



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 27-29, 2012	2012 SAFETY CONGRESS & EXPO (OSC12), GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER, COLUMBUS
MARCH 30, 2012	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, GREENE COUNTY SANITARY ENGINEER'S OFFICE, GREENE COUNTY (XENIA)
APRIL, 2012	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
APRIL 11, 2012	CCAO 2 nd WEDNESDAY SEMINAR: ATTORNEY GENERAL DEBT COLLECTION PROGRAM, WEBINAR
APRIL 13, 2012	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, RICHLAND COUNTY, LONGVIEW CENTER, MANSFIELD
JUNE 8, 2012	CCAO SUMMER SEMINAR, DOUBLETREE COLUMBUS/WORTHINGTON, COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLECTION SERVICES PROGRAM – 2ND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour webinar explaining the procedure for local governments to use the Local Government Collection Services program offered by the Ohio Attorney General's office to collect debts due county governments. The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. No need to travel – attend the webinar at your computer. The webinar will include:

- How local governments may certify debt to the OAG through a fully automated data file layout provided by the OAG
- How to initiate a memorandum of understanding with local entities to outline the services to be provided and the expectations of both parties
- How the program is funded through a 10% collection fee by the OAG that can be passed along to the debtor
- How the program permits an offset of a debtor's state tax refunds and lottery winnings

- Information on payment processing through credit card, checks, the internet, and a 24 hour interactive phone response system
- Online monitoring and review of accounts through interactive software made available to local entities

Webinar participants may pose questions to the presenters who will respond during and after the presentation. To take advantage of this exceptional educational opportunity, please register on this link: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/548267398>

If for any reason you experience difficulty in connecting to the link and you wish to register for the webinar, please email Amanda Jones, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at ajones@ccao.org and provide her with your email address.

A workshop flyer is attached to this issue of CIDS. There is no charge to attend. Space is limited for this webinar, so register early. If you have questions regarding registering for the webinar, please contact Amanda. If you have questions regarding the substance of the program, contact Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research, at bcole@ccao.org

CAB 2012-04 – INSURANCE & EMPLOYEE BENEFIT CHANGES

New language in H.B. 225 provides that counties may now offer and pay for all or any part of the cost of a health and wellness benefit program through which the county provides a benefit or incentive to county officers, employees, and their immediate dependents to maintain a healthy lifestyle, including, but not limited to, programs to encourage healthy eating and nutrition, exercise and physical activity, weight control or the elimination of obesity, and cessation of smoking or alcohol use. County Advisory Bulletin (CAB) 2012-04 – Insurance & Employee Benefit Changes details the changed to ORC Sections 305.171 and 3917.04. Read a copy of County Advisory Bulletin 2012-04 on the CCAO website at www.ccao.org Click on Publications > County Advisory Bulletins.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

CHAMPAIGN, LOGAN TO SHARE SAME JOB & FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Champaign and Logan counties will share an administrator for their Departments of Job and Family Services in an experiment that will save cash for each county. Susan Bailey-Evans, director of the Champaign County DJFS, will serve as director for both counties after they agreed to a memorandum of understanding. She is replacing Dan Willoby, who retired from Logan County this year.

Over the next several weeks, Bailey-Jones will evaluate Logan County’s agency, identify the needs in the county and determine what role the agency will play in meeting those needs. Bailey-Evans has 30 years of experience in the department. The Logan County Commissioners brought up the topic about a month ago. Both counties have the ability to opt out of the agreement at any time, and the situation will be evaluated at the end of the year. Bailey-Evans said she expects few changes in each county at first. Ultimately, more services and resources could be shared to benefit both counties.

WANT TO TELL YOUR COUNTY’S STORY? PROMOTE YOUR COUNTY’S HISTORY, TOURISM & ECONOMIC FUTURE!

Some counties may remember back in 2006 sending an engraved stone along with its history for display the Ohio Governor’s Residence & Heritage Garden. That county walkway is the most popular part of the

Residence tour! The history of the stones are a frequent stop on the website, too. Go to <http://www.governorsresidence.ohio.gov> for more information.

Here is a new chance to promote your county's history, tourism and economic future! The Friends of the Ohio Governor's Residence & Heritage Garden has embarked on another project we think will be just as popular. The 2012 State Fair will have a new exhibit in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources area. It will be a plaza with a 25'x 25' geologic bedrock map of Ohio overlaid with the county lines. This exhibit will be the world's largest geologic map and will be the same size as the popular Ohio map located on the floor in the Statehouse Map Room. State Fair goers will be able to stand on their county and see the type of bedrock beneath it. Visitors will be able to see examples from each geologic period on the path around the map.

A committee of geologists, educators and botanists have developed this exhibit to educate people about Ohio's bedrock; the importance it has played in Ohio's past, present and future economic development; and to inspire more students to get excited about the sciences. To deepen the educational value of this exhibit, each county will have a Quick Response (QR) Code linked to more information.

There are several ways your county can participate:

1. **Let the project link to the county website.** Send us a link to the page with the best geological information and give us permission to include that content in a mobile site connected with the QR code. This might be the county topographical map, water maps, or OSU extension information. The shorter and more visual the information, the longer the visitor will look!
2. **Send a big example of what was made from the bedrock in your county's past and the history to go with it.** The committee wants a big rock heavy enough so it won't be carried off. If that history is already on a county, business or historical society's website, send the web address.
3. **Websites linking places with pictures and information about your county bedrock's uses or places where visitors can go and see examples.** Examples: businesses, historical societies, chambers of commerce, travel and/or tourism office, convention and tourism office, parks and recreation sites, etc.

For more information, contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, who is coordinating this portion of the exhibit, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org **Please respond to Mary Jane by May 1, if you would like to have your county represented in this exhibit** that will be seen by the 800,000 State Fair attendees. Send the committee a Big Rock and get an invitation to the ribbon cutting reception July 25, 2012! Send us web-based information and get your county on the QR map!

EVALUATION OF COUNTY WEBSITES

The Sunshine Review, a national nonprofit that advocates for government transparency and celebrates strides taken towards open government, has given Sunny Awards after reviewing public entity websites. Websites are reviewed and graded on whether the following data is published online: budget, meetings, elected officials, administrative officials, permits/zoning information, audits, contracts, lobbying, public records, and taxes. The categories reviewed on websites are merely suggestions from the Sunshine Review as to what they believe the website should post. The Ohio Revised Code does not require local governments to post public records online, which the Ohio Supreme Court unanimously affirmed last summer.

The following eight counties received the highest grades: A- Franklin, Hamilton and Montgomery, B Cuyahoga & Warren, and B- Delaware, Greene & Summit. Many counties received an average grade of D. Each website is reviewed and recommendations are listed.

Getting started or revising a current website can be a daunting task. Posting some key, basic information online, such as meeting times, agendas and minutes; names of elected and county appointed officials, office location and contact information; and other frequently requested information, can actually save the county staff time and money. Most citizens have access to the internet at home, work or at a public library.

The Sunshine Review published the following information about Ohio county websites:

- 6 counties post their county budget online
- 28 counties include information on their websites about public government meetings
- 40 include information about the county's elected officials
- 31 include information about the county's administrative officials
- 33 counties give information about permits and zoning in the county
- 40 of the counties put information on their websites about audits that the county government has had performed
- 5 counties give information about their contracts with county vendors
- 0 county websites disclose whether or not they belong to any taxpayer-funded lobbying associations
- 19 counties provide information on how to request public records using the Ohio Open Records Law
- 62 county websites provide some information about county taxes

For more information or to report an error on the Sunshine Review web page, go to http://sunshinereview.org/index.php/Evaluation_of_Ohio_county_websites

STATE ACTIVITIES

ATTORNEY GENERAL & AUDITOR OF STATE ISSUE UPDATED OHIO SUNSHINE LAWS MANUAL

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and Ohio Auditor of State Dave Yost have released the revised and updated version of the Sunshine Laws Manual. This guide, published as a joint venture of both offices, is an open government resource regarding the state's open meetings and public records laws.

To view or download the updated manual, commonly referred to as the "Yellow Book," visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/YellowBook or www.Auditor.state.oh.us

In addition to releasing this guide each year, the Attorney General's office and the Auditor's office promote open government by offering free Sunshine Law Trainings to public officials, as required by law. In 2011, the offices conducted 20 training sessions attended by more than 1,300 people.

Sunshine Law training sessions have been scheduled across the state for 2012. A full schedule is available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/SunshineLawTraining The general public is welcome to attend these trainings.

The Sunshine Laws Manual is intended as a guide. However, because much of open government law is derived from case law or the interpretation of statutes by the courts, local governments are encouraged to seek guidance from their legal counsel when specific legal questions about these laws arise.

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IS MARCH 25-31 - STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL IS MARCH 28

The week of March 25-31 is Ohio's Severe Weather Awareness Week, proclaimed by Governor John Kasich and promoted by the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, to encourage residents to prepare for weather incidents that typically occur during spring and summer months, but they may strike at any time.

As part of a coordinated effort with the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA), the state of Ohio will participate in a statewide tornado drill and test its Emergency Alert System on Wednesday, March 28 at 9:50 a.m. During this time, Ohio counties will sound their outdoor warning sirens. Schools, businesses and households are encouraged to practice their tornado drills and emergency plans. For more information, go to <http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov>

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

NEW PERFORMANCE MEASURE FOR SSBG

The Administration for Children and Families sent an Information Memorandum to Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) state officials announcing the implementation of a performance measure. States will be given a performance score based on the percentage of SSBG funds that were spent as the state indicated in its pre-expenditure report compared to its post-expenditure report.

The score will be based only on funds from the SSBG allocation, not on funds transferred from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The performance score will be calculated based on overall expenditures across all eligible service categories, not for each category. As a result of the new performance measure states will have to submit standardized forms and differentiate between SSBG and TANF transfer expenditures.

The performance measure is believed to be the first of its kind in SSBG. It does not come as a result of new legislation, but the agency has been looking at developing SSBG performance measures for years. To read the memorandum, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/im12-01.html> Contact Marilina Sanz, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4260 or msanz@naco.org

NEW USDA WEBSITE TO HELP COUNTIES PROMOTE LOCAL FOODS & FOOD ACCESS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently introduced a Compass or expansive web resource for the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative. The initiative was launched in 2009 to enhance coordination and efficiency among the various USDA agencies and programs that work to build local and regional farm and food systems. The tool is available to help consumers, farmers and the public sector learn about USDA resources to develop local and regional food enterprises. The Compass creates a record of the impact of several successful programs from the 2008 Farm Bill that need renewal in 2012. Explore the Compass at http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=KYF_COMPASS

RURAL JOBS AND INNOVATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

On March 8, the Obama Administration announced a \$15 million multi-agency Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator challenge that is intended to spur job creation and economic growth in distressed rural communities. This competition, which is being funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), was designed by the Taskforce for the Advancement of Regional Innovation Clusters and the White House Rural Council.

Counties are eligible for components of this funding and should consider partnering with other private, nonprofit and public sector partners in their region to build a competitive application. Winning regions will be able to use funds to support a range of community and economic development activities that build local assets and strengthen links to regional industry clusters and opportunities. It is expected that approximately 20 regions from across the nation will be funded.

The deadline for applications is May 9, 2012. Click on the following link for guidelines <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RuralJobsAccelerator.html> For more information, contact Erik Johnston, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4230 or ejohnston@naco.org

PUBLICATIONS

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES: IS OHIO GETTING ITS SHARE?

While rates of chronic diseases are on the rise, federal funding levels for public health are insufficient and will be made worse by federal deficit reduction efforts—in Ohio and across the United States—according to a new report published by the Center for Community Solutions. “Federal Funding for Public Health and Health Services: Is Ohio Getting its Share?” analyzes funding levels for public health from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and for health services from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The report concludes that:

- Funding for public health is not sufficient to address the effects of chronic disease and increasing rates of obesity and physical inactivity in Ohio.
- The inconsistent nature of federal public health funding does not allow for strategic investments to improve health.
- Different grant opportunities and requirements make it difficult to seek and apply for sufficient funding.

According to the report, Ohio is the seventh most populous state in the U.S., but receives less federal funding for public health and health services than most other populous states. On a per capita basis, Ohio ranks 50th in funding from the CDC and ranks 42ND in funding from HRSA. This analysis explores the numbers behind these rankings and looks at individual grants—some mandatory, some discretionary—awarded to the 10 most populous states. For example,

- Ohio receives more funding for diabetes from the CDC than all other states in this analysis, other than California and Georgia.
- Ohio received \$32 million from HRSA for Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education in FFY 2010, third only to California and Pennsylvania in this analysis.
- The CDC awarded Ohio \$88 million for the Vaccines for Children program in FFY 2010, less than any other state in this analysis.
- Ohio receives less HRSA funding for parts of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program due to less incidence of disease.

Read the report at <http://ccs.affiniscape.com/associations/13078/files/FederalPublicHealthFunding031512.pdf> The Center for Community Solutions identifies community issues, analyzes and explains them, and proposes nonpartisan recommendations to improve health, social, and economic conditions, with a focus on Northeast Ohio. Established in 1913, it is a United Way agency. For more information, contact Tara Dolansky at (614) 545-0764, tdolansky@CommunitySolutions.com or www.CommunitySolutions.com

NACo ACTIVITIES

COUNTY GOVERNMENT WORKS SURVEY – COMPLETE BY MARCH 30

The National Association of Counties (NACo) wants to measure the success of NACo Past President Glen Whitley's 2010 - 2011 Presidential Initiative - County Government Works. The goal of the initiative was to raise public awareness and understanding of county government. Materials and information were placed on NACo's website as part of the initiative to help county officials to participate.

Help NACo measure the involvement of county officials and staff in the initiative by taking this short survey: http://naco.us.qualtrics.com/WRQualtricsSurveyEngine/?Q_SS=eJRvk0oSEEq1Nzu_1YtcqFeeJZ0jV8o&_1
 Participate in the survey by Friday, March 30. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Bill Cramer, NACo Marketing Director, at (202) 942-4264 or bcramer@naco.org

WEBINAR

COUNTY OPERATED SENIOR CARE FACILITIES: REPOSITION, RE-ENGINEER OR RETREAT?

Within the context of health reform and significant financial pressures, counties are revisiting how to provide senior health care services in a high quality, cost-effective manner. This webinar is designed for counties that continue to operate and fund long term care centers. Join NACo on Thursday, April 19 from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. to learn about ways your county can address the challenges inherent in providing senior health services by implementing innovative strategies to provide quality care that can also offer fiscal relief to your county. Register at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/244516370> For more information, contact Anita Cardwell, NACo Senior Associate – Community Services, at (202) 942-4267 or acardwell@naco.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Title	Employer/Application Deadline/For More Information. . .
GIS Coordinator	Henry County Engineer March 30, 2012 http://www.henrycountyengineer.com/index_files/Page3916.htm
JFS Administrator	Defiance County Commissioners April 5, 2012 @ 4:00 p.m. http://www.ccao.org/ClassifiedAds/tabid/180/language/en-US/Default.aspx
Director, Office of Management & Budget	Mahoning County Commissioners April 16, 2012 @ 4:30 p.m. www.mahoningcountyoh.gov
Field Technician (Temporary Position)	Midwest Biodiversity Institute, Inc. (for ODNR Geologic Walk Project at the Ohio State Fairground) April 21, 2012 http://www.ccao.org/Portals/0/Classifieds/MBI%20JOB%20POSTING_FIELD%20TECH%201%202012.pdf



Second Wednesday's

April 11, 2012

Attorney General Local Debt Collection Program— How Counties Can Increase Collections WEBINAR

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour webinar explaining the procedure for local governments to use the Local Government Collection Services program offered by the Ohio Attorney General's office to collect debts due county governments. The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. No need to travel—attend the webinar at your own computer!

The webinar will include:

- How local governments may certify debt to the OAG through a fully automated data file layout provided by the OAG
- How to initiate a memorandum of understanding with local entities to outline the services to be provided and the expectations of both parties
- How the program is funded through a 10% collection fee by the OAG that can be passed along to the debtor
- How the program permits an offset of a debtor's state tax refunds and lottery winnings
- Information on payment processing through credit card, checks, the internet, and a 24 hour interactive phone response system
- Online monitoring and review of accounts through interactive software made available to local entities

The webinar will feature a joint power point presentation by Jill Reardon, Director of Internal Collections and Marcia Macon-Bruce, Section Chief of Collections Enforcement for the Office of Attorney General Mike DeWine. Participants in the webinar may pose questions to the presenters who will respond during and after the presentation. To take advantage of this exceptional educational opportunity, please click on this link:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/548267398>

If for any reason you experience difficulty in connecting to the link listed above and you wish to register for the webinar, please email Amanda Jones, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at ajones@ccao.org and provide her with your email address.

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