



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. 23

JUNE 14, 2013

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 19, 2013	CCAO SMALL COUNTY AFFAIRS, CONFERENCE CALL
JUNE 19, 2013	CCAO METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS, CONFERENCE CALL
JUNE 20, 2013	CCAO WORKERS' COMP GROUP RATING PLAN ANNUAL MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
JUNE 19-21, 2013	NACo LARGE URBAN COUNTY CAUCUS (LUCC) ANNUAL MEETING, FRANKLIN COUNTY (COLUMBUS)
JUNE 28, 2013	CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING – SENATE DISTRICT 17 – OLD CANAL SMOKEHOUSE, ROSS COUNTY (CHILLICOTHE)
JULY 19-22, 2013	NACo COUNTY SOLUTIONS & MARKETPLACE (ANNUAL CONFERENCE), TARRANT COUNTY (FORT WORTH), TEXAS
JULY 20, 2013	CCAO CAUCUS RECEPTION (<i>HELD DURING THE NACo COUNTY SOLUTIONS & MARKETPLACE</i>), FORT WORTH CONVENTION CENTER, TARRANT COUNTY (FORT WORTH), TEXAS
DECEMBER 8-10, 2013	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE, GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER, COLUMBUS (HEADQUARTERS HOTEL: HYATT REGENCY)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CCAO WORKERS' COMPENSATION GROUP RATING PLAN ANNUAL MEETING

The CCAO Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at the CCAO Offices, 209 East State Street, in Columbus. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10:00 am. County commissioners, loss control coordinators, county auditors, and any additional elected officials or staff are encouraged to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to update members on the performance of the Group Rating Plan and to provide important information that will assist counties in their efforts to prevent workplace injuries and reduce workers' compensation costs. The meeting will also include two hours of safety training. The Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) requires all 2013 Group Rating Plan members to attend two hours of safety training during 2013. Attending this session will meet the requirement for your county.

Group Rating Plan counties received the agenda, minutes from the last meeting and registration forms. In order for us to have an accurate lunch count, please register by Monday, June 17, 2013, by contacting Tricia Callihan, CORSA Program Assistant, at (614) 220-7993, (888) 757-1904 or tcallihan@ccao.org

STATE ACTIVITIES

OHIOANS WITH CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CONTRACTS CAN RE-ENROLL PROPERTY

Landowners with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that expire on September 30, 2013 have the opportunity to re-enroll acreage without competing in the general CRP sign-up, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). CRP is a land conservation program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA). Many choices are available to landowners for automatic acceptance back into CRP through the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).

Landowners statewide may enroll whole or partial fields in the pollinator habitat practice and establish wildflowers. These wildflowers are important for bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. Pollinator species are a vital component for Ohio's agricultural crops. Some programs offer an additional bonus of 40 percent on top of the 50 percent cost-share to establish habitat. Conservation practices not only create wildlife habitat, but also reduce soil erosion and improve the water quality of Ohio's streams, rivers and lakes.

Landowners are encouraged to [contact an ODNR Division of Wildlife private lands biologist](#) for expert guidance on CCRP options. Landowners can also find more information from the [FSA](#). [Read more...](#)

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

PORTMAN INTRODUCES NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY ACT TO AID COMMUNITIES THREATENED BY ABANDONED PROPERTIES

Ohio U.S. Senator Rob Portman introduced the Neighborhood Safety Act, legislation that would allow municipalities and land banks to tap into additional funds to demolish vacant structures, which pose a growing threat to the public safety and economic well-being of our communities. Ohio has nearly 100,000 vacant properties awaiting demolition, posing a significant risk to public safety and drastically decreasing the value of surrounding properties. Municipalities and local land banks have worked collaboratively to demolish vacant properties, but with municipal budgets already stretched, there is little money available to tackle this problem. A companion bill was introduced in the House of Representatives earlier this year by Ohio Representatives David Joyce (Dist. 14-Painesville), Marcy Kaptur (Dist. 9-Toledo) and Marcia Fudge (Dist. 11-Warrensville Heights).

This bill simply states that any amounts of assistance that have been allocated through the Hardest Hit Fund program may be used to demolish blighted structures. Over \$7 billion of Hardest Hit Funds have been appropriated, but are not presently allowed to be used for demolition in states such as Ohio. States that experienced the sharpest decline in home prices during the economic downturn received these funds to help struggling homeowners refinance. [Read more...](#)

USDA SEEKS APPLICATIONS TO FINANCE RURAL BROADBAND IN REMOTE AREAS

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that applications are being accepted for grants to finance broadband deployment in remote, rural areas. The USDA may award up to \$21 million in grants through the Community Connect Grant program. It serves rural communities where broadband service is not available, but where it can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for citizens.

Complementing the funding opportunity, USDA recently announced new rules to better target Community Connect broadband grants to areas where they are needed the most. [Click here](#) to view the rules.

For more information about Community Connect broadband grants, see page 34979 of the June 11, 2013 Federal Register, or visit <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-11/pdf/2013-13827.pdf>. The deadline for submitting applications is July 11, 2013. [Read more...](#)

NACo ISSUES ACTION ALERT ON MUNICIPAL BOND "DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER

A "[Dear Colleague](#)" letter is being circulated in the U.S. House of Representatives, urging lawmakers in the chamber to preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, a priority issue for counties. As tax reform discussions continue in both chambers of Congress, proposals to cap or eliminate the tax-exempt status of municipal bond interest remain on the table. The letter highlights the importance of municipal bond tax-exemptions and invites Members to sign a letter to House leadership expressing concern for proposals to end or cap such exemptions. Contact your Member of Congress and urge them to sign on to the letter. [Read more...](#)

EMINENT DOMAIN BILL MOVES FORWARD IN HOUSE

A measure to limit the use of eminent domain by local governments in economic development efforts has passed the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. [H.R.1944 - Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2013](#) states that property claimed through eminent domain authority could not be used for economic development purposes for a period of seven years if the governmental entity has received any federal economic funding. More of the U.S. House of Representatives, highlighting the importance of municipal bond tax-exemptions and inviting Members to sign a letter to House leadership expressing concern for proposals to end or cap such exemptions. [Read more...](#)

FEMA LOCAL OFFICIALS SURVEY

For the past three years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has conducted an annual nationwide [survey of U.S. local officials](#) and has again asked county officials to participate in this survey. The findings play a vital role in helping FEMA engage and support communities to advance mitigation practices that protect those communities in the event of a natural hazard. Please take the survey by July 1, 2013. [Read more...](#)

FY 2013 PILT PAYMENTS; 45 OHIO COUNTIES WILL RECEIVE \$554,833

The U.S. Department of Interior will be disbursing the FY 2013 "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" (PILT) payments to counties. PILT are Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable Federal lands within their boundaries. The key law is Public Law 94-565, dated October 20, 1976. This law was rewritten and amended by Public Law 97-258 on September 13, 1982 and codified at [Chapter 69, Title 31 of the United States Code](#). The Law recognizes that the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on Federally-owned land can create a financial impact.

Nationwide about 1,900 counties and local governments will be receiving payments totaling nearly \$400 million. The 2013 authorized level is \$421.7 million, which was reduced by \$21.5 million due to sequestration. After administrative expenses, a total of \$399.8 million is allocated for payments to counties. The total of \$399.8 million is the largest amount ever distributed under the PILT program, exceeding last year's payments by about \$7 million. The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only association that lobbies Congress on behalf of PILT funding for counties.

Even though Ohio doesn't have much PILT land, 45 counties will receive \$554,833. [Click here](#) to see the breakdown by county and acres in Ohio.

PILT, enacted in 1976 with NACo's strong support, helps local governments provide essential public services such as education, solid waste disposal, law enforcement, roads and infrastructure, search and rescue, health care, environmental compliance, fire-fighting, parks and recreation and other important community services.

[Read more...](#)

NACo ACTIVITIES

JOIN A 2013-14 NACo STEERING COMMITTEE

Now is the time to get active in the National Association of Counties (NACo) by joining a steering committee! If you have an interest in a specific issue, expertise on a certain topic, or concerns about the impact of federal legislative and policy decisions in your county, then you should consider joining one of NACo's policy steering committees.

NACo member counties serving on one of these committees enables you to become actively involved in NACo's policy process. The steering committees begin the NACo policy process by reviewing federal legislation and policy, and making recommendations on issues that impact counties.

If you are already a member of a committee, you must reapply now, as appointees serve one-year terms. However, you can be reappointed to the same committee for consecutive years. This current nomination process covers appointments from August 2013 through July 2014. The NACo steering committees are listed below:

- [Agriculture & Rural Affairs](#)
- [Community & Economic Development](#)
- [Environment, Energy & Land Use](#)
- [Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Human Services & Education](#)
- [Justice & Public Safety](#)
- [Labor & Employment](#)
- [Public Lands](#)
- [Telecommunications & Technology](#)
- [Transportation Steering Committee](#)

Steering committee applications must be submitted to CCAO – not NACo. Here are the important points to remember:

- Fill out and submit a [2013-14 NACo Steering Committee Nomination Form](#) to CCAO by Friday, **June 21, 2013**. Send your form to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, via email at mjneiman@ccao.org or fax at (614) 221-6986.
- Mark on the nomination form your first and second choices of steering committees
- Members of NACo affiliate organizations who want to serve on a steering committee should follow the same process.

CCAO/NACo makes every effort to accommodate nominees' first choice of steering committee assignments. Committee appointees serve for one-year and cannot transfer membership to another committee, or serve on

more than one steering committee, during that year. For more information, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979 or mjneiman@ccaao.org

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES THROUGH LET'S MOVE! CITIES, TOWNS & COUNTIES

First Lady Michelle Obama calls on local leaders to take action to prevent childhood obesity and to make their communities a healthier place to live. Join this NACo webinar on Wednesday, June 19 at 2:00 p.m. to learn about tools, resources and recognition opportunities available to counties through “Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties” and hear about ways that counties have enhanced their local efforts in promoting improved nutrition and increased physical activity in their communities. [Click here](#) to register.

BUILDING VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMIES: CONNECTING REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

County and regional leaders are integrating food systems into economic development plans. These efforts are reinvigorating rural economies to foster economic development connected to local, agricultural economies. Join NACo on Thursday, June 20 at 2:00 p.m. to learn about national trends and hear from HUD Sustainable Communities grantees. [Click here](#) to register.

CLASSIFIEDS

Title /For More Information. . .	Employer/Application Deadline
Dog Warden/Shelter Administrator	June 21, 2013 Fairfield County
Director	July 8, 2013 Allen County JFS