



CIDS

County Information and Data Service

Published weekly by: County Commissioners Association of Ohio

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309
Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986 • www.ccao.org

VOLUME XXXXVIII

NO. 41

OCTOBER 19, 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 2012

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY MONTH

DECEMBER 9-11, 2012

CCAO/CEAO WINTER CONFERENCE, GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER, COLUMBUS

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO REVISES COUNTY DATA EXCHANGE BULLETIN ON “ESTIMATE OF CASINO REVENUE FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS”

As noted in last week’s Statehouse Report, casino revenues continue to fall. In light of the September casino revenues, Mike Sobul, the author of the estimates contained in CCAO’s County Data Exchange Bulletin 2012-03 “Estimate of Casino Revenue for County Governments” issued in September, now believes that revenues during the next calendar year will be about 20 to 25 percent below his original estimates. Consequently the numbers reflected in the tables contained in Bulletin 2012-03 may be as much as 20 to 25 percent higher than the actual revenues that will be received for the quarterly revenue distribution periods presented in these Tables.

Mr. Sobul’s revisions reinforce CCAO’s concerns with the unpredictability of this new revenue source’s performance. Given the continual changing circumstances of casino openings, relocations of horse racing tracks, and the timing of installations of VLTs at race tracks it is impossible to attempt to accurately predict what potential casino revenues might look like currently or into the future. CCAO has constantly maintained that an accurate picture of anticipated future casino revenues cannot be garnered until the variables have been removed and there is a substantial track record of receipts over a significant period of time from which a trend for future revenues may be reliably projected.

We urge you to continually check back to [Bulletin 2012-03](#) which we intend to update as current trends and additional information become available. For information regarding this subject contact CCAO staff member John Leutz, CCAO Senior Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7994 or jleutz@ccao.org.

2nd WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES: HOUSING FORECLOSURE CHALLENGE: FORECLOSURE PREVENTION, MEDIATION & LAND BANKING

CCAO encourages commissioners and other county officials to attend the next CCAO 2nd Wednesday Seminar Series on the “Housing Foreclosure Challenge: Foreclosure Prevention, Mediation and Land Banking” on November 14, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The 2nd Wednesday Seminar Series is held at the CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, in Columbus.

In response to the housing foreclosure crisis in Ohio, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency is providing financial assistance to unemployed and underemployed Ohioans utilizing federal foreclosure prevention funding. In addition to financial assistance provided by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, homeowners at risk of foreclosure due to unemployment or underemployment may utilize the Foreclosure Mediation Program offered by the Ohio Supreme Court. When foreclosure prevention fails, local officials in certain counties may utilize land banking in order to assist certain communities with the reclamation, rehabilitation, and reutilization of vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed properties. County officials are encouraged to attend this program to learn more about the assistance that is available for financially troubled homeowners and the option of land banking in certain counties when property has been abandoned or foreclosed.

The 2nd Wednesday sessions are designed to be interactive, allowing ample opportunity for attendees to ask questions and have dialogue directly with speakers. All sessions are free and parking is available in the lot adjacent to the CCAO office. A flyer is attached to this issue of CIDS and posted at www.ccao.org. Coffee will be served during the morning and lunch will be on your own. Best of all, no registration fee will be charged! To register contact Tanya McComas, CCAO Administrative Assistant, at tmccomas@ccao.org. Please include the name and title of those attending and the county, agency or company they represent.

CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN

Join CCAO/CEAO for our 132ND Annual Winter Conference to be held on December 9-11, 2012 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC), 400 North High Street, in downtown Columbus. Registration materials were emailed to county commissioners, county engineers and their staff, CCAO/CEAO affiliate members, and vendors today. For the first time, you have the opportunity to [register for the conference online](#).

In the past, the Conference ended on Wednesday at noon. To save county officials time away from the office and additional lodging cost, the Conference will end this year after the Tuesday Luncheon. All meetings and the trade show will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center which opens up more opportunities for exhibitors to participate, because there are no load limits in the exhibit hall.

Another change is the hotel room blocks. The headquarters hotel will be the *new* [Hilton Downtown Hotel](#), which is connected to the GCCC via an enclosed walkway. The Sunday night reception, hospitality suites, and a block of hotel rooms are at the Hilton. Additional blocks of hotel rooms have been held at the [Drury Inn](#) (Drury group access code – 2151385) and the [Hampton Inn & Suites](#). Click on the hotel reservation links above or see the hotel reservation information on the conference registration form.

A draft agenda and registration materials have been posted at www.ccao.org. Click on the article on the front page.

STATE ACTIVITIES

ODMH, MEDICAID AGENCY LAUNCH FIRST PHASE OF HEALTH HOME PROJECT THAT COULD REACH 178,000

Ohio Medicaid on Monday launched a new benefit in five counties that will serve enrollees with serious and persistent mental illness. The Health Home Initiative, executed in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health (ODMH), will start in Adams, Butler, Lawrence, Lucas, and Scioto counties before being expanded statewide by July 2013.

About 178,000 Ohio Medicaid beneficiaries will be eligible to participate in the Health Homes once the program is rolled out statewide. These consumers with severe and persistent mental illness may choose to participate in the program through community mental health services.

Medicaid Health Homes provide case management that for this population would coordinate mental health services and help participants find a family doctor, pediatrician, nutritionist, dentist or other specialist, according to ODMH. Beneficiaries would also receive reminders about check-ups and preventative health care needs, as well as transportation and child care, if needed.

The initial five counties that began the program October 1 represent rural, suburban and urban populations as well as diversity in the models of care, according to ODMH. They were selected from a letter of intent process in which 80 centers in 85 counties indicated an interest in early participation. The five phase-one counties were chosen based on their readiness. Two additional phases of expansion will follow with 30 counties joining in April and the remaining 53 on board by July in 2013.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

National Adoption Day is Saturday, November 17th. Nearly 400 events will be taking place on or around this day to raise awareness about the 104,000 children in foster care waiting to be adopted. This is a great way for county officials to show that they value family, while raising awareness to their constituents about the most vulnerable members in their community: children in need of families.

Easy Ways to Get Involved in National Adoption Day:

1. Issue a press release to show your concern for children waiting for adoption.
2. Submit an Op Ed to your local paper to raise awareness about the need for adoption.
3. Send a Letter of Commendation to your local NAD event congratulating their efforts.
4. Use your blog, Facebook, or Twitter (use the #nationaladoptionday hashtag) to share messages about foster care and adoption.
5. Attend an event taking place in Ohio.

Be sure to visit <http://www.nationaladoptionday.org/> for additional information or to post an event in your county.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

SYLLABUS

[2012-035](#)

A county auditor that assesses and collects fees from the revenues generated by the county general levy for current expenses within the 10-mill limitation under R.C. 319.54 may not collect fees from the portion of the county general levy for current expenses that is appropriated by the board of county commissioners to the veterans service commission.

NACo ACTIVITIES

NACo REGIONAL DROUGHT MEETING

With more than two-thirds of the nation's counties declared official drought disaster areas, NACo partnered with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to host a regional drought meeting in Douglas County (Omaha), NE on October 9. NACo President Chris Rodgers, Douglas County (NE) Commissioner, served as a co-host of the event and moderator for the opening plenary session where he stressed the need for a comprehensive drought response and a multi-year Farm Bill. The federal resources available for producers, businesses and communities that were discussed at the meeting can be accessed at the [U.S Drought Portal](#). For more

information, please contact Erik Johnston, NACo Program Director - Community Services, at (202) 661-8807 or jdavenport@naco.org.

NACo RECEIVES GRANT TO ASSIST COUNTIES WITH PIPELINE SAFETY

NACo has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The grant will enable NACo to continue to work with elected county officials, county planners and other county staff across the U.S. to manage the risks associated with transmission pipelines, to engage local officials and the public in decision-making processes related to the placement of new pipelines, and to provide information and training about prudent land-use practices adjacent to transmission pipelines. For more information, please contact James Davenport, NACo Program Director - Community Services, at (202) 661-8807 or jdavenport@naco.org.

GRANTS

EPA ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR 2013 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking applicants for a total of \$1.5 million in environmental justice small grants to be awarded in 2013. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution. Grants are available for up to \$30,000 each.

The 2013 grant solicitation is now open and will close on January 7, 2013. Applicants must be incorporated non-profits or tribal organizations working to educate, empower and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. EPA will host four pre-application teleconference calls on October 30, 2012; November 14, 2012; December 1, 2012; and December 13, 2012 to help applicants understand the requirements.

The principles of environmental justice uphold the idea that all communities overburdened by pollution – particularly minority, low income and indigenous communities – deserve the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, equal access to the decision-making process and a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work. Since 1994, the environmental justice small grants program has provided funding in more than 1,300 communities, to community-based non-profit organizations and local governments working to address environmental justice issues. The grants represent EPA's commitment to expand the conversation on environmentalism and advance environmental justice in communities across the nation.

Click on the following links for more information about the [Environmental Justice Small Grants](#) program and the [Environment Justice Small Grants 2013 Request for Proposals and schedule of pre-application teleconference calls](#).

WEBINARS

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH WEBINAR SERIES

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and NACo President Chris Rodgers, Douglas County (NE) Commissioner, is focusing his 2012-13 Presidential Initiative on Cybersecurity. Many counties are responsible for critical infrastructure that is directly tied to cyber networks. It is imperative that county officials and staff are armed with the necessary resources, knowledge, and partnerships necessary to combat the threats.

NACo has teamed up with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Cybersecurity Alliance and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) to bring you the following webinars, sponsored by AT&T, highlighting county government's role in protecting the Nation's cyber infrastructure. These one-hour long webinars begin at 2:00 p.m.

October 24, 2012 - [Recruiting, Hiring and Retaining IT/Cybersecurity Talent](#)

October 31, 2012 - [Federal Cybersecurity Briefing and Potential Impact on County Government](#)

For more information, please contact Bev Schlotterbeck, Executive Editor, NACo County News and NACo web site, at (202)942-4249 or bschlott@naco.org or Jerryl Guy, NACo IT Manager, at (202) 942-4229 or jguy@naco.org

2012 IMPACT OHIO - POST ELECTION CONFERENCE

The 2012 Impact Ohio Post Election Conference will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 North High Street, in downtown Columbus. Held every two years immediately following the general election, Impact Ohio provides fresh insight into Ohio's election results and their likely impact on policy making in the General Assembly and the Governor's Office.

Co-sponsored with the Ohio Democratic Party and the Ohio Republican Party the one-day conference provides a place for elected leaders, policy professionals and media experts to come together to discuss and provide context for the election results and leadership outcomes.

The program features Ohio leaders and experts in their fields speaking to the issues of concern in Ohio...budgets, energy, and health care. And there are sessions planned on politicking with social media, ideas for reforming Ohio's institutions and a look back by media pundits at the 2012 election results. Click here to [register online](#). For an agenda and more information go to www.impactohio.org.

TOP GUN CONSTRUCTION CLAIMS SEMINAR

Bricker & Eckler LLP will present the 10th Annual Top Gun Construction Claims Seminar on Thursday, November 15, 2012 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at The Conference Center at OCLC, 6600 Kilgour Place, in Dublin. CCAO is a co-sponsor of the seminar.

What you will learn: 1) Important contract language, best practices for project documentation, the risks of differing site conditions, delay and lost productivity claims, and the design professional's standard of care. 2) Understand damages and claims. 3) Learn to analyze, prepare for additional compensation or damages. 4) Learn how to manage and resolve construction claims efficiently.

Registration fee: \$199 (by Nov 1 or for co-sponsoring organizations) or \$239 (after Nov. 1). For more information, please contact Amy Abbey at (614) 227-4989, (800) 750-1525 or aabbey@brickler.com or [click here](#) to register online.

SHARED SERVICES EXPO; CCAO TO BE A DISTANCE LEARNING SITE

Across Ohio, communities are utilizing shared services to improve their operations and reduce costs. The Shared Services Expo highlights successful shared services programs and provides practical advice to those interested in collaborative shared service projects.

The Shared Services Expo will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Idea Center, 1375 Euclid Avenue, in Cleveland. The goal of the Expo is to increase the number of effective

shared service programs by providing specific details about the best practices behind the real-world success stories. Keynote speakers will be former U.S. Senator and Cuyahoga County Commissioner George Voinovich, Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald and Controlling Board President & Policy Advisor Randy Cole.

There are three ways to take advantage of this learning opportunity:

- 1) **Onsite Learning** - Preregistration is required for the onsite learning. Registration fee: \$50 (includes continental breakfast, box lunch and conference materials). Register at www.ideastream.org/education.
- 2) **Half-day Webinar at your site** – A half-day webinar option is available for a registration fee of \$75. You have the option of registering a site in your county for more registrants to attend for just one fee. Register at www.ideastream.org/education.
- 3) **Half-day Webinar at the CCAO Office** - CCAO has registered to be a webinar site. You can attend the Shared Services Expo FREE at the CCAO office. More details to follow.

CLASSIFIEDS

Title /For More Information. . .	Employer/Application Deadline
Finance Director	Butler County Commissioners Applications accepted until position is filled