DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 21-25, 2015  NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

FEBRUARY 25, 2015  CEBCO AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REGIONAL SEMINAR, HOWARD JOHNSON INN, LIMA

FEBRUARY 27, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, RED PIG INN, PUTNAM COUNTY (OTTAWA)

FEBRUARY 27, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, BASS PRO SHOP, WOOD COUNTY (ROSSFORD)

MARCH 2, 2015  CCAO WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE MEETING, TOLEDO AREA (LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED)

MARCH 2, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, PUMP HOUSE CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ROSS COUNTY (CHILlicothe)

MARCH 3, 2015  CEBCO AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REGIONAL SEMINAR, THE GALAXY RESTAURANT, WADSWORTH

MARCH 4, 2015  STATEHOOD DAY, STATEHOUSE ATRIUM, COLUMBUS

MARCH 9, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, EAGLE STICKS, MUSKINGUM COUNTY (ZANESVILLE)

MARCH 9, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, THE BRIDGE, SHELBY COUNTY (SIDNEY)

MARCH 10, 2015  CCAO TAXATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

MARCH 10, 2015  CEBCO AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REGIONAL SEMINAR OHIO UNIVERSITY INN, ATHENS

MARCH 11, 2015  GOVERNMENTAL ENERGY AGGREGATION – A CCAO 2nd Wednesday Webinar

MARCH 13, 2015  CCAO JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS

MARCH 16, 2015  CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, ROSA & ROCCO’S, MARION COUNTY (MARION)
ASSOCIATION NEWS

**CCAO WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE MEETING - MARCH 2nd**

CCAO has established a new CCAO Water Quality Taskforce that will be co-chaired by Commissioners Pete Gerken (Lucas) and Doug Spencer (Auglaize). A roundtable discussion was held at the CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference dealing with water quality issues. To continue that discussion, a one-day meeting of the task force has been scheduled for anyone interested in water quality issues on Monday, March 2, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the University of Toledo’s Lake Erie Center, 6200 Bayshore Road, in Oregon.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Proposed legislation for the 131st General Assembly on water quality (SB 1 and HB 61)
- Federal legislation and support
- Academic/University update
- Next steps

Lunch will be served. Please RSVP your attendance by March 27 to Brian Mead, CCAO Policy Analyst, at (614) 220-7982.

**FOR ALL COUNTIES....HEALTH AND WELLNESS 2015/CEBCO ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING**

Save the date! The County Employee Benefits Consortium on Ohio (CEBCO) is hosting its annual membership meeting on April 1, 2015 at the Marriott Columbus Airport, 1375 N. Cassady Avenue, in Columbus. Topics include “Understanding Your ACA Responsibilities” plus a look at the latest tools for partnering with your employees to hold down health costs. Watch for details in future editions of CIDS. Whether you are a CEBCO or not, this will be informative for anyone managing a county employee health plan.
GOVERNMENTAL ENERGY AGGREGATION WEBINAR – MARCH 11

CCAO is pleased to offer a one-hour “Governmental Energy Aggregation” webinar on March 11 at 9:30 a.m. Both electric and natural gas governmental opt-out electric aggregation is permissible in the State of Ohio. There are some obvious differences between the two types of aggregation while others are more subtle. Both could create issues or challenges for elected officials to identify and consider when deciding if governmental opt-out aggregation makes sense for their community. Here are some items that will be covered in the webinar:

- Background of electric and natural gas choice in Ohio
- Key differences between natural gas and electric aggregation in Ohio
- Steps to setting up both electric and natural gas aggregation
- Utility pricing differences on natural gas across Ohio
- Utility pricing differences on electricity in Ohio
- Electric and natural gas utility auction timing and duration
- General geography where aggregation is permissible and where it isn’t
- Evaluation of what is “savings” from a community and customer’s perspective

Bring your thinking caps with you as the decisions you make for your facilities on energy pricing matters may not be same as what you make or would like to make for consumers that participate in governmental aggregation. Our speakers are from Palmer Energy Company, the company that manages the CCAO Service Corporation Natural Gas, Electric and Energy Conservation Programs. Mark R. Frye, President, and Kirkland Mizerek, Executive Vice President, both have years of experience in energy consulting and conservation.

Webinar participants may pose questions to the presenters who will respond during and after the power point presentation. There is no charge to attend. To register, please click here. If you experience difficulty in connecting to the link above and wish to register for the webinar, please email Amanda Jones, CCAO Program Assistant, and provide her with your name, title, and email address. Webinar participation is limited to the first 100 to sign-on to the webinar that morning. For additional information regarding the topic for this webinar, please contact Brad Cole, CCAO Managing Director of Research. Read more…

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT – WHAT’S NEXT?

CCAO/CEBCO invites you to attend one of our 2015 ACA training sessions on the “Cadillac Tax” and some specific, new employer reporting requirements of the Affordable Care Act. These provisions will affect what you do in 2015 and beyond. Marc Fishel of Fishel Hass Kim Albrecht LLC will present and answer your questions on these and other ACA-related topics.

Sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. We welcome staff and elected officials from all counties to participate. Choose the location and date that works for you:

- February 25 Howard Johnson Inn, 1920 Roschman Avenue, Lima
- March 3 The Galaxy Restaurant, 201 Park Centre Drive, Wadsworth
- March 10 Ohio University Inn, 331 Richland Avenue, Athens
- March 17 The Roberts Center, 123 Gano Road, Wilmington
- March 24 CCAO, 209 E. State Street, Columbus

There is no charge to attend the training sessions. Lunch will be served following the session. To help us have proper seating and refreshments, please RSVP your attendance five days before the session to Melissa Bodey at (614) 220-7997 or Wendy Dillingham at (614) 220-7992.
REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS SCHEDULED IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

As the 131st General Assembly convenes, CCAO is scheduling regional legislative briefings for commissioners, county executives and council members, and legislators at locations across the state. Meetings have been organized around legislative district lines. These events are designed as an opportunity to allow you to meet with your legislators and your fellow commissioners to articulate and explore the common problems and concerns that county and state government have in serving their constituents, the people of Ohio.

The 11 events which have been scheduled are listed above in Dates to Remember. Commissioners, county executives and county council members were emailed a memo, briefing schedule, and sample press release from CCAO. CCAO will be sending an invitation to each legislator. We also encourage you to invite other county elected officials and your key staff to attend.

STATE ACTIVITIES

JUVENILE JUSTICE COALITION OFFERS SERVICES TO COUNTIES

The Juvenile Justice Coalition (JJC) is a statewide advocacy group working to improve Ohio’s juvenile justice system. The JJC works on state legislative and regulatory advocacy and with youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system. The JJC recently shared with CCAO that they are able to provide technical assistance to courts and county stakeholders, including presentations on the juvenile justice system, data analysis at the county level, and information on best practices, funding resources, and model programs. For more information, contact Erin Davies, Executive Director, at (614) 400-5548.

CELEBRATE OHIO SAVES WEEK FEB 23-27 BY MAKING THE PLEDGE TO SAVE!

Ohio Saves is a campaign is being held from February 23-27, 2015 to connect Ohioans with free resources to help them save money, pay down debt, and build wealth. Coordinated by Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Saves is a part of the national America Saves campaign to encourage people to establish a regular habit of saving a little from each paycheck.

Did You Know?

- Only 54% of Americans say they have a savings plan with specific goals.
- Only 43% of American say they have a spending plan that allows them to save enough money to achieve the goals of their savings plan.
- Only 66% of America have sufficient emergency funds for unexpected expenses like car repairs or a doctor’s visit.

Click on one of the following links for a letter explaining the campaign or a flyer to post in county offices. Become an Ohio Saver today at www.ohiosaves.org!

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS GRANTS

Community Connectors is one of the key education initiatives announced by Governor Kasich at his 2014 State of the State address to support Ohio’s schools by fostering increased student mentorship by bringing together families, community organizations, faith-based organizations, businesses, and others in support of our schools and to
mentor students. Community Connectors provides $10 million in 3-to-1 matching grants that will help give more Ohio students access to role models who can help motivate and inspire them, as well as help them develop skills that lead to success in school and the workplace.

Application deadline: 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2015. Click here for frequently asked questions. Please email info@communityconnectors.ohio.gov if you have any questions.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

RURAL PROJECT MARKETPLACE: A NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development and the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) have announced a new CDFA/USDA Rural Development Partnership: the Rural Project Marketplace. This online Rural Project Marketplace is a unique business outreach tool will bring together rural communities and private sector investors to connect rural projects with financing/funding.

The Rural Project Marketplace will take place on March 23-24, 2015 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Rural communities of all sizes are invited to present their projects for funding/financing while the marketplace is open with the goal of matching communities with private sector financing partners. The private sector is actively looking for rural projects to invest in and the marketplace is a great opportunity to get your project noticed.

If you are a rural community and would like to participate, click here complete a one-page online survey to provide information about your project to allow CFDA/USDA to market the potential projects to private sector participants. If you meet the criteria for presenting, CDFA will then follow up with logistics for presenting at the marketplace.

Please promote the Rural Project Marketplace to your county to anyone you believe could benefit from this funding opportunity. For more information, please contact Katherine Sims, Resources Coordinator, Council of Development Finance Agencies, (614) 705-1308 or ksims@cdfa.net.

USDA ANNOUNCES $9 MILLION TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced the availability of $9 million in funding to assist low-income individuals and communities in developing local and independent food systems. NIFA is funding the grants through the Community Food Projects Program (CFP), authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill).

Community Food Projects involve the entire food system. Projects assess strengths and establish connections among existing food systems, resulting in improved food systems that support self-reliance. Grants are intended to help eligible, private, nonprofit entities in need of a one-time installment of federal assistance to establish and carry out multipurpose community food projects. Projects are funded from $10,000 to $300,000 and up to 36 months. All grants require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources. Applications deadline: March 17, 2015. Please see the request for applications for specific program requirements. Read more...

GRANTS

MACARTHUR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES $75 MILLION FOR JAIL REFORM

The MacArthur Foundation has announced an opportunity to undertake local jail reform through its new Safety and Justice Challenge, a five-year $75 million investment that seeks to reduce...
over-incarceration in jails. The Challenge is looking to improve local criminal justice systems across the country and safely reduce jail incarceration - with a particular focus on addressing disproportionate impact on low-income individuals and communities of color. Selected sites will reveal new and better ways of targeting resources, more effective risk assessment to determine if confinement is really necessary, and better public safety returns and social outcomes. Application deadline: March 31, 2015. Click here for more information about the Challenge and click here for the RFP.

For further guidance, the MacArthur Foundation will host three live webinars to walk applicants through how the competition will work and answer any queries you might have about the application process. The webinars will take place on the dates below; registration is necessary to participate. To register, send an email to safetyandjustice@macfound.org and indicate which webinar you plan to attend:

- Wednesday, February 25 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 26 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 3 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT DELIVERY MODELS AND THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS

Join Bricker & Eckler for a one-day seminar on “Project Delivery Models and the Competitive Bidding Process for Public Projects” on Friday, March 27, 2015. This program blends a traditional morning session of instruction with an interactive afternoon session during which attendees work in groups to experience the delivery model selection and procurement process through a mock project, immediate feedback from the speakers, and questions and answers from participants.

The seminar registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the seminar starting at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 4:45 p.m. at the Conference Center at OCLC, 6600 Kilgour Place, in Dublin. Tuition: early bird (available through March 13) or members of sponsoring organization (CCAO is a co-sponsor): $199; or regular registration: $239. Two or more from the same organization or Top Gun attendees – call Traci Graham at (614) 227-4941 for special pricing. Tuition includes breakfast, lunch and all handout materials.

Click here to register and for continuing education credit information.

CLASSIFIEDS

CCAO publishes classified ads on our website and in CIDS. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will be published on the website until the application deadline and for several weeks in CIDS. When submitting your ad to CCAO, please provide a link to the online job posting and a deadline date. Email your classified ad to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate.

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