



Each quarter we feature a photo of one of our members. This quarter we feature the Village of Addyston

Highlights of this Issue:

- **CLG Hires New Executive Director**

Fall Trainings:

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- **Payroll Forum**
- **Administrative Professional Luncheon**

Programs:

- **Public Works Mutual Aid Pact**

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Center for Local Government Fall 2025 Newsletter

CLG's New Executive Director, Drew Tilow

Dear Center for Local Government Members,

I am honored to have been appointed as the newest Executive Director of the Center for Local Government and inspired by the energy I have experienced so far. I know that I am filling the very big shoes of T.J. White, who left the Center in June after thirteen years as Executive Director. I want to take this opportunity to thank him for everything he did for the Center. I would also like to thank Mike Rahall for stepping in as the Interim Executive Director between T.J.'s departure and my start in early September. Both T.J. and Mike have built an incredible organization that is extremely important to the local governments in our region and both have been incredibly helpful to me during this transition time. Our communities are stronger for the efforts of local government managers like you and I am grateful for the opportunity to make your work even more effective and efficient.



I have already begun making the rounds to get out and meet all of our members and learn more about their communities and what makes each one of them unique. If you haven't heard from me yet, stay tuned, as I am going to get to each one of your municipalities as soon as I can. As always, the Center is here for you and I am committed to making the programs and projects we offer work toward the goal of improving your ability to deliver services.

Finally, I was so pleased to see so many of you at our Annual Meeting on September 10, 2025. It was a great opportunity to honor the work that you all do each day and to cheer on the newest class of our Leadership Academy. Thank you all again for everything you do and I am excited for the things that we will be able to do together for our region!

- Drew Tilow. Executive Director



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

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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 clearinghouse for inter-governmental collaboration, training and information sharing.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mike Thonnerieux, Washington Township (President)

Jim Lukas, Sharonville (Vice President)

Vicky Earhart, Anderson Township (Secretary / Treasurer)

Noah Powers, Norwood

Vacant

Effective Governance Through Collaboration



Drew Tilow, Executive Director,
dtilow@C4LG.org



Lori Stuckey,
Director of Operations,
lstuckey@C4LG.org



Ziah Huett,
Assistant Director,
zhuett@C4LG.org

New Faces in New Places

Within CLG and its membership area, there have been a few new faces in new places. First, **Gaines Brown** is the new Village Manager of Lincoln Heights, most recently serving as a Program Manager in Community Development & Planning for Hamilton County.

Amanda Zimmerlin was recently hired as the City Manager of Battle Creek, Michigan. Prior to Battle Creek, Amanda served as the City Manager of Clayton, Ohio for five years, and Assistant City Administrator for Springdale, Ohio for four years. Congratulations are also due to **Mark Wendling**, who recently started as the Director of Safety Services for the Village of St. Bernard. Previously, Mark was the Executive Director for the Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA). Currently, MVRMA's Interim Executive Director is **Derek Bryan**. Next, **Elaine Wittman** was appointed the Interim City Manager of Clayton, Ohio, and prior to this role, she was serving as the Assistant City Manager of the city. Lastly, we would like to congratulate City Administrator of South Lebanon, **Jerry Haddix**, and City Manager of Miamisburg, **Keith Johnson**, on their upcoming retirements.

Congratulations to everyone on their new positions. If we missed anyone, please let us know and we will be sure to include you in the next newsletter!

CLG Board Vacancy

clude you in the next newsletter!

The Center for Local Government Board of Trustees has an at-large vacancy to fill the unexpired term of former Clayton City Manager, Amanda Zimmerlin. Members of the CLG Board serve 3 year terms, with this unexpired term expiring at the September 2026 Annual Meeting, at which you point you may be appointed to a full 3 year term. There are around 5 to 6 Board meetings per year, on the second Wednesday of every other month, lasting roughly an hour to an hour and a half and are conducted both in person and remotely. In addition to the general governance responsibilities of the Board, you will also select the winner of the W.D. Heisel Memorial Scholarship. Current Board members include Board

Interesting Fact: CLG has over 70 municipal policies from past Spot Surveys available in the Code Bank on the website.



CLG Hosts Annual Meeting and Leadership Academy Graduation

The Center for Local Government Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, at the American Sign Museum in Camp Washington. At this Annual Meeting, we conducted annual Center business, recognized our 2025 CLG Leadership Academy graduates, and heard a great presentation from Tod Swarmstedt, founder and curator of the American Sign Museum.

First, the CLG Board of Trustees had members and officers elected. We would like to congratulate Washington Township Administrator, Mike Thonnerieux, and Sharonville Safety-Service Director, Jim Lukas, on their board re-elections. More congratulations are due to them and Anderson Township Administrator, Vicky Earhart, for their elections to board officer positions. Mike Thonnerieux was elected to President, Jim Lukas to Vice President, and Vicky Earhart to Secretary/Treasurer.

Following the election of our board members, we recognized our 26 CLG Leadership Academy graduates. This was the 12th class to go through the Leadership Academy. Currently, we have almost 260 Leadership Academy graduates from 57 governments across the region. This includes the current Chief Administrative Officers of Brookville, Glendale, Liberty Township, Madeira, Miami Township (Montgomery County), Middletown, Pierce Township, Springdale, and Trenton. The 2025 cohort also included 4 people from governments sending someone to the Academy for the first time. These governments are Cheviot, Cleves, Hamilton Township, and West Carrollton. For more information on the CLG Leadership Academy, please click here: [Leadership Academy – C4LG.ORG](https://www.c4lg.org/leadership-academy).

Finally, we heard an insightful presentation from Tod Swarmstedt, Founder and Curator of the American Sign Museum. Mr. Swarmstedt discussed the history of the museum, stories behind some of their featured signs, and invited attendees to enjoy the museum at their leisure. If you are interested in learning more about the American Sign Museum, please click here: [American Sign Museum - American Sign Museum](https://www.american-sign-museum.org/).

Thank you to Mr. Swarmstedt, the American Sign Museum, and everyone that could make it to the Annual Meeting.



Interesting Fact: Since 2013, the CLG Leadership Academy has received nearly \$46,000 in grants from the Seasongood Foundation and Duke Energy Foundation



Upcoming Trainings: HR Luncheon

The Fall 2025 CLG HR Luncheon will be held on October 22nd, 2025 at the Sharonville Community Center (10990 Thornview Drive, Sharonville, OH 45241). At this luncheon, attendees will hear from Hylant's Risk Management Representative, Greg Hennecke, in an Introduction to De-Escalation. The presentation will discuss the subject of de-escalation and difficult people, including understanding biological and physiological responses to aggression, brain considerations, and thought, emotion, and behavioral observations, and a review of common do's and don'ts.

At this luncheon, Chick-fil-a will be catered. Upon RSVP, please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. Please RSVP to Ziah Huett at ZHuett@C4LG.org.



When:	Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025
Where:	10990 Thornview Drive, Sharonville, OH 45241
Time:	Registration & Networking: 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM Program: 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM
Cost:	\$20/person payable to Center for Local Government

Fall HR Luncheon

Introduction to De-Escalation

Join us for an insightful presentation at the Sharonville Community Center from Hylant Risk Management Representative, Greg Hennecke.

Drawing on more than 30 years in the industry, Greg provides operational risk management support, advice, and counsel to public municipalities, public schools and colleges and universities. He assists his clients in the identification and correction of potential risks and hazards that may result in injury, loss, property damage or lawsuits. He also facilitates regional and on-site training sessions and conducts presentations for conferences and individual clients.

This is an introductory presentation on the subject of de-escalation and difficult people. The material includes understanding biological and physiological responses to aggression, right brain and left brain considerations, as well as thought, emotion, and behavioral observations. A review of common do's and don'ts will be covered as well.

Chick-fil-a will be catered. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

Please RSVP by 4PM on October 20th by emailing ZHuett@C4LG.org

Membership Directory and Program Participation Guide

In August 2025, CLG sent the Membership Directory out to its 70 members for updates. As of September 2025, 51 members have updated their pages and sent them back to CLG. The updated Membership Directory was uploaded to the CLG website, and is available via the member login page. If you do not have or know your login, please contact Ziah Huett at ZHuett@C4LG.org. In the meantime, we will be reaching out periodically to the missing jurisdictions and try to get their pages updated as we close out the year.

Also, CLG's Program Participant and Resource Guide has been updated to reflect our newest Board appointments and officers, as well as the 2025 - 2026 JUFS Program calendar. In addition, this document contains the current participants in CLG's major programs such as SWORRE, CLGBP, PWMA, and the Electricity Consortium. Members can also find CLG's Code of Regulations and Articles of Incorporation within this guide.



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

Program Participant Contact
Information & Other
Resources

Information Sharing: Annual Survey and Pay Data

On September 22nd, 2025, CLG distributed its Annual Survey to its 70 members. We hope to have the majority of member responses by October 24th, 2025. Following this, the data will be "scrubbed" to ensure its accuracy, and prevent inconsistencies within the database that hosts our Pay and Benefits information. The tentative goal for scrubbing, correction, and uploading of the Annual Survey responses is early December 2025. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ziah Huett at ZHuett@C4LG.org.

Additionally, the Center for Local Government will be conducting its Fall CAO Pay Data Requests throughout October for City Managers, Village Managers, and Township Administrators. Please keep an eye out for these requests throughout the month, and submit your information to Lori Stuckey at Lstuckey@C4LG.org. If you have any questions, please contact Drew Tilow at DTilow@C4LG.org.



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Information Sharing: Public Works Mutual Aid Pact

It is time for another update to the Center for Local Government Public Works Mutual Aid Manual! Every two years, this manual's information, which includes contact information and inventory lists for 38 participating jurisdictions, is updated. The last update occurred in September 2023, where 32 participating jurisdictions provided updates to their sections of the manual.

The update process is conducted by CLG sending every participant their section individually, then members highlight any changes they have and send them back to CLG. Following this, CLG consolidates this information into a comprehensive manual that is distributed to participants and available via our website's member login page.

If you are a participant, please update your page as soon as possible!



The Center for Local
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2024-2025 Public Works
Mutual Aid Manual

Investment Insights: Knowledge From Our Portfolio Management Partners

The Center for Local Government [Treasury Asset Management Collaborative \(TAMC\)](#) offers an opportunity for member government to take advantage of professional portfolio managers with ample experience in public sector finance. Since 2011, CLG has partnered with SJS Investment Services and RedTree Investments, to provide participating governments with financial management expertise.

Governments participating in the TAMC have a choice between both firms to determine which investment approach is most appropriate for their entity's investment needs. Each entity has the option to set up separate investment accounts with one of the firms. And no entity is required to ONLY invest with one of these two firms. To provide an introduction:

Since 2011, **SJS Investment Services** has been a trusted advisor in the CLG's Treasury Asset Management Collaborative, helping members manage investments with clarity and confidence. Our team supports public entities with cash flow analysis, navigating interest rate and bond market shifts, and aligning portfolios with each entity's goals, liquidity needs, and fiduciary responsibilities.

RedTree Investment Group is an independent investment advisory firm specializing in fixed-income portfolio management for public entities. We partner with local governments to develop customized investment strategies that prioritize safety, liquidity, and return. Our experienced team provides transparent guidance and dedicated service to help clients navigate the complexities of public funds investing.

Special thanks go out to RedTree Investment Group for providing the following update:



Fed Rate Cuts are Back, Now What?

By: David Donnelly (Investment Associate) & Joe Violand (Director & Portfolio Manager)

Investors entered the third quarter with one question in mind: *Will the Federal Reserve cut rates?* The Federal Funds Rate—the rate banks charge one another for overnight loans of reserve balances—is rarely front-page news. Yet in today's environment, it has become dinner table conversation. When even your grocery store clerk is talking about the Fed, you know the impact of interest rates has reached well beyond the financial community.

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Investment Insights: Knowledge From Our Portfolio Management Partners

For public entities, the Fed's actions are more than headlines—they directly affect your investment portfolios. In September 2025, the Fed lowered rates by 25 basis points in response to economic uncertainty and early signs of labor market weakness, while still signaling caution as inflation sits above its 2% target. Because most public funds are invested in short-term fixed-income assets, which closely track the Fed's movements, these changes have real and immediate consequences for local governments.

So, what should finance officers and treasurers focus on in this environment? The answer can be distilled into three key actions:

1. Remain Steady.

Headlines can make market moves feel urgent, but don't let sudden shifts in Fed policy cause you to second-guess your investment decisions. You were hired to manage your entity's finances for a reason—trust that foundation. The most successful public investors are those who approach changes with calm and discipline, not reactionary moves.

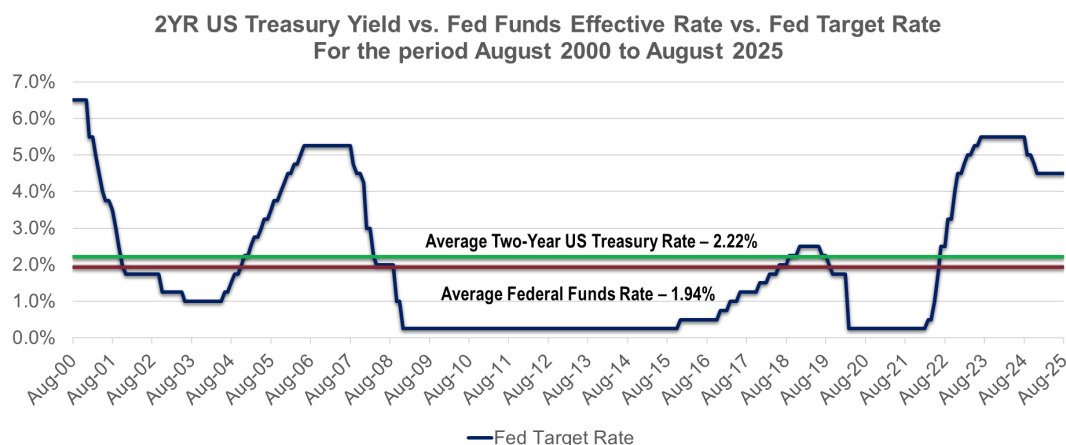
2. Prepare with Insight.

Work with your financial partners to access tools and projections that provide clarity on what rate moves may mean for your cash flows. With two additional rate cuts anticipated by markets before the end of 2025, reinvestment rates will almost certainly be lower than what you've enjoyed over the past couple of years. This can have a meaningful effect on projected interest income, especially from money market accounts or state investment pools like STAR Ohio. Having forward-looking income estimates allows you to plan budgets with confidence and avoid surprises.

3. Diversify Your Portfolio.

Perhaps the most powerful step in an ever-changing rate environment is diversification. No one has a crystal ball to predict the exact path of rates, but spreading investments across a variety of maturities and asset types provides balance. Diversification can help reduce the impact of short-term fluctuations while creating more consistent returns over time.

As the chart below shows, higher short-term rates rise and fall with each business cycle. Diversifying funds can play a key role in maintaining a steadier stream of income during turbulent periods that last longer than expected. There is real value to be gained in diversifying away from short-term vehicles like money markets, which react immediately to Federal Reserve rate cut decisions, and balancing them with other investments that offer more consistency.



Information as of 8.31.25. Source - Bloomberg

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Investment Insights: Knowledge From Our Portfolio Management Partners

The interest rate landscape is always shifting. By remaining steady, preparing with insight, and diversifying wisely, public entities can navigate uncertainty and maintain stability—no matter where the Fed moves next.

Disclosure: There is no guarantee investment strategies will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Diversification neither assures a profit nor guarantees against a loss in a declining market.



GUEST ARTICLE: CENTERVILLE NOON OPTIMIST CLUB DONATION FUNDS UNIVERSAL CHANGING TABLE AT OAK GROVE PARK

Thanks to a generous \$5,000 donation from the [Centerville Noon Optimist Club](#), the Centerville-Washington Park District (CWPD) has installed a universal changing table in the family restroom at [Oak Grove Park](#)'s Noon Optimist Shelter. The donation covered approximately 40% of the project's cost, with CWPD funding the remaining 60%. This marks the second universal changing table available in a CWPD park, joining one previously installed at [Activity Center Park](#).

Universal changing tables provide a safe, private, and dignified space for older children and adults with developmental disabilities, medical conditions, or other special needs requiring incontinence care. The addition enhances accessibility and ensures that more visitors can fully enjoy CWPD's parks.

"Restrooms ranked as one of the top five most important park amenities on our most recent community survey. By installing a universal changing table in the family restroom at Oak Grove Park, we have broken down another barrier to providing park spaces for everyone to enjoy," said Kristen Marks, Executive Director of the Centerville-Washington Park District.

The location is especially meaningful. South Dayton TOPSoccer, a program serving children and young adults with disabilities, plays soccer in the parking lot directly adjacent to the shelter. The new amenity provides added convenience and peace of mind for players and their families.

"Our club is proud to invest in projects like this that strengthen our community and help children thrive," said Paul Boeckman, President of the Centerville Noon Optimist Club.

A statement from the South Dayton TOPSoccer Board reads, "Twice a week from August through November, more than 140 players across eight teams — including a wheelchair team — come together to play soccer. We are grateful to the Centerville Noon Optimist Club and CWPD for providing a facility equipped with a universal changing table, ensuring our players and their families have easy access and a welcoming environment."

Oak Grove Park, located at 1790 E. Social Row Road, is a 102-acre community park. It features athletic fields, two playgrounds, paved walking paths, a dog park, tennis courts, five picnic shelters and a fishing pond, making it a popular gathering space for recreation and community events.

CWPD extends heartfelt gratitude to the Centerville Noon Optimist Club for their commitment to making local parks accessible to all.



News Bits

Member Login Information

Located in CLG's member login page, we have Current Pay and Annual Survey Data, the Spot Survey Archive, the CLG Membership Directory, and other resources that our members can access. If you would like to access this information, please click here: [Login – C4LG.ORG](#). If you need login information, please contact Ziah Huett at ZHuett@C4LG.org.

W.D. Heisel Scholarship

The 2025 W.D. Heisel Scholarship cycle closed on July 11th, 2025. We would like to congratulate NKU MPA students Mallory Bane and Ziah Huett, on being this year's recipients of this scholarship. For more information on the scholarship, please go to [W.D. Heisel Memorial Scholarship – C4LG.ORG](#).

Job Postings

CLG's jobs page has been gaining traction, as we have posted nearly 15 jobs and counting between August and October. Members can post for free while non-members must pay a \$25 fee. If you have a job opening, please send it to Lori Stuckey at Lstuckey@C4LG.org if you would like it posted on our website.

Upcoming Events from CLG and Partners

Free Online Training Courses: [Ohio Ethics](#) and [Certified Public Records Training](#).

Fall 2025 Classes offered by Xavier Leadership Center. Employees of participating CLG member jurisdictions receive a tuition discount. [Please click here](#) to see the classes offered and for more information, please visit [Xavier Leadership Center](#).

The Supervisor Program, October 21-22, 2025, presented by MVCC, 8:00am – 4:00pm at MVCC (1195 East Alex Rd. Centerville, OH). Cost is: Members – \$200, Affiliates – \$225, and Non-members – \$250. [Please click here](#) for more details and to register.

Human Resources Luncheon, October 22nd, 2025, 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Sharonville Community Center (10990 Thornview Dr., Sharonville, OH 45241). Cost: \$20/person. [Please click here](#) for more details and to register.

2025 MVRMA Law Enforcement Legal Update, October 28th, 2025, 9:30am – 11:30am at the City of Miamisburg Community Room (305 E. Central Ave., Miamisburg, OH 45342). Cost: \$25 for MVRMA, MVCC, and CLG members, \$50 for non-members. [Please click here](#) for more details and to register.

Humans at Work: An Adventure in Organizational Behavior Training, November 4, 2025, 8:30am – 3:00pm at MVCC (1195 East Alex Bell Rd. Centerville, OH 45459). Cost: Members: \$75, Affiliates: \$85, and Non-members: \$95. [Please click here](#) for more details and to register.

Fall 2025 Payroll Administrators Forum, November 5th, 2025, 8:30am – 10:00 am at Terwilliger Lodge (10530 Deerfield Rd., Montgomery, OH 45242). Cost: \$10/person. [Please click here](#) for more details and to register.