



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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JANUARY 23, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 6, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, THE RUSTY NAIL, PORTAGE COUNTY (KENT)
FEBRUARY 9, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, RED PIG INN, PUTNAM COUNTY (OTTAWA)
FEBRUARY 9, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, HOLIDAY INN FRENCH QUARTER, WOOD COUNTY (PERRYSBURG)
FEBRUARY 13, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, RAMADA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, MUSKINGUM COUNTY (ZANESVILLE)
FEBRUARY 13, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, CAFÉ 422, TRUMBULL COUNTY (WARREN)
FEBRUARY 19, 2009	CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
MARCH 2, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, CINCINNATI MARRIOTT NE, WARREN COUNTY (MASON)
MARCH 2, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, PUMP HOUSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ROSS COUNTY (CHILLICOTHE)
MARCH 13, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, HOLIDAY INN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY (ENGLEWOOD)
MARCH 13, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, CELEBRATIONS BY SALLIE, ASHLAND COUNTY (ASHLAND)
MARCH 13, 2009	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, MARION COUNTRY CLUB, MARION COUNTY (MARION)
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.

ASSOCIATION NEWS2009 CCAO COMMISSIONERS TRAINING SEMINAR

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the CCAO Commissioners Training Seminar to be held February 23-25, 2009 at Deer Creek Resort and Conference Center, 22300 State Park Road 20, in Mt. Sterling. This popular conference is an excellent training opportunity for new and veteran commissioners, administrators, and commissioners' clerks to network with other officials.

Registration materials were mailed and are posted on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. **Conference registration deadline: February 13, 2009. Hotel room reservation deadline: January 30, 2009.** If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904, or mjneiman@ccao.org.

2009 CCAO ROSTER UPDATES

Yes, it's that time again...time to update information for the *2009 CCAO Roster*! A memo concerning updating the Roster was sent to county commissioners clerks last week. There will be a lot of changes in the Roster this year. The accuracy of the data in the Roster is of utmost importance. Please update the information after reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners.

Newly appointed commissioners and veteran commissioners that want to update their photos should e-mail them in a high resolution, jpg format. If you send a photo, please write the name of the person and their county on the back of the photo. Please do not staple, fax photos, or send photos from the newspaper, because the reproduction quality is poor.

All information and photos should be returned to CCAO by **January 16, 2009**. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904, or mjneiman@ccao.org.

CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS

Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the Regional Legislative Briefings to be held in February and March! The purpose of the meetings is to provide legislators and county commissioners with an opportunity to discuss legislative issues affecting county government on a regional basis. The Briefings are organized by State Senate Districts and the House Districts contained within them. Invitations have been sent to the members of the General Assembly will be sent by CCAO within the week but members are encouraged to contact your legislators to personally invite them to your Regional Legislative Briefing. Please mark the date/time for the meeting in your area:

- **February 6** – 11:30 a.m., Portage County (Kent) - Senate Districts 18, 27, 28 & 29 - The Rusty Nail, Kent
- **February 9** – 9:00 a.m. Putnam County (Ottawa) - Senate District 1 - Red Pig Inn, Ottawa
- **February 9** – 11:30 a.m., Wood County (Perrysburg) - Senate Districts 2 & 11 - Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg
- **February 13** – 11:30 a.m., Muskingum County (Zanesville) - Senate Districts 20 & 31 - Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, Zanesville
- **February 13** – 11:30 a.m., Trumbull County (Warren) - Senate Districts 30, 32 & 33 - Café 422, Warren
- **March 2** – 11:30 a.m., Warren County (Mason) - Senate Districts 7, 8 & 9 - Cincinnati Marriott NE, Mason
- **March 2** – 11:30 a.m., Ross County (Chillicothe) - Senate Districts 14 & 17 - Pump House Center for the Arts, Chillicothe
- **March 13** – 11:30 a.m., Montgomery County (Englewood) - Senate Districts 4, 5, 6, 10 & 12 - Holiday Inn, Englewood
- **March 13** – 11:30 a.m., Ashland County (Ashland) - Senate Districts 13 & 22 - Celebrations by Sallie, Ashland
- **March 13** – 11:30 a.m., Marion County (Marion) - Senate Districts 19 & 26 - Marion Country Club, Marion, 11:30 a.m.

- Franklin County is planning to hold there briefing during the month of February – Senate Districts 3, 15 & 16

A packet of information and a registration form was mailed to each Board of County Commissioners and Summit County last week. Information is also posted on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. For more information please contact John Leutz, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7994, (888) 757-1904, or jleutz@ccao.org.

STATE ACTIVITIES

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ISSUES REPORT ON STATE FISCAL OPTIONS

A new report by The Center for Community Solutions documents the unprecedented decrease in state revenues and cuts in expenditures facing Ohio, identifies a number of revenue options the state should consider, and provides a unique, sophisticated revenue forecasting methodology. *Taxing Issues Redux* revisits a 10-part analysis of state and local taxes in Ohio prepared six years ago, which became a reference for public officials, educators, service providers, and human services advocates.

The report notes that, while about half of Ohio's budget challenge results from the national recession, the other half stems from tax reforms adopted by the state in 2005. It details those reforms and their impact, which included shifting a greater share of the tax burden from businesses to individuals. In 1975, businesses paid 40 percent of state and local taxes; by 2009 the share was 29 percent; it is projected to decrease to 26.5 percent in 2010.

According to the report, the 2005 reforms will reduce revenues by over \$4 billion in the upcoming biennial operating budget. Community Solutions also projects that the impact of recession will be almost \$4 billion in the next budget – about \$900 million more than state recently projected, or a total deficit of \$8.2 billion. Fiscal Year 2010 revenues will be actually lower than those in FY 2002.

Between 2005 and 2009, state revenues increased an average annual rate of .38 percent; expenditures grew at an annual rate of 1.34

percent, less than half the inflation rate. The state has been using one-time funds to balance the current and previous budgets, the result of which is a multi-billion dollar structural deficit in Ohio's operating budget.

The report identifies a number of revenue options that the state could consider, including:

- Use of the state's Budget Stabilization (Rainy Day) Fund;
- Lobbying the federal government for aid for the next three years;
- Closing some tax loopholes;
- Delaying the last installment of the individual income tax cut;
- Postponing the total elimination of the Corporate Franchise Tax and Tangible Personal Property Tax;
- Increasing the rate of the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT); and
- Consider temporary tax increase (this has been a favorite of past governors and legislatures).

For more information about the report and recommendations contact the Center for Community Solutions, 1226 Huron Road - Suite 300, Cleveland, OH 44115, (216) 781-2944, fax (216) 781-2988, or www.CommunitySolutions.com.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

The House Democratic leadership unveiled its proposals for an economic stimulus package, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, H.R. 1) on January 15. The package would provide \$550 billion in new domestic spending and \$275 billion in tax relief. It also covers many NACo priorities, including transportation, an increase in the Medicaid federal match, rural development broadband deployment and energy efficiency.

The bill is expected to reach the House floor on January 28. The goal is to have a bill ready for President Obama's signature by President's Day recess in mid-February. In a meeting on January 16, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's staff said that the House, Senate and Obama transition team have been working together very closely on

the package. Most of the funding in ARRA would go to existing programs. While some details of the tax relief and entitlement spending are still being worked out, the following is a summary of the information available as of January 22.

To read an analysis of the economic stimulus package to www.naco.org and click on the story on the front page.

SCHIP REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPANSION BILL HEADS TO SENATE FLOOR

One day after the House passed HR 2 to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) the Senate's committee of jurisdiction approved a similar bill. The House vote was 289-139.

In the Senate Finance Committee, all the Democrats were joined by Republican Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine in voting to approve the draft bill by Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.). Baucus' bill would cover 11 million children for four and a half years at a cost of \$31.5 billion. It is paid for by an increase to the federal cigarette tax.

The Committee approved amendment, which would remove the five year waiting period for legal immigrants to become eligible for coverage. Some Republicans who had voted for similar measures vetoed by President Bush during the 110th Congress objected to new elements of the bill, including removing the waiting period for immigrants, and voted against the bill. The House bill also includes this provision.

The Republicans did win adoption of an amendment to require states to re-check enrollees citizenship or residency status when they re-check income status of enrollees. Senator Snowe also succeeded in getting an amendment that would allow states to provide dental coverage to kids who have private health insurance but do not have dental coverage. For more information contact: Paul Beddoe, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4234 or pbeddoe@naco.org.

SAFETY-NET FUNDING NEEDS FOR JUST TWO STATES TOTAL BILLIONS

Community Foundations in Columbus, Cleveland, Toledo, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia collaborated on a report sent last week to then President-elect Barack Obama that projects social service agencies in Ohio and Pennsylvania will fall about \$3.3 billion short in their efforts to maintain a safety net.

Saying the cost of social services is "inextricably linked" to unemployment figures, the report says about \$1.79 billion is needed over two years to meet the "new" demands for social services sparked by the economic downturn in the five urban areas covered by the foundations submitting the report. Five percent of that, \$89.5 million, should be directed to community nonprofits to administer such programs as food banks and transportation assistance.

Overall, the report says Pennsylvania needs \$1.61 billion and Ohio, \$1.69 billion, "for safety net services administered by public agencies and community based nonprofits." As with the urban areas needs, the report calls for 5 percent of the statewide funds to be diverted to community nonprofits.

The foundations said they researched changes in the need for social services from 2007 to 2008 in their five urban areas and found the following:

- An increase of between 9 percent and 46 percent across the five cities in the number of first-time food bank users
- Decreased food bank capacity in response to a 5.5 percent food-price increase, 50 percent distribution-cost increase and 8.8 decrease in funding and food donations.
- Increases from 12 percent to 22 percent in requests for rental assistance to avoid eviction
- A 50 percent increase in calls for mortgage assistance to avoid foreclosure
- Increases from 25 percent to a high of 75 percent in Toledo for utility assistance
- A 14,000 family waiting list for child care subsidies in Pennsylvania

- Increases from 38 percent to 70 percent in requests for transportation assistance (*Hannah News*, 1/16/09)

TITLE IV-E INCREASE AND REGULATION MORATORIA IN HOUSE STIMULUS PACKAGE

The U.S. House of Representatives have released their draft economic stimulus package, which includes several important provisions relevant to child welfare providers.

FMAP and Title IV-E - Title IV-E programs will receive a 4.9% increase in federal payments under draft economic stimulus legislation being prepared this week in the House of Representatives. The same package will also increase the federal funding for Medicaid, with the increase even higher in high-unemployment states.

Both increases are intended to prevent state-level cuts in these respective programs by shifting more of the cost burden to the federal government. At least 45 of 50 states are facing deficits in the coming year, according to a January 14 analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities see <http://www.cbpp.org/9-8-08sfp.htm>. The federal increase comes through an increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

When FMAP was increased during the last recession, the increase was not applied to IV-E programs, so this is a victory for the child welfare community.

Medicaid Regulations - The package also extends last summer's moratoria on six Bush Administration-issued CMS regulations on Medicaid, including regulations on Targeted Case Management and Rehabilitation Services, until June 30, 2009. These regulations would have otherwise gone into effect April 1 of this year.

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION ADVISORY OPINIONS

2008-03 - STEP-CHILDREN AS FAMILY MEMBERS

What is the question addressed in the opinion? Can a public official or employee hire his or her step-child?

What is the answer in the opinion?

No. The Ethics Law prohibits a public official or employee from authorizing an employment contract for a member of his or her family. A public official's step-child is a member of his or her family, regardless of the step-child's age. The Commission also concluded that a public official's step-parent is a member of his or her family. A public official or employee is prohibited from hiring his or her step-child. The official or employee is also prohibited from using his or her public position to get a job for a stepchild. For example, a public official or employee cannot recommend his or her step-child or formally or informally lobby other officials or employees about a job for his or her step-child.

To whom does this opinion apply?

The conclusions in this opinion apply to all individuals who are elected or appointed to, or employed by, any public agency, including but not limited to any state agency, county, whether the person is: (1) compensated or uncompensated; (2) serving full time or part time; or (3) serving in a temporary or permanent position.

How and when did the opinion become effective?

The opinion became effective upon acceptance by the Commission. For more information, please contact: David Freel, Executive Director, or Jennifer Hardin, Chief Advisory Attorney, at (614) 466-7090.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A new Administration and the 111th Congress will hit town in January and a great number of programs that assist counties will be under intense scrutiny. As a county official you need to know what this means for counties, what you can do about the issues, and how you can strengthen the voice of local government on Capitol Hill. With a philosophy of "those who show up decide," you have a host of reasons to attend the NACo Legislative Conference!

The NACo Legislative Conference will be held March 7-11, 2008 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, in Washington, D.C.! Register online and

receive a \$25 discount on your conference registration. Earlybird registration discount deadline is today: **January 23, 2009**. Hotel rooms fill up fast, so register now for a room at or close to the conference headquarters hotel.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast to be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11. More details to follow in future issues of CIDS.

For more information about the conference or the Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 775-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

2009 ACHIVEMENT 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.

2009 NACIO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) is seeking entries for its 2009 Awards of Excellence competition. The contest seeks to recognize outstanding public relations and public information work being done on behalf of counties throughout the nation.

The 2009 NACIO Awards of Excellence Competition covers projects produced and/or distributed from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. There are 11 categories for submissions – annual reports, writing, graphic design, photography, special projects, computer media, internal and external publications, brochures, Spanish language entries, and audio/visual productions. Each category has various subcategories.

Each entry will be judged for its originality, effectiveness, results, degree of effort and difficulty, overall quality, and strength of impression. The contest is open to staff of county governments that are eligible to join the National Association of Counties (NACo) or staff of state associations of counties. Your county does not have to be a member of NACo for you to enter the contest, nor do you have to be a member of NACIO, a NACo affiliate. However, NACIO members receive a discount on the entry fee.

Entry fee for each submission: \$35 - NACIO members or \$50 - non-members. No entries will be accepted after **March 28, 2009**. NACIO was formed in 1966 to bring together communications professionals who wanted to share information with other counties across the U.S. For more information about NACIO, please visit us on the Web at www.nacio.org.

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

