio last month.

Nationally, October foreclosure filings increased 5% from last month and 25% compared to a year ago, RealtyTrac reported. With a total of 279,561 default notices, auction sale notices and bank repossession actions one in every 452 housing units received a foreclosure filing. To read a copy of the Policy Matters Ohio survey go to www.policymattersohio.org/SheriffSales2008.htm.

STATE ACTIVITIES

LICKING COUNTY IS THE 16TH OHIO COUNTY TO BE STORM READY

Licking County is the most recent Ohio entity to become certified as a StormReady county. StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education and awareness.

Licking County is now one of 16 Ohio counties that are StormReady. Other StormReady counties include Allen, Auglaize, Clermont, Coshocton, Huron, Jackson, Lucas, Mercer, Medina, Richland, Sandusky, Scioto, Shelby, Union, and Van Wert.

To find out how to apply to become StormReady, visit the National Weather Service StormReady website at www.stormready.noaa.gov/index.html.

MORE THAN \$21 MILLION IN HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARDS; 87 COMMUNITIES AWARDED FUNDS FOR FY 2008

On November 17, Lt. Governor Lee Fisher announced that 87 communities were awarded more than \$21 million in homeless prevention grants from the Homeless Assistance Grant Program, administered by the Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD) Community Development Division. The grants, approved by the State Controlling Board, will assist approximately 81,000 people and are expected to leverage more than \$61 million in private and public dollars.

The Homeless Assistance Grant Program provides homelessness prevention services and assistance; helps move people from homelessness to permanent housing through the provision of emergency shelter, direct housing, transitional housing and assistance with security deposits and first month's rent; and provides long-term permanent supportive housing to homeless individuals with disabilities. Eligible organizations include local government entities, non-profit organizations, and public housing authorities.

The Homeless Assistance Grant Program is funded with Emergency Shelter Grant Program and Ohio

Housing Trust Fund dollars. For a list of award recipients go to:
<http://development.ohio.gov/newsroom/releases/press.htm?id=1602>.

FISHER ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION IN HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS; 30 NON-PROFITS AWARDED FUNDS FOR FY 2008

This week, Lt. Governor Lee Fisher announced that 30 non-profit organizations were awarded a total of \$6 million from the Housing Assistance Grant Program administered by the Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD) Community Development Division. The grants were approved today by the State Controlling Board and will provide services in 66 Ohio counties. With the funds, approximately 2,543 homes will be repaired; 240 households will be provided down payment assistance; 680 households will be provided homebuyer counseling; and \$4.2 million is expected to be leveraged.

The Housing Assistance Grant Program provides grants through a competitive application process to eligible non-profit applicants for emergency home repair/handicapped accessibility, homebuyer counseling, and down payment assistance for projects that meet the housing needs of low-income families and individuals. The Housing Assistance Grant Program is funded with Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars. For a list of award recipients go to <http://development.ohio.gov/newsroom/releases/press.htm?id=1603>.

CCAO ANNOUNCES VACANCY ON CAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility (CAFF) Advisory Committee was created in S.B. 141 to advise Ohio Department of Agriculture Director on the administration of the program. Members represent various segments of the population affected by large-scale livestock farms, including livestock farmers, public members, and governmental advisors. The group meets quarterly and public attendance is invited. CAFF Advisory Committee meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 E. Main Street, in Reynoldsburg. The group operates from a set of bylaws. Members are appointed by the

Director of Agriculture for three-year terms. The CCAO committee member position is currently vacant. If you would like to be considered for this advisory committee, please notify Josh Hahn, CCAO Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7982, (888) 757-1904, or jhahn@ccao.org by December 5, 2008.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

DOL ISSUES FINAL REVISED FMLA REGULATIONS

The U.S. Department of Labor has just issued the final revised regulations for the Family and Medical Leave Act, marking the first major regulatory update of the 1993 law in more than 13 years. The new rules will take effect 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register* on November 17, 2008.

In addition to addressing certain interpretive issues that have arisen over the years, the regulations implement statutory amendments signed into law by President Bush this past January allowing family members of wounded military personnel to take up to six months of unpaid leave to care for them during their rehabilitation process.

The final rules will improve communications between employees, employers, and health care providers to make the law operate more smoothly, and provide needed clarity for both workers and employers about their responsibilities and rights under the FMLA. The new rules will not reduce the law's coverage for workers who need FMLA leave and will reduce uncertainty and provide greater predictability in the workplace.

Definitions of 'serious health condition' was addressed. The new rules also consolidate in one section all the requirements that employers provide particular types of notice to employees and reconciles certain conflicts and time limits in the provisions. To view a copy of the rules as published in the *Federal Register* go to: <http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2008-26577.PI.pdf>.

NACo ACTIVITIES

2009 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PROGRAM

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative county government programs. Begun in 1970, the Achievement Award Program promotes and recognizes innovative and successful programs that modernize and streamline county government and increase services to citizens.

Programs in the following 21 categories can be submitted: Arts & Historic Preservation; Children & Youth; Civic Education and Public Information; Community/Economic Development; County Administration & Management; Court Administration & Management; Criminal Justice & Public Safety; Emergency Management & Response; Employment & Training (for county residents); Environmental Protection & Energy; Financial Management; Health; Human Services; Information Technology; Libraries; Parks & Recreation; Personnel Management, Employee Training & Employee Benefits (for county employees); Planning; Risk Management; Transportation; and Volunteers (includes Acts of Sharing).

Applications must be postmarked by **February 13, 2009**. Send applications to: 2009 Achievement Awards, National Association of Counties, P.O. Box 79007, Baltimore, MD 21279-0007. For more information please contact Kathryn Murphy, NACo Research Associate, at (202) 661-8806 or e-mail kmurphy@naco.org or fax your application to the NACo Research Division at (202) 737-0480. Copies of the application may be obtained from the NACo website at www.naco.org.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

OHIO ELECTIONS SUMMIT

Join Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner at the "Ohio Elections Summit" on Tuesday December 2, 2008 at the Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Avenue (I-71 Exit 111, 17th Street) in Columbus. In order to continue to improve the election process for the voters of Ohio, the Summit will offer a

means to provide a public analysis of the 2008 General Election. The Summit will draw upon the expertise of Ohio elections officials, legislators, election advocates, election law experts, media, and public testimony.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with sessions starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Buffet box lunches are available for \$10. Please RSVP your attendance by November 26, 2008 to Holly Stutz, Secretary of State's Office, 180 East Broad Street – Floor 16, Columbus, OH 43215, at (614) 728-2981, fax (614) 644-0649, or hstutz@sos.oh.us.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

SYLLABUS

2008-037

Absent a charter provision, ordinance, resolution, or language of a collective bargaining agreement declaring otherwise, R.C. 124.57(A) prohibits a firefighter/paramedic in the classified service of the City of Mentor from serving simultaneously as a member of the City of Ashtabula's legislative authority.

CLASSIFIEDS

TRANSIT DIRECTOR

The Board of Medina County Commissioners seeks transit director to manage overall operation of the County's public transit system. Plans, organizes, directs, and coordinates public transit, paratransit administration, vehicle maintenance and procurement; financial planning and grant administration. Develops, implements, and monitors long-term plans, goals, and objectives focused on achieving County's public transportation vision. Evaluates and provides analysis on legislation affecting transportation funding and regulatory compliance and ensures compliance of regulatory requirements.

Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or a related field, Master's degree preferred; six years increasingly responsible professional transportation experience; at least

three years of supervisory experience as a transportation manager or assistant director level.

Submit resume and salary requirements to Human Resources, Room 206, Attn: MCTD, 144 North Broadway, Medina, Ohio 44256. No third party reps or email submissions accepted. Learn more about Medina County at www.medinaco.org. Resumes accepted until filled. EOE.

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.