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APRIL 2, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| APRIL 6, 2010 | CCAO/OSWDO/OEEF SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE, WOOD COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, WOOD COUNTY (BOWLING GREEN) |
| APRIL 9, 2010 | CCAO HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| APRIL 14, 2010 | NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN VETERANS' SERVICES – SECOND WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| APRIL 16, 2010 | CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| APRIL 19, 2010 | CCAO JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BUILDING, COLUMBUS |
| APRIL 21, 2010 | CCAO/OSWDO/OEEF SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| APRIL 22, 2010 | CCAO/OSWDO/OEEF SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE, WAYNE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WAYNE COUNTY (WOOSTER) |
| APRIL 30, 2010 | CCAO/OSWDO/OEEF SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE, WARREN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WARREN COUNTY (LEBANON) |
| APRIL 30, 2010 | CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, OLD COURTHOUSE, ASHTABULA COUNTY (JEFFERSON) |
| APRIL 2010 | NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH |

ASSOCIATION NEWS

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN VETERANS' SERVICES; SECOND WEDNESDAY'S SEMINAR TO BE HELD APRIL 14

With the return of our brave soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan, the need to provide services to these veterans increases daily. CCAO will be hosting "Opportunities in Veterans' Services" - the first in a series of "Second

Wednesday's" seminars - on April 14 at the CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, in Columbus. This program will provide the opportunity for commissioners and staff to review the structure and financing of veterans' services and to learn about statewide developments and challenges for the Ohio Department of Veterans' Affairs and local Veteran Service Commissions.

The seminar will begin sharply at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude promptly at 12:30 p.m. Registrations will be accepted only by email. Coffee will be served during the morning and lunch will be on your own. Best of all, **no registration fee** will be charged! A flyer containing information and instructions on how to register for "New Opportunities in Veterans' Services" seminar is linked on the front page of the CCAO website at www.ccao.org. To register, contact Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at jerwin@ccao.org.

AFTER IT LEAVES THE CURB: A SOLID WASTE TRAINING COURSE

CCAO and the Organization of Solid Waste Districts of Ohio (OSWDO) are sponsoring four solid waste management training sessions, "After It Leaves the Curb," this month. The training sessions will include a summary of solid waste management in Ohio from the perspective of solid waste districts. The targeted audience includes county commissioners, solid waste district policy committee members and boards of trustees.

Training funds are provided by the Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) grant that was given to the CCAO Research and Education Fund. Training will be conducted by Ohio EPA, GT Environmental, Inc. and Eastman & Smith. All participants will receive free training materials.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. with the training sessions beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. Registration fee (includes lunch): **\$15** – county commissioners, trustees of solid waste authorities, policy committee members of solid waste districts, solid waste district personnel, planning directors, and the Ohio EPA or **\$50** – other attendees.

Registration deadline is one week before the seminar. Dates and Locations:

- **April 6 – Wood County** Job & Family Services, 1928 East Gypsy Lane Road, Wood County (Bowling Green)
- **April 21 – CCAO Offices**, 209 East State Street, Columbus
- **April 22 – Wayne County** Administration Building, 428 West Liberty Street – 2nd FL, Wayne County (Wooster)
- **April 30 – Warren County** Administration Building, 406 Justice Drive – Room 120, Warren County (Lebanon)

For more information about the training, please contact Brad Cole, CCAO Managing Director of Research, at (614) 220-7981, (888) 757-1904 or bcole@ccao.org. For information about registration, contact Amanda Jones, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7985, (888) 757-1904 or ajones@ccao.org.

JOBS COMMITTEE HOSTING MEETING TO HELP IDENTIFY BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS TO GROW JOBS IN OHIO

CCAO is pleased to announce the details of the Jobs, Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee sponsored meeting to discuss barriers and improvements for workforce and economic development in your county! The Jobs Committee co-chairs, Commissioners Steve Arndt (Ottawa) and Deborah Lieberman (Montgomery), ask you to participate in the meeting and survey (detailed below), along with a team of workforce and economic development professionals in your county. Please identify the team of experts in your

county who focus on workforce development and economic development, such as your workforce director, economic development director, planning director, or CIC. Choose the team you feel is most appropriate. Please bring them with you to the meeting.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. We will hold the meeting at the Franklin County Children Services building, 855 West Mound Street, in Columbus.

To prepare for the meeting and with your input, we have created a survey to help gather information prior to the meeting so that on April 19, we can have a very successful event. Follow this link to access the survey: <http://fs10.formsite.com/dburnette/form458709431/index.html>.

More than one person from each county can fill out the survey. Thus, each member of your team can fill it out separately, and answer as many or little of the questions as is appropriate. Or, you can coordinate your response with one survey submission with your whole team. You can decide! We encourage you to include your team in this process, and ask them to be honest and open in answering each question, particularly the questions targeted at identifying barriers and where improvements should be made!

If you would like more information about the meeting, please contact Beth Tsvetkoff, CCAO Policy Analyst, or John Leutz, Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 221-5627 or (888) 757-1904. Please RSVP your attendance by April 12 to Janet Erwin, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at (614) 220-7986, (888) 747-1904 or jerwin@ccao.org.

HEALTHY COUNTIES – THEME FOR NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH!

National County Government Month (NCGM) is celebrated each April by the nation's counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. The 2010 theme is "Healthy Counties" to promote essential county health care services and healthy living and recreation programs. County governments play an essential role in America's healthcare system. They are unique in their responsibility to both finance and deliver health services through public hospitals and clinics, local health departments, and long-term care facilities. In addition, counties provide mental health and substance abuse treatment and offer coverage programs for the uninsured.

Since 1991, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote county government programs and services. Formerly National County Government Week, the designation was expanded to a full month for 2010 to offer more counties more opportunities to plan and participate. Counties aren't expected to hold public awareness activities throughout the month, but can schedule activities any time during the month. Go to NACo's website at www.naco.org/NCGM to download more information.

NOTE: OSU Extension and CEBCO have compiled a CD with presentations on wellness topics, which could be used during National County Government Month. To obtain a copy contact CEBCO at (614) 221-5627.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OHIO TO GET \$172 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR FORECLOSURE PROGRAMS

Left out of the initial funding announcement, Ohio is now slated to receive up to \$172 million from the federal government to help stem the tide of foreclosure, state and federal officials said Monday. Ohio was not one of the five states (Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan, and Nevada) included in the federal Help for the Hardest

Hit Housing Markets program unveiled last month, however, the Obama Administration decided to expand the anti-foreclosure initiative to another five states.

The second round of funding benefits states (Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oregon, and Rhode Island) that have the highest rate of people living in economic distress. The \$600 million will be allocated according to the number of people living in counties where the unemployment rate exceeds 12%. Ohio will receive the largest sum of \$172 million.

The money was in addition to \$175 million in foreclosure prevention assistance funding that Ohio received earlier this year through the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program announced in January. There were nearly 90,000 foreclosures in the state last year and one out of every six homeowners was either in foreclosure or past due on their mortgage payments.

Unlike the five states initially chosen, Ohio's foreclosure crisis stems from a deep-seated economic recession rather than real estate speculators who in recent years caused a precipitous drop in home values. The funding could be used on programs that provide assistance to unemployed borrowers and to promote mortgage modification and short sales, he said. Gov. Strickland said the money would help his Save the Dream Ohio initiative, which is designed to help families avoid foreclosure. The state partnership will work with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to administer funding.

OFFICIALS PUSH FOR LAKE ERIE WIND TURBINES

Wind blowing over Lake Erie could eventually power an economic boom in Ohio, according to Gov. Ted Strickland, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and regional officials who touted plans to develop offshore wind turbines in Cleveland Monday.

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown co-sponsored S.453 – The Community Regeneration, Sustainability and Innovation Act of 2009 – which would create a new, competitive grant program within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) targeted toward cities and metropolitan areas experiencing large-scale property vacancy and abandonment due to long-term employment and population losses. Brown said S.453 would spur research on potential offshore wind projects, increase incentives for offshore wind development, and require the Department of Energy to develop a plan to implement the infrastructure. Companion legislation, H.R. 932 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Tim Ryan (Dist. 17 – Warren).

"Lake Erie is ready to be home to the first offshore wind turbines in fresh water," he said. The lake is shallow enough to support offshore wind turbines and is surrounded on by the state's industrial base. Wind energy can lower electricity costs, reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil and create new demand for components produced by Ohio manufacturers.

Gov. Strickland said Sen. Brown's bill would also provide grants to universities doing research on solving the unique challenges of offshore wind in fresh water. "Sen. Brown's legislation will strengthen the federal government's partnership with Great Lakes states as we make sure the wind energy industry grows in Ohio," he said. The governor noted several initiatives designed to encourage wind power development in Ohio, such as drawing maps that identify the best places for turbines and research efforts with universities.

Meanwhile, the Lake Erie Energy Development Corp. issued a request for proposals for a wind farm developer to provide assistance on a small offshore wind project planned offshore near downtown Cleveland. The work of the Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force has solidly established Ohio in the emerging North American offshore wind sector.

OHIO VET POSTERS

Many thousands of Ohio's Veterans may not realize their service may be worth more than they think. These veterans may be missing out on benefits they have earned. The Ohio Department of Veterans Services is asking counties to help get veterans informed!

Ohio's veteran population of approximately 935,000 people crosses all age, geographic and socioeconomic boundaries. Many veterans are unaware of benefits they may be eligible to receive. These benefits may enable an Iraq war veteran pay for her education, a Gulf War veteran to purchase a new home, a Vietnam War veteran get help treating his diabetes, or the family of a World War II veteran to defray some burial expenses.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services wants to reach all of Ohio's veterans and make them aware of the benefits they may be eligible to receive. You can help get Ohio's veterans connected to their benefits by posting OHIO VET posters in your counties. Posters are available for you to pick-up at the CCAO office when attending a meeting or seminar. Contact Tanya McComas, CCAO Administrative Assistant, when you are in the office to obtain a poster.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

OHIO 2010 CENSUS PARTICIPATION RATE LEADS THE NATIONAL RATE – HOW DOES YOUR COUNTY COMPARE?

Now through May 3, 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will be publishing daily mail participation rate data in the form of maps and tables at http://2010census.gov/2010_census/take10map/. The data are tabulated based on the number of forms that are mailed back and are updated Monday thru Friday. The State of Ohio is actively reviewing the results to gain a sense of how communities are doing over time. As of April 2, the national rate was 54% and Ohio's rate was 60%. Mercer County is leading Ohio with 74%, while Auglaize County follows with 73%.

The map shows participation rates at the tract-street level, so you can target low response areas and encourage those residents to fill out the form and be counted in Ohio! To find your area's 2010 Census participation rate using the map, enter your zip code, or your city and state, in the search field and click the "Find" button. Once you do this, a national view of the map will appear with a data window on the exact location you chose. The mail participation rate for that area will be featured prominently within that window. From here you can either zoom in or compare that area's 2010 participation rate to its 2000 Census participation rate. To find out your county's participation rate in comparison to the national rate go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>.

QUESTIONNAIRE ASSISTANCE CENTERS/BE COUNTED SITES: There are over 1,300 Census Help Centers throughout all 88 counties in the state of Ohio.

- **Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC)** provide one-on-one assistance and have replacement questionnaires on location
- **Be Counted Sites** provide replacement questionnaires only

All help centers will be open until April 19. The Census Bureau operates multi-lingual QAC sites in 21 Ohio counties that can assist non-English speaking residents. These include Ashland, Butler, Clark, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Miami,

Montgomery, Richland, Sandusky, Summit, and Wood. Using the Census Bureau Take 10 Map listed above, residents can enter their zip code to view QAC or Be Counted Sites within their community.

RESIDENTS THAT HAVE NOT RECEIVED FORMS: If you are receiving calls from residents who have not gotten a form, please e-mail their street address to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at mjneiman@ccao.org so it can be sent to the Bureau. The Bureau can check their address file list to make sure that their household can be included in the non- response follow-up (if they never picked up a replacement form).

Using the Census Bureau Take 10 Map, enter your zip code to view locations within your county where you can pick up a replacement questionnaire or receive help filling it out. These **Questionnaire Assistance Centers** or **Be Counted Sites** will have additional questionnaires.

For toolkits that contain information and resources to help communicate the importance of the census go to <http://2010.census.gov/partners/toolkits/>.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo REQUESTS MEMBER INPUT FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

NACo is gathering information from member counties about how county officials, workforce investment boards, local industries, small businesses, and training providers can best work together to promote workforce development, job creation and economic development. The input received will be shared with the Department of Labor. Complete this linked survey http://naco.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4GCLTZaKpNuqMw4&SVID=Prod. For more information, contact Anita Cardwell, NACo Senior Associate, Community Services, at (202) 942-4267, fax (202) 661-8871 or acardwell@naco.org.

ARTS AND CULTURE AWARD

The NACo Arts and Culture Award program is designed to encourage counties to submit successful programs that have used arts and cultural activities to address not only the quality of life, but also social problems in their communities. In 2008, Franklin County won the National Public Leadership in the Arts Award.

Eligibility is extended not only to outstanding arts and historical preservation programs, but also to innovative funding processes that have been used to fund arts and cultural programs. Both ongoing and onetime projects are eligible for the award, but must meet the following requirements:

- The program or project must have been initiated since January 2004.
- County officials and/or staff, as part of their official duties, must have played a significant role in developing and implementing the program or project.

Each program will be evaluated based on: demonstrated community impact, innovation, community/county partnership, leadership, and transferability. Application deadline: **April 16, 2010**. The winning county will be presented with an award during a special awards ceremony held during NACo's Annual Conference.

For more information please contact Kathryn Murphy, NACo Research Associate, (202) 661-8806, fax (202) 737-0480, or kmurphy@naco.org. Download the 2010 Arts and Culture Award Program Application at www.naco.org. Click on the article located on the front page.

2010 COUNTY COURTHOUSE AWARDS APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applications are available for the "2010 NACo County Courthouse Awards" program. The County Courthouse Awards program is sponsored by Siemens and recognizes innovative governance by county elected officials from NACo member counties. Award winners will receive an engraved plaque to display in their county; recognition at NACo's Annual Conference and be able to present a \$5,000 college scholarship to a graduating high school senior in their county. Awards will be given out in three categories: rural, suburban and urban. To obtain an application, go to www.naco.org and click on the story on the front page. Application deadline: **May 7, 2010**. For more information, contact NACo Associate Legislative Directors Dalen Harris (dharris@naco.org) or Erik Johnston (ejohnston@naco.org) at (202) 393.6226.

PUBLICATIONS

HUNGER IN OHIO 2010

The number of Ohioans who seek food assistance in a given week has grown by nearly a fifth since 2006 to 225,700, according to a study released by the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. The "Hunger in Ohio 2010" report, described as the most in-depth of its kind conducted in the state based on the number of people surveyed and the information gathered, found 44% of adult foodbank clients have been unemployed for more than two years. More than half, or 52%, have been forced to choose between food and utilities, according to the report. Three-fourths of households served had incomes below the federal poverty level. To read a copy of the report go to www.oashf.org/publications.html.

GRANTS

2010 2nd CHANCE ACT JUVENILE MENTORING INITIATIVE

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), is seeking applications for funding under its Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative. This program furthers DOJ's mission by providing grants to support mentoring and other transitional services essential to reintegrating juvenile offenders returning from correctional facilities into the community. Application deadline: **5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2010**. Applications are available at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2010/SecondChanceActMentoring.pdf>.

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at (800) 518-4726 or via e-mail to support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours, seven days a week. For assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, call Angela Parker, Program Manager, at (202) 353-9252 or angela.parker@usdoj.gov or call Mark Morgan, Program Manager, at (202) 353-9243 or mark.morgan@usdoj.gov. Grants.Gov number assigned to announcement: OJJDP-2010-2551.

SEMINARS/WEBINARS

LEADERSHIP SERIES: LESSONS OF THE "7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE"

The National Association of Counties (NACo) will host a webinar for member counties on "'7 Habits of Highly Effective People" on Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. When was the last time you felt thoroughly effective in your office? How many times have you thought you could do better? Feel better? Attend this

webinar to see how Steven Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" are useful to county officials. Keith Niemann, on loan to NACo from University of Nebraska Extension Program, will demonstrate the leadership lesson to be learned from each of the habits. To register, go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/919880674>. Please contact Keith Niemann, NACo's 2009-2010 Ralph L. Tabor Extension Fellow, at (202) 661-8805 or kniemann@naco.org with questions.

NACo offers its member counties various educational and training opportunities to support county officials in their efforts to manage rapid change and prepare counties for new responsibilities.

SERB PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH INSURANCE CONFERENCE

Join the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) for their "Public Sector Health Insurance Conference" to be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Central Office, 1980 West Broad Street, in Columbus. The conference begins at 8:55 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m. Explore critical topics in Ohio public sector health insurance practice such as Federal and State health reform initiatives, public sector health insurance information, dependent eligibility audits (DEAs), medical plan design, prescription drug plans, and the future of health care. Sherri Noll, CCAO Managing Director of Health and Wellness Programs, will participate as a speaker at the conference.

Registration fee: \$150 - includes all sessions and course materials. Lunch is on your own. Registration deadline: **April 21, 2010**. For more information, contact Health Insurance Conference, State Employment Relations Board, 65 East State Street – Floor 12, Columbus, OH 43215-4213, (614) 466-2963, timothea.johnson@serb.state.oh.us or www.serb.state.oh.us.

NACo JAIL DIVERSION FORUM

NACo is hosting a "County Jail Diversion Forum" in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), PA on May 5-6, 2010. The forum will present counties with a chance to learn about and improve upon local efforts to divert individuals with mental illness from the criminal justice system. The first day will consist of a site visit to two diversion programs housed inside the Allegheny County Jail. The second day will consist of educational sessions featuring both local and national experts, highlighting the county commissioner role in these issues.

Registration is open to all NACo member counties that did not attend the County Jail Diversion Forum in Bexar County in October 2009. Space is limited and operates on a first come, first serve basis. Registration closes **April 2, 2010**.

NACo will pay for hotel accommodations for up to two nights per attendee. For additional details, the draft agenda, registration form, and promotional flier, please go to http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=New_Technical_Assistance&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=33322. For more information, contact Kati Guerra, Senior Associate, NACo Community Services, at (202) 942-4279 at kguerra@naco.org.