



Every quarter we feature a photo from one of our member governments. This quarter: Butler County and the City of Hamilton (Photo courtesy of [www.hamilton-oh.gov](http://www.hamilton-oh.gov))

### Highlights of this Issue:

- **CLG Recently held a Combined HR/AP Virtual Training**
- **CLG Website Redesign Underway**
- **Covid-19 Resource Center Continues to Grow**



### Regular Features:

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## The Center for Local Government 2nd Quarter Newsletter

### CLG Studying Potential Offsite Data Backup RFQ

CLG staff and a group of governments are considering publishing an RFQ for offsite data backup. This will be aimed at Ohio's Information Technology Centers (ITCs). ITCs are centralized entities established by the State to provide information technology services to school districts on a regional level. This includes services such as IT security and off-site data backup for both school districts and other government entities.

The initial stages of this project date back to the end of April, when we distributed a short email to our membership to gauge interest in a new shared service opportunity dealing with data backup. The idea for this opportunity came about through conversations between CLG and a local ITC, the Hamilton Clermont Cooperative. Based on initial interest levels, a taskforce was formed to discuss strategies to bolster offsite data backup capabilities; something that has been front of mind due to the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Focusing an RFQ on ITCs has advantages: It will allow governments to examine the capabilities of Ohio's regional ITCs, as they may be best equipped to handle the needs of local government entities in this region when compared to a large corporation such as Microsoft or Amazon, which have also been discussed. With regards to a potential data backup strategy, data security and bandwidth are top priorities for the taskforce participants. These will continue to be high priorities going forward with any potential vendor selections.

As for next steps, we will research benchmark RFQs that meet the needs of the task force. Additional input will be sought from members on strategies that meet their individual needs. The next task force meeting will be scheduled once viable options are identified on how to best proceed with the RFQ process. To date, Wyoming, Sharonville and Washington Township have participated in taskforce meetings, with three other communities showing interest.

Data security and backup are issues that affect governments everywhere. We encourage you to learn more about this effort. If you are interested in more information on the RFQ or the Data Backup Task Force, please contact CLG Assistant Director Cody Smith at (513) 741-7999 or [CSmith@C4LG.org](mailto:CSmith@C4LG.org).



# The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

## Effective Governance Through Collaboration

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Sharonville, OH 45241

### ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION:

The Center for Local Government (CLG) located in Cincinnati, OHIO is a unique non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, created in 1990 as a clearing-house for inter-governmental collaboration, training and information sharing. CLG membership consists of 57 local government in 6 counties.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jim Lukas, City of Sharonville  
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### STAFF:

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Cody Smith, Assistant Director, [csmith@c4lg.org](mailto:csmith@c4lg.org)

## CLG'S COVID RESOURCE CENTER CONTINUES TO GROW

The Covid-19 outbreak is not going away anytime soon. As we deal with reopenings, new waves of virus, changing guidance, regulations from the State and Federal governments, and public safety issues, this situation is fluid as ever. [Back in March, CLG launched its Covid-19 Resource Page.](#) At the time, the purpose of this page was to help governments benchmark off of each other as they were reacting the phased shut-down of the economy. Once "reopening" began in May, we adjusted the page to help governments benchmark their strategies. This includes tracking the following:

- Responsible Restart Ohio
- REDI Cincinnati's Covid resources
- Two CLG spot surveys:
  - ◇ [Reopening Plans](#): This survey included things such as reopening government buildings to the public, whether a government was going to open its inside spaces up to rentals from outside groups, and what personnel policies governments were considering. As we moved on from the initial opening stages, this survey closed, but the information is still available on CLG's website.
  - ◇ [Parks and Recreation](#): This covered things like sports leagues, playgrounds, indoor recreation facilities, and similar topics. This survey is still open, and I encourage your community to take it if you have not already.
- Finally, on the request of one of our member governments, we have e-mailed our membership to identify whether governments were amending their reopening policies based on the recent uptick in Covid cases. **Again, we strongly encourage you to contact Cody Smith ([CSmith@C4LG.org](mailto:CSmith@C4LG.org)) with whatever adjustments you are making.** As we said earlier, this is a fluid situation. The more information we can collect, the more you have at your disposal as you attempt to make health conscious decisions that are in line with your peer communities.

Thank you all for your hard work through this pandemic. We will be in touch as the summer goes on in order to make sure we are getting you the best information possible. Also thank you for sending us your internal information. The more information we have, the better the benchmarking we can provide.



# The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

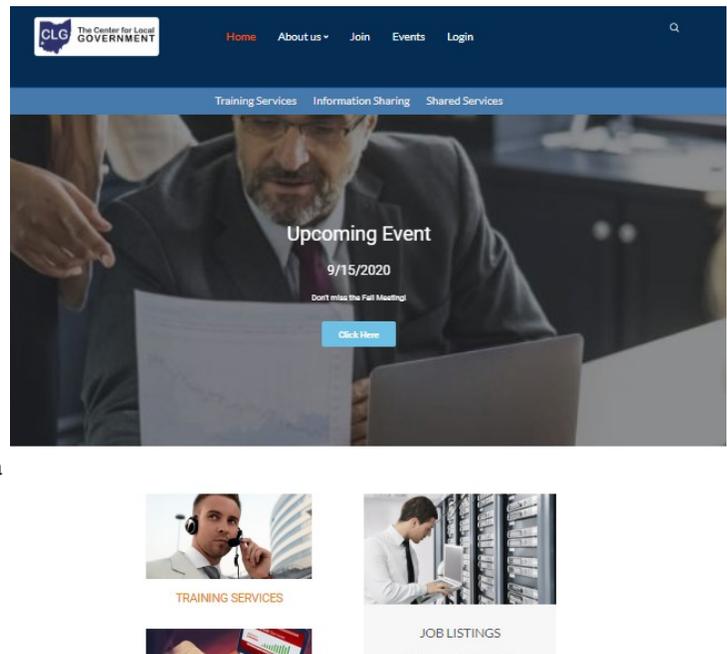
## NEW CLG WEBSITE COMING THIS FALL

The last update on CLG's website took place in 2012. One of the CLG's goals from the beginning of the year has been to give the website a refresh. Director of Operations Lori Stuckey and Assistant Director Cody Smith have been working with our IT consultant to design a new website, which will launch this fall.

The website is designed so that visitors to who are unfamiliar with CLG will be able to quickly and easily discern our mission and how we achieve it. This will be done by highlighting our three main service areas: training, information sharing and shared services.

CLG is also working to ensure that the new website is adaptable to future program and service offerings. It must continue to be an effective tool for communities interested in joining CLG, as well as a resource for current and longstanding members.

This new website follows other recent updates, including a redesigned CLG Datacenter in 2019, and a reformatted CLG member log-in page earlier this year. We will continue to look for ways that we can improve our web presence as we move forward.



A glimpse of the new website as it is under construction.

## CLG HOLDS COMBINED VIRTUAL HUMAN RESOURCES / ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS LUNCHEON

Earlier this spring, CLG made it's first foray into virtual training. Every April and May, CLG holds an Administrative Professionals Luncheon for administrative support staff, and then a Human Resources Luncheon for HR staff and directors. This year, these classes were combined into a single one hour Lunch and Learn held over Zoom Video Conferencing. The topic, appropriately enough, was how to create an ideal work-from-home environment.

The guest speaker was Margaret-Ellen Christensen. Margaret-Ellen is an SHRM Senior Certified Professional and currently serves as the Manager for Global Employee Engagement for J2 Global. She specializes in Culture, Engagement and Employee Experience, as well as Diversity and Inclusion and Wellness. The topics of the lunch and learn were derived from a series of articles that Ms. Christensen has written on working from home, centering around:

- Creating a productive workspace at home
- Maintaining focus and productivity
- Bringing your whole-self to work (from home)
- Having patience and managing mental health and stress

For additional education on working from home from Ms. Christensen, articles can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

CLG's training partners, Miami Valley Risk Management Agency and Miami Valley Communications Council, have also begun to offer webinar based trainings. CLG will be offering more of these opportunities as well as we move later into the year. Indeed, the CLG Leadership Academy has already moved into the virtual space. Stay tuned as we begin to re-launch our trainings in the second half of 2020.



## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE- CLG WELCOMES BUTLER COUNTY INTO THE MEMBERSHIP

We at CLG would like to welcome it's **newest member government, Butler County!** Butler County is the second county government in the CLG membership, along with Hamilton County. We look forward to working with them moving forward, and hopefully expanding our county membership participation, which could lead to new program opportunities. Butler County's Administrator is **Judi Boyko**. Prior to her work in Butler County, Ms. Boyko was the Assistant Administrator in Hamilton County, and previously served as CLG Board President during her time as Township Administrator in West Chester Township. Please reach out to her and welcome her back into the CLG family when you have an opportunity.

In addition to Butler County joining CLG, we have seen a number of people on the move in the first part of this year. Columbia Township has a new Administrator: **Melissa Taylor**. Ms. Taylor takes over for **Michael Lemon**, who recently retired after a long and distinguished career in Columbia Township and elsewhere in the region. Please welcome Ms. Taylor aboard as well.

Springdale has hired **Brian Uhl** as Assistant City Manager. Mr. Uhl comes from Springfield Township, where he served as a Police Lt. While there, he chaired CLG's Judgmental Use of Force Simulator (JUFS) group.

**Arian Jones-Hall** recently took a position with North College Hill as Finance Director. Previously, she had served with the City of Hamilton. Ms. Jones-Hall is a 2018 graduate of the CLG Leadership Academy.

**Terry Timmers** is now the Acting Chief of the Little Miami Joint Fire and Rescue District. This district serves Fairfax, Columbia Township and Golf Manor, and is the only Joint Fire District member of CLG. Previously, Mr. Timmers served as Assistant Chief.

Please welcome all of them aboard. Contact information can be found in the CLG Membership Directory, located in the "member log-in" section of the CLG website.



**North College Hill  
Finance Director Arian  
Jones-Hall**



**Butler County Admin-  
istrator Judi Boyko**



**Springdale Assistant  
Manager Brian Uhl**



**Columbia Township  
Administrator Melissa  
Taylor**

## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PROCEEDS VIRTUALLY

Covid-19 has required governments and organizations around the world to improvise new ways to provide their services, and it is no different with CLG. This is most evident with this year's CLG Leadership Academy. Traditionally, Leadership Academy classes are held in a variety of local government facilities across the region, with 20 participants, 2 CLG staff members, 1 MVRMA staff member, and usually 1-2 presenters present. This obviously poses a challenge with Covid restrictions and with best practices related to managing contagion.

As such, we have transitioned to the internet. So far, we have completed our "Local Government 101," our Xavier University courses, and a portion of our Human Resources class via Zoom. Later this month, the Finance and Budgeting class will take place. Although we are missing out on the in-person experience, we have still had good discussion during the virtual academy classes, and have been able to have a healthy exchange of information. **We would like to thank this year's Leadership Academy participants and our presenters for their patience as we have transitioned to an online format.**



## NEWS BITS

### OUTREACH VISITS

As we wrap up the first half of the year, CLG has reached out to roughly half of our member governments about setting up annual outreach visits. If you have not heard from us, you will in the coming months. Due to Covid-19, this year's visits are taking place either by phone call or by Zoom conference. It is up to the individual government to decide which method they would like to use. We would like to thank the governments who have met with us so far this year. Outreach visits enable us to best customize our services to government needs, and help us determine the direction of the organization in the short term.

### CLG MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AND PAY DATA UPDATED

We recently published our mid-year CLG Membership Directory update in the member log-in of the CLG website. This includes personnel changes plus new governments such as Butler County and Whitewater Township. Speaking of the member log-in, we also just uploaded new pay data. This can be found in the "Current Pay and Annual Survey Data" link in the log-in, aka the "CLG Datacenter." We ask governments for pay data annually on a rolling basis over the year. This recent upload covers pay data submissions through June 25, 2020.

### CLG IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Center for Local Government has entered the world of social media with a Twitter presence. We can now be found at **@C4LG2018**. We joined Twitter because we thought that was the best platform to provide information to our audience of local governments and local government staff members / officials. This will supplement our normal communications tools, and will be a good way to get insights from our trainings, meetings, and other initiatives as they happen. We will also use this platform to help inform you about interesting news from our member governments.

## CLG CALENDAR

### CLG Leadership Academy:

**Finance and Budgeting:** July 15, 2020, 9:00am-3:00pm via Zoom Video Conference

**Effective Communications:** July 29, 2020, 9:00am-3:00pm, Location / Format TBD

**Economic Development and Land Use** August 12, 2020, 9:00am-3:00pm, Location / Format TBD

**Navigating the Workplace Accommodation Process in the World of Covid-19, presented by MVCC, July 9, 2020,** via webinar, 11:00am-12. Presenter is Brad Bennett from Bricker & Eckler. [Click here](#) for MVCC online registration.

**The Need for Connectivity, Steps for Access and Best Practices for Local Broadband Expansion, presented by MVCC, July 15, 2020** via webinar, 11:00am- 12. [Click here](#) for MVCC online registration.

**Public Records - Changes & Trends in 2020, presented by MVCC, July 16, 2020** at MVCC, 10:00am - 11:00am. SESSION FULL

**Harassment Training Session 2, presented by MVCC, September 2, 2020** at Centerville P.D. , 11:am-12:30pm **OR** 1:00-2:30pm. Cost is \$30 for Members/Partners-MVRMA, \$40 for Affiliates, \$60 for non-members (invoices sent AFTER training). Please register at [mvcc.net/mta](http://mvcc.net/mta).