



Every quarter we feature a photo from one of our member governments. This quarter: Amberley Village

Highlights of this Issue:

- What is CLG doing about COVID-19?
- CLG Recently held a Census training
- The CLG Electricity Consortium has renewed
- Meet our new Assistant Director



Regular Features:

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The Center for Local Government 1st Quarter Newsletter

Center for Local Government's COVID-19 Response

To say that the world has entered one of its more challenging times in recent memory would be an understatement. The spread of COVID-19 has disrupted our lives in countless ways and has put millions of our citizens at risk. We know that all of you are working your hardest to protect the health, safety and welfare of your communities while at the same time trying to maintain business continuity. CLG is working to be a hub of communications and information for governments- especially around policies, procedures, and any other form of information you wish to request.

We are sending daily COVID-19 update e-mails containing benchmark policies from our members to the Chief Administrative Officers of our local governments. We also have a website where anyone can access policies adopted by our governments as they come in. This site is updated every Tuesday and Thursday and can be found at <http://www.c4lg.org/index.php/center-services/18-information-sharing/217-code-bank-covid-19>. We are tracking "stay at home" policies, Emergency Declarations, Supplemental Leave Policies, Public Messaging, Building Closings, Internal Employee Memos, and Planning/Zoning Application procedures. We also have a spot survey that we will keep continually open for governments to share other results: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C7SZQ73>. If you have practices to share or suggestions for other things we can benchmark, please e-mail CLG Assistant Director Cody Smith at CSmith@C4LG.org.

CLG Operations

CLG will continue to operate and provide our normal scope of services during this period. That said, as a staff we will be primarily working from home. If you call our office number, you will have the option of either leaving a voicemail that we will promptly respond to, or you can call 513-325-9619 to reach me directly. We will have video conferencing capability shortly as well, which will enable us to continue to hold trainings or other meetings as appropriate. Additionally, we will continue to do our best to push out information to you that relates to how to best tackle this pandemic. Please use us as a resource or as a way to facilitate connections or the exchange of ideas between governments. We are here for you.

Thank you all for all of the hard work you are doing during this time. We will all get through this. Continue to stay safe.



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
Kristen Bitonte, Liberty Township
Michael Rahall, Village of Cleves
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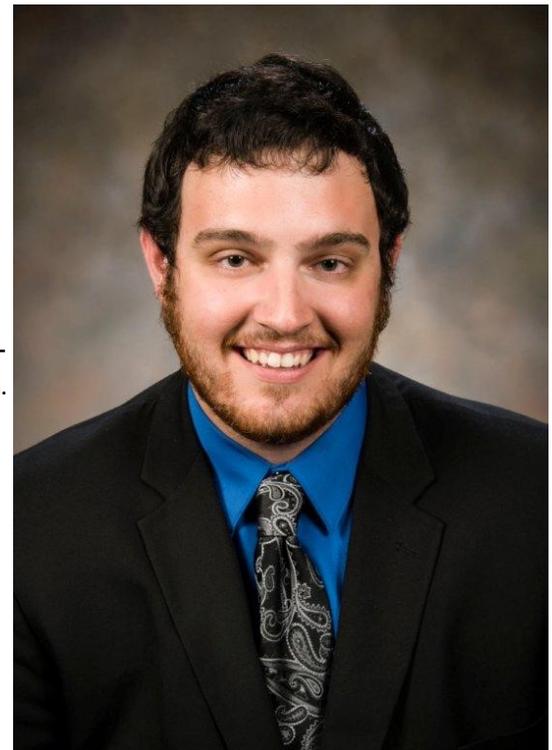
MEET CODY SMITH—NEW CLG ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Having graduated in 2018 with my MPA from Wright State University, I am very excited to join the team at CLG. I also obtained my bachelor's degree from Wright State in Political Science. During my MPA program, I had the privilege of working with the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and Public Health-Dayton and Montgomery County on my capstone. This project was built off of a previous capstone and was aimed at strategies to reduce fear of crime in the City of Dayton, as well as to increase public parks utilization.

My previous work experience while obtaining my degrees are in the auto sales/service industry, working for a BMW and VW dealership in my hometown of Vandalia. In addition, I worked for an ODOT contractor previous to accepting this position.

Public service is one of my core values and I am very fortunate to now have the opportunity to work in an organization that embraces that value and continues to build on upon it. In addition to my educational background, I have previous experience in the fire service volunteering as a firefighter with Chester Township FD near Wilmington.

In my free time, I enjoy playing guitar, working on my cars or spending time with family and friends. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so far, and I look forward to meeting the rest of you soon!



New Assistant Director Cody Smith



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

2020 CLG LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CLASS SELECTED

CLG's 7th Leadership Academy class will take part in 6 sessions: "Local Government 101," a Xavier University Leadership seminar, classes on HR, Finance and Land use, and a class on effective communications. While the early stage of this year's Academy is being adjusted because of COVID-19 concerns, we are confident that we will be able to conduct a full curriculum.

Class 7 includes Trent Chenowith (Hamilton), Ashley Combs (Middletown), Christy Gloyd (Liberty Twp.), Cameron Haller (Tipp City), Nathaniel Kaelin (Fairfield), Paul Kleier (Blue Ash), Michael Norton-Smith (Centerville), Ken Smith (Indian Hill), Kate Trangenstein (Washington Twp.), Renetta Edwards (Colerain Twp.), Elizabeth Fingerle (Lebanon), Jon Gelhausen (Delhi Twp.), Mike Hauck (Evendale), Shellie Hobbs (Anderson Twp.), Jessica Hunt (Miami Twp.), Elizabeth Johnson (Springdale), Josh Santos (Sharonville), Mike Stine (Springfield Twp.), Anna Gedeon (Golf Manor) and Monica Tuck (Wyoming)

CLG PART OF "CONNECTING THE DOTS" SUMMIT PLANNING

CLG has been assisting a large taskforce in the planning of a "Connecting the Dots" Summit for inner ring suburbs. This summit, which came about due to the work of Silverton Village Manager Tom Carroll, will focus on educating inner ring suburban leaders by providing a deep dive into the challenges facing suburban communities, to provide education on existing resources, and to hold discussions on strategies to combat decline.

The Summit, which will take place this fall, will feature plenary sessions followed by breakout sessions on public transit resources, land assemblage (land banking), social services resources, strategic governance, zoning, code enforcement, redevelopment, job creation and schools. There will also be a discussion of the Hamilton County Housing Plan.

There will be information forthcoming this summer as we nail down a date for the summit.

CLG AND CINCINNATI / HAMILTON COUNTY COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE TEAM UP FOR CENSUS TRAINING

Census Day is April 1st, 2020. This is the day by when all residences should have received a census invitation and everyone should be counted according to where they are staying on April 1. An accurate count is vital to securing all of the federal resources that the Greater Cincinnati region deserves.

During the 2020 census training, hosted by the Cincinnati Complete County Committee and CLG, the overall theme was that the census is Important, Easy and Safe. It is important to get every person counted, it is easy; you can respond from anywhere with an internet connection, and it is safe; nobody other than the Census Bureau has access to your responses under penalty of federal law.

The Cincinnati CCC also provides numerous resources to directly assist your communities. Social media templates, training and event materials, as well as media specifically targeted at hard-to-count populations and even tablets for use at public events. On the Greater Cincy Counts website, local governments will find the Census Engagement Manual that contains best-practices on the census and creating a census "pitch" that will increase participation. You will also find toolkits on the Response Rate Challenge-A nationwide initiative for cities and towns to increase their participation rate over 2010 and the best strategies for doing so.

In addition to those, there is an entire collection of resources located on the GCC website; website tools, tips on utilizing the ROAM tool, planning guides and much more. GCC can also provide outreach materials such as TV and radio advertising templates, "I Count" stickers, assistance with developing outreach programs and event display materials. It is strongly recommended that your jurisdictions look into these available resources and utilize them in your census outreach strategies.

One of the largest barriers to census completion is the misconception that the census does not affect me, or even that it harms me to complete it. The census is imperative to ensuring that your community is able to get the resources and representation that you deserve and census information cannot be used against you in any way. To assist in getting an accurate count, the Census Bureau provides assistance in 72 languages.

For more information, you can find the CCC at @GrtrCincyCounts and Greater Cincy Counts on Twitter and Facebook, as well as online at www.greatercincycounts.com.



The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING HELD IN JANUARY

Every two years, CLG and the Hamilton County Planning Partnership work together to conduct a training session for newly elected officials. This year's session was held in January at the Sharonville Convention Center. The purpose of the training was two-fold: To provide elected officials with a crash course in the skillsets they will need to be effective, and to help them build cross-jurisdictional networks.

There were 4 sessions held: The first was on the legal aspects of government— specifically open meetings law, public records law, and ethics. These were taught by lawyer Laura Abrams. The next session was on city, village and township governance and the relationship between elected officials and staff. This is important as many city charters and internal policies and procedures specifically spell out how these interactions should take place. These classes were taught by Colerain Township Administrator Geoff Milz and Sharonville Safety-Service Director Jim Lukas. The third segment was finance and budgeting. This covered accounting, debt, local government budgeting principles, and a variety of other topics. This was conducted by Miami Township Finance Director Kelly Flanigan and Liberty Township Finance Director Michelle Greis. The final topic of the day was planning, community development and economic development. Harry Blanton of the Hamilton County Development Company (HCDC), Steve Johns of the Hamilton County Planning Partnership, and Joy Pierson of Hamilton County presented.

54 elected officials from 28 communities in Hamilton County and beyond attended.



Presentations during the Newly Elected Officials Training in January

ELECTRICITY CONSORTIUM RENEWAL SAVES MONEY

CLG member communities who participate in our facility electricity consortium have consistently experienced savings when this program goes out to bid. Our most recent bid happened in January and again we saw a drop in prices, with a combined savings of roughly \$20,000. Since the inception of the program in 2010, we have saved governments a combined total of over \$690,000 in electricity costs.

Our 2020 electricity bid provided participating governments with two options: One was a combined rate reflecting both facilities and streetlights. The second was a separate facility rate and street lighting rate. Governments chose the rate that best reflected their needs. Our “combined” rate was \$0.0416/kwh (down from a “combined rate of \$0.0466 in the previous contract). Our “facility only” rate was \$0.0467/kwh. Our “lighting only” rate was \$0.0328/kwh. Our “facility only” and “lighting only” rates saw similar reductions to what we saw in our “combined” rate. This bid also provided governments with pursuing renewable energy sources. Silverton chose this option and saw a significant price reduction over previous rates as well. In fact, due to some other energy policies that had enacted, they received an even larger drop in rates.

The Facility Electricity Program is a joint bid between 11 governments to share in the cost of their electricity for facilities, park shelters, street lights, and any other account that the government owns. This is NOT a residential aggregation. Our broker is AGE Energy. AGE purchased our former broker, Eagle Energy. They have been a delight to work with through this process. Our 2020 bid is our 5th bid under the program. We have received consistent price reductions in each bid, and we have seen the program grow to 11 governments—with 3 additional governments bidding parallel to the 2020 bid and joining during our next go around.

The CLG Facility Aggregation program is one of the few CLG contracted services where governments can join even after the consortium is under contract. If you are interested in learning more, please contact T.J. White at TWhite@C4LG.org or at 513-741-7999. He will put you in contact with our broker, who can provide additional detail.



NEWS BITS

CAO Pay Data

CLG requests pay data from half of our Chief Administrative Officers in March, and half of our Chief Administrative Officers in October. Thank you to everyone who submitted pay data per the March request. If you received the March request and did not submit pay data, there is still time. Please contact Lori Stuckey at LStuckey@C4LG.org, and she will be able to provide you with the pay data template. We can even send you your previous template for updating if that is easier. If you have any questions, please contact us at 513-741-7999. Thank you.

New Members!

CLG would like to welcome new members! Wyoming became a CLG member in January, and Whitewater Township became a CLG member in March. Please reach out to Wyoming City Manager Lynn Tetley and Whitewater Township Administrator Peggy Westerfeld, and welcome them aboard. Their contact information can be found in the “members” page of the CLG website. Both communities have been CLG members in the past, and we welcome them back into the fold.

Membership Renewal Update

Thank you very much to everyone who has paid their CLG membership dues so far. We appreciate your continued support. For governments who have not yet paid their membership dues, they are due at the beginning of May— although we may change that date based on how the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. I will be sending reminder e-mails to the governments who have not yet paid their dues in early April. Thank you again for your continued membership and for your partnership with us and with each other.

CLG CALENDAR

Trainings are on hold until we have a better idea how things will re-open based on the current COVID-19 situation. Please visit <http://www.c4lg.org/index.php/events> for the most up to date information.

Thank you.