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# CIDS

## County Information and Data Service

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 20, 2014	CCAO GENERAL GOVERNMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
MARCH 21, 2014	CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS
MARCH 24, 2014	CCAO TAXATION & FINANCE AND JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEES CONFERENCE CALL
MARCH 28, 2014	CORSA RENEWAL MEETING, EMBASSY SUITES - AIRPORT, COLUMBUS
MARCH 31, 2014	NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS QUARTERLY MEETING, BUCYRUS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, CRAWFORD COUNTY (BUCYRUS)
APRIL 2014	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH ( <i>see article under County Activities</i> )
APRIL 9, 2014	FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT – A SECOND WEDNESDAY WEBINAR
APRIL 11, 2014	CEBCO ANNUAL MEETING, DOUBLETREE COLUMBUS-WORTHINGTON, WORTHINGTON
APRIL 25, 2014	CCC/EAPA REGIONAL MEETING, WOOD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, WOOD COUNTY (BOWLING GREEN)
MAY 15-16, 2014	OHIO COURTHOUSES SYMPOSIUM, DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS
JULY 11-14, 2014	NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION, ORLEANS PARISH (NEW ORLEANS), LOUISIANA

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

#### REMINDER: ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO ATTEND CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

This is a reminder that all county commissioners, county executives, and county council members are welcome and invited to attend the CCAO Board of Directors meetings. The next CCAO Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Friday, March 21. In order to include everyone who plans to attend in the lunch count, please RSVP to Kathy Dillon, Office Manager & Boards' Liaison, at [kathydillon@ccao.org](mailto:kathydillon@ccao.org) on or before March 17 if you will be attending the meeting. Also, please feel free to contact Kathy Dillon should you have any additional questions.

## FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT WEBINAR

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday webinar on the “Family and Medical Leave Act” on April 9, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Marc Fishel, Esq. of Fishel Hass Kim Albrecht LLP will discuss the following topics relating to the FMLA: determining a serious health condition, rules concerning coordination of paid leave with FMLA, abuse of FMLA, eligibility requirements, rules for military related leave, and medical certification.

Participants in the webinar may pose questions to the presenters who will respond during and after the power point presentation. To register for this exceptional educational opportunity, please click on this link: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/662000454> If you experience difficulty in connecting to the link and you wish to register for the webinar, please email Amanda Jones, CCAO Program Assistant, at [ajones@ccao.org](mailto:ajones@ccao.org) and provide her with your email address. Space is limited for this webinar, so register early. If you have questions regarding registering for the webinar, please contact Amanda at the email address listed above. For additional information regarding the topic for this webinar, please contact Brad Cole, CCAO Managing Director of Research at [bcole@ccao.org](mailto:bcole@ccao.org) [Read more...](#)

## COUNTY OFFICIALS CONVERGE ON STATEHOUSE

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) converged on the Statehouse on Tuesday evening, March 11 for a Legislative Reception. The reception was timely, since the Governor rolled out his mid-biennium review budget bill this week. CCAO is very interested in several aspects surrounding possible tax reform, including the following:

- CCAO is urging that tax reform done at the state level not reduce revenues to counties’ general funds, particularly with respect to the Local Government Fund.
- CCAO is urging that the severance tax be increased to a reasonable level and shared with the impacted counties, and that tax reform in this area also not negatively impact the Local Government Funds which supports all counties’ general funds.



Shelby Co. Commissioners A. Bornhorst & J.Ehemann, Rep. Buchy, Engineer B. Geuy, Commissioner R.Guillozet & Sheriff J. Lenhart



Rep. Conditt, Sen. Coley, Rep. Retherford, Butler Co. Recorder D. Crank and Commissioner T.C. Rogers

Thanks to all the county commissioners and council members that attended the OCCO reception. [Click here](#) for the related story in the Statehouse Report.

## CRAWFORD COUNTY TO HOST NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

Join Crawford County Commissioners Steve Reinhard, Jenny Vermillion, and Doug Weisenauer and County Engineer Mark Baker for the NW District Commissioners and Engineers Quarterly Meeting to be held on Monday, March 31, 2014. Registration, social hour, dinner, and the quarterly meeting will take place at the Bucyrus Community Hospital (Avita Health Systems), 629 North Sandusky Avenue, in Bucyrus.

Tours: 1) Industrial tour: GE facilities, Covert Manufacturing, and Kurtzman Art Institute; and 2) History tour: D. Pickings Company/Bucyrus Historical Society, Crestline Historical Society/Shunk Museum, and Galion Historical Society/Brownella Cottage.

The social hour, dinner, and business meeting will be held after the tours at 5:00 p.m. Registration deadline: March 21, 2014. Registration fee: \$5. For more information, please contact Angie Chandler, Assistant Clerk or Jenny Vermillion, County Commissioner, at (419) 562-5876 or Mark Baker, County Engineer, at (419) 562-7731. [Read more...](#)

## STAFF NEWS

### HAPPY “60<sup>TH</sup>” BIRTHDAY TO JOHN!

Please join the CCAO staff in wishing Senior Policy Analyst John Leutz a very happy “60<sup>th</sup>” birthday. John’s official birthday was March 12, but we have been celebrating and reminding him of this milestone birthday for several weeks! When asked about his birthday, John replies that he’s trying to get his golf score closer to his age. John will be practicing for a while. Happy Birthday, John!



## COUNTY ACTIVITIES

### NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH



Since 1991, CCAO has encouraged counties to actively promote county government programs and services. 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.

This year's theme, established by the National Association of Counties (NACo), is “Ready and Resilient Counties: Prepare. Respond. Thrive.” Counties may focus on how they prepare and respond to natural disasters and emergencies or any situation that the counties may face, such as economic recovery or public health and safety challenges.

*Your county may establish another theme to celebrate NCGM.* The ultimate goal is to celebrate NCGM and host a variety of community outreach events and activities to include:

- lead county facility tours,
- recognize county employees and volunteers,
- distribute information about county programs and services,
- sponsor student essay or art contests,
- meet with business and community leaders, and
- adopt resolutions.

Resources prepared by NACo to help you plan NCGM:

Plan: [2014 NCGM planning booklet](#)  
[Sample Proclamation](#)

Teach: Tell community and county residents [Why Counties Matter](#)  
Reach teachers and school-age children with [County Government Works](#)

Advertise: [NCGM poster](#)  
[“Ready and Resilient” poster](#)  
[County Government Month logo 1](#)  
[County Government Month logo 2](#)

Send information about your activities to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at [mjneiman@ccao.org](mailto:mjneiman@ccao.org).

## STATE ACTIVITIES

### OHFA AWARDS 11 COUNTIES A PORTION OF \$49.5 MILLION TO TACKLE BLIGHTED COMMUNITIES

The [Ohio Housing Finance Agency \(OHFA\)](#) announced the recipients of a program designed to help prevent foreclosures and stabilize local property values through the demolition of vacant and blighted homes across the state. The following counties with established land banks were awarded a portion of more than \$49.5 million available through the first funding round of the [Neighborhood Initiative Program \(NIP\)](#).

- Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation – \$10,118,750
- Lucas County Land Reutilization Corporation – \$6,000,000
- Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation – \$5,825,000
- The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority– \$5,065,000
- Montgomery County Land Reutilization Corporation – \$5,055,000
- Mahoning County Land Reutilization Corporation – \$4,266,250
- City of Canton – \$4,235,000
- Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation – \$3,221,250
- Lorain County Port Authority– \$3,005,000
- Summit County Land Reutilization Corporation – \$2,000,000
- Richland County Land Reutilization Corporation – \$773,750

OHFA received approval in August from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to utilize up to \$60 million of the state's remaining [Hardest Hit Funds](#) to prevent future foreclosures by stemming the decline in home values in communities affected negatively by vacant and blighted properties. Treasury allocated \$570.4 million of Hardest Hit Funds to OHFA in 2010 to administer the state's foreclosure prevention program, [Save the Dream Ohio](#).

OHFA will award the remaining NIP funds during a second funding round later this year. For additional information regarding NIP, please contact OHFA at (888) 362-6432. Save the Dream Ohio offers programs for homeowners struggling to pay their mortgages. Homeowners may apply for assistance online at [www.savethedream.ohio.gov](http://www.savethedream.ohio.gov) or by calling (888) 404-4674. [Read more...](#)

### OAG SAYS COUNTIES CAN'T CHARGE FOR ONLINE DOCUMENTS

Attorney General Mike DeWine said that county auditors can satisfy the state's public records law by posting documents online, but advised against charging a fee. The issue of charging fees to access documents posted online addresses a subject that has surfaced several times in the legislature as local governments seek to recoup their costs for complying with the state's public records law. Auditor Dave Yost asked Mr. DeWine to determine whether the Monroe County auditor can charge users of the agency's online public records portal a \$15 monthly subscription fee to recoup the cost of contracting with a private company to build and maintain the online service.

The attorney general said posting documents online meets the law's requirement for a county auditor to make public records "available for inspection." However, the law does not authorize a county auditor to charge a fee for making public records available on a county website. [OAG Opinion 2014-09](#) also rejects the notion that allowing people to save or print online public records equates to requesting a copy of the documents, for which agencies should be allowed to charge.

## STATE OFFERING TO SHARE PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE OPPORTUNITY

If your county is considering acquiring a new phone system, please note that the State of Ohio is offering the chance to piggyback onto a contract they have entered into to replace their legacy phone system. The more users that join, the more savings that can be generated. The new system is called the [State of Ohio Next Generation Telephony Service](#) (NGTS). The NGTS introduces many new features designed to help reduce costs and enable public employees and local government to serve constituents more efficiently, such as Voice over IP, audio conferencing, and video conferencing. The program is designed to significantly reduce phone service costs and greatly improve voice and video conferencing communications both internally and externally. More information on NGTS, [click here](#) or contact Christopher Burns at (614) 634-3200.

## **FEDERAL ACTIVITIES**

### FLOOD INSURANCE BILL CLEARS CONGRESS, HEADS TO PRESIDENT'S DESK

The National Association of Counties (NACo) applauded the U.S. Senate for passing legislation that addresses concerns about rising flood insurance premiums across America. The [Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014](#) (H.R. 3370) passed the Senate by a vote of 72-22. The bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives on March 4, now moves to the President's desk for his signature.

H.R. 3370 is in response to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12), signed into law in July of 2012, which aimed to make the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) more financially stable by reflecting true flood risks in communities. NACo and county leaders raised concerns that implementation of BW-12 resulted in some unintended consequences, including rapidly increasing flood insurance premiums in local communities.

According to the Government Accountability Office, properties in 2,930 counties had subsidized policies as of June 2012. Many low-lying areas contain lower income and/or middle income resident and business properties, which cannot absorb high insurance premiums. [Read more...](#)

## **NACo ACTIVITIES**

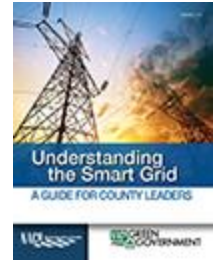
### 2014 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards Program is a non-competitive program that recognizes innovative county government programs in a variety of categories. Applications are based on their own merits according to the criteria outlined in the application. Outstanding programs from each category may be selected as the Best of Category. If the program has won an award in the past, that program is not eligible for another award unless the program has made substantial and significant changes since the previous award was received.

For 2014 applications, all programs must have become operational after January 1, 2009, county officials and/or staff must have played a significant role in developing and implementing the program as part of their official duties, all steps in the application process must be followed, all application fees must be paid in full, and the program must meet the criteria outlined in the application. Application deadline: March 31, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. For more information on the Achievement Awards program, please contact Yael Lazarus, NACo Professional Development, Education, and Training division at (202) 661-8819 or [ylazarus@naco.org](mailto:ylazarus@naco.org) [Click here](#) for application information.

## SMART GRID ENERGY GUIDE

NACo's Green Government Initiative has released "Understanding the Smart Grid: A Guide for County Leaders" to help county officials better understand the role they can play in advancing energy technology through the adoption of and investment in smart grid technologies. Case studies highlight ways to support innovative advancements in energy infrastructure. [Read more...](#)



## CREATING CONSULTATION ZONES FOR PIPELINE SAFETY

NACo has produced a "Creating Consultation Zones for Pipeline Safety" fact sheet to provide an introduction to consultation zones as a recommended practice for how local governments can apply their land use and development authority to reduce pipeline safety risks to overall public health. [Read more...](#)

## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### AMERICA'S PREPAREATHON!

In support of Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), National Preparedness, [America's PrepareAthon!](#) is launching its first national day of action this year on April 30, 2014. Targeting the grassroots level, America's PrepareAthon! is a nation-wide campaign to encourage the public to practice specific preparedness actions. Communities are better prepared to withstand an emergency and recover more quickly if everyone is involved. Events and activities will be held twice yearly to encourage individuals to discuss, practice and train for relevant hazards. The focus of the first national day of action will be on preparedness for tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires.

Two informational webinars will be held next week. Each webinar will be recorded and available to view at a later time. For webinar questions, please contact [PrepareAthon@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:PrepareAthon@fema.dhs.gov)

- Webinar 1: March 18, 2014 - 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.  
Register [here](#) (please register prior to webinar). Click [here](#) on the day of the webinar to log-in.
- Webinar 2: March 20, 2014 - 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
Register [here](#) (please register prior to webinar). Click [here](#) on the day of the webinar to log-in.

## EXPORTING U.S. AERONAUTICAL PRODUCTS

The U.S. Department of Commerce seminar series will present "Practical Tips for Suppliers of Civil Aircraft and Aircraft Parts to Increase Exports" on Thursday, March 20, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The seminar will be held at the Crowne Plaza Dayton, 33 East Fifth Street, in Dayton. It will also be available as a webinar. This seminar will increase your understanding of FAA and foreign civil aviation authority requirements to help speed your shipments to overseas customers. [Click here](#) for registration and additional information.

## ASSESSING PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY: A PRIMER FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Join NACo on Thursday, March 27, 2014 from 2:00-3:15 p.m. for a webinar that defines the challenges and opportunities related to pipeline safety in local communities, while detailing the roles county leaders can play in ensuring pipeline safety. The webinar will also highlight two local examples of counties that have incorporated pipeline safety measures into their zoning ordinances and outreach strategies. Additionally, the webinar will provide resources and tools that are helpful for counties interested in learning more about approaches to pipeline safety. [Register here...](#)

## SERB ACADEMY

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) will host their two-day Academy for newcomers to public-sector collective bargaining on March 31 to April 1, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza, 600 Metro Place North, in Dublin. The Academy is for new managers, new employee organization officials, staff, and members, and for people who are or will be working in positions where they need to know how Ohio's law governs labor relations in the public sector. Topics to be reviewed include representation, dispute settlement, and unfair labor practices matters, covering the law, the administrative rules, and the day-to-day procedures of the agency.

Registration fee: \$275 (includes all sessions, course materials, continental breakfast, and lunch). For more information, please contact Tammy Johnson at (614) 466-1126 or [timothea.johnson@serb.state.oh.us](mailto:timothea.johnson@serb.state.oh.us). [Register here...](#)

## HUMAN SERVICES INSTITUTE

The Center for Community Solutions is hosting the [72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Human Services Institute](#) "Overcoming Barriers to Employment" from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on April 17, 2014 at The Job Center, 1040 East Tallmadge Avenue, in Akron. There is no charge to attend. [Register here...](#)

The keynote speaker will be Thomas Dubois, Director of New Initiatives, Instituto del Progreso Latino, in Chicago. Learn how some organizations are successfully tearing down the complex barriers to employment, such as poverty, limited language proficiency, and low levels of education. Following the keynote address, there will be small group discussions focusing on: literacy in the workplace facilitated The Literacy Cooperative, re-entry and employment facilitated by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, and work experience programs facilitated by Summit County Executive Russell Pry.

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

<b>Title /For More Information. . .</b>	<b>Employer/Application Deadline</b>
<b>OMB Director</b>	Lucas County March 19, 2014
<b>Child Support Staff Attorney</b>	Fairfield County March 21, 2013
<b>Workforce Investment Board Administrator</b>	Clermont County April 3, 2014
<b>Design Engineer</b>	Geauga County Open until filled
<b>Senior Manager/Sanitary Engineer Dept.</b>	Greene County Open until filled
<b>HR Director</b>	Portage County Open until filled
<b>Child Support Enforcement Program Administrator</b>	Clark County Open until filled (first reading of resumes on March 17, 2014)
<b>HR &amp; Support Services Deputy Director</b>	Stark County JFS Open until filled
<b>Fiscal Officer</b>	Cuyahoga County Open until filled
<b>Caseworker</b>	Clinton County JFS Open until filled