

County Officials E-News

Promoting better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.



Tennessee Attorney General Sues Purdue Pharma Investigations of Other Opioid Manufacturers and Distributors Continue

Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III, along with a bipartisan group of Attorneys General, sued Purdue Pharma today for its unlawful marketing and promotion of OxyContin and other drugs and its role in causing and prolonging the opioid epidemic in Tennessee.

The State's lawsuit, filed in Knox County Circuit Court, alleges Purdue violated the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act, violated its 2007 settlement with the State, and created a statewide public nuisance by interfering with the health of Tennesseans and the commercial marketplace.

Attorney General Slatery said, "Our Office has conducted an extensive investigation into Purdue's highly aggressive marketing practices and other unlawful conduct. We believe Purdue's conduct has been unconscionable, and we intend to hold the company accountable. Three Tennesseans are dying each day from opioid-related overdoses, and we are committed to the hard work that needs to be done to address this tragedy."

Tennessee leads a multistate group of Attorneys General who are investigating certain manufacturers and distributors and, while not a party, voluntarily engaging in settlement discussions in connection with the federal opioid multidistrict litigation pending in Cleveland, Ohio. The Attorney General's Office continues to work toward a global resolution that will provide comprehensive injunctive relief as well as statewide remediation to assist with prevention, treatment, and education in every community—particularly those hardest hit by this opioid epidemic. "We remain hopeful about reaching an early resolution, but, as evidenced by today's action against Purdue, we will not hesitate to file suit if it is in the State's best interest," added Attorney General Slatery.

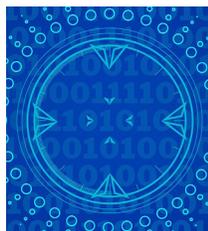
To read the full press release, click here: <http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/sites/default/files/pr18-10.pdf>.



County Spotlight:
Obion County



FCC Announces
Broadband
Funding



TN Digital Govt
Summit
June 26



OSHA
Certification
Opportunity



Help Employees
Fill W-4s
Correctly



USDOT
Announces
BUILD Grants



County Seat: Union City
2010 Population: 31,807
County Government Consultant:
Mike Galey
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Union City is the county seat of Obion County, but it hasn't always been that way. Troy was originally the county seat of Obion County; in fact, David Crockett was present when Troy was first laid out in 1825. However, when the railroads were built a few years later, the Nashville & Northwestern railroad line intersected with the Mobile & Ohio line in a place about 10 miles north of Troy. Because the train tracks met there, they organized a town there called Union City. In 1890, the county seat moved there.

Obion County was also home to Robert Ashton "Fats" Everett (February 24, 1915 - January 26, 1969). Everett was a congressman from 1958 until his death in 1969. He held a long career dedicated to public service beginning in 1936 with his election to the Obion County Court (now known as the County Commission). Everett also served as the Obion County Circuit Court Clerk and later as executive secretary of the Tennessee County Services Association from 1952 to 1958.

FCC Announces \$4.53 Billion to Support Rural Broadband

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced it will provide \$4.53 billion in support over 10 years to primarily rural areas that lack unsubsidized 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) service. The FCC required all mobile providers to provide their coverage data on 4G LTE service and using this data, the FCC created maps of the areas presumptively eligible for \$4.53 billion fund. To refine the maps, the FCC has adopted a process that gives rural communities a chance to challenge the maps by submitting their own data to ensure that the federal dollars will go to the areas where it is needed most.

Local governments that want to challenge the maps have until

August 27, 2018 to do so. Areas that are not shown as eligible on the maps will not be eligible for funding.

In order to access the maps, a local government entity must submit a Mobility Fund Phase II (MF-II) Challenge Portal Access Request: <https://www.fcc.gov/MF2-Challenge-Portal/form>.

Webinars are available at:

- <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2017/11/mf-ii-challenge-process-webinar>
- https://www.youtube.com/embed/_sU8_KKvr0k

For more information general information go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/mobility-fund-phase-ii-mf-ii>.

TN Digital Government Summit

June 26, 2018
Nashville, TN

Government Technology's passion is helping spread best practices and spurring innovation in the public sector. The Tennessee Digital Government Summit is designed to do just that. The summit has an advisory board that gathers public sector and private sector leaders to create an agenda designed to make that passion relevant and actionable to the state and local government organizations attending the summit. Participants use inspirational keynotes, leadership discussions, networking breaks, and timely topics discussed in the numerous breakout sessions to help advance the goals of their organizations and their own career paths.

Register now!
Agenda



OSHA Certification Opportunity

The Local Government Insurance Pool is offering the OSHA Certification Course.

This course provides instruction on a variety of general industry safety and health standards. It's particularly useful for those who are just entering the safety field and would like a better understanding of what is required and where to start. Course subject matter includes an introduction to OSHA, OSHA Act/General Duty Clause, inspections, citations and penalties, walking and working surfaces, means of egress, fire protection, electrical, bloodborne pathogens, personal protective equipment, hazard

communication, lockout/tagout procedures and TOSHA Public Sector.

Each attendee who completes this will receive an OSHA 10-Hour General Industry card.

Potential attendees may include:

- Highway Superintendents
- Highway Garage Foreman
- School Transportation Supervisors
- School Bus Garage Foreman
- Sheriff employees who supervise work detail inmates
- Maintenance Supervisors

- Other officials/employees with responsibility for workplace safety

This is a 2-day session. Attendance is required both days.

All classes 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

May 30-31 - Maury County EMA Operations Center (1451 Tom Hitch Parkway, Columbia TN 38401)

June 20-21 - Fayette County EMA (315 E. Market Street (Old Sheriff's Office), Somerville TN 38068)

If interested in attending this no-cost training, please send an e-mail to mark.fogarty@willistowerswatson.com or rich.cieler@williswatsontowers.com.

TCSA Post Legislative Conference is next week!

Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg

May 22-24

Register | Tentative Agenda

IRS Form W-4: Ensure Your Employees Fill Out Form W-4 Correctly



The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has released a new Form W-4, *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate*, for 2018. While this updated form looks similar to the previous version, there are several significant changes that reflect the recent [2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](#).

Important Information for Employers

You may want to alert your employees about the release of the 2018 Form W-4. Employees can use the worksheets in the new form to recompute their withholding allowances for the remainder of the year. Alternatively, employees can use the withholding calculator on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/W4App to determine their withholding more accurately. The IRS suggests that employees with more complicated tax situation consider using the online calculator. Employees who use the calculator will not need to complete any of the worksheets on Form W-4 as the calculator and the worksheets provide the same calculation of allowances that are reported on Form W-4.

Details About the Updated Form W-4

In previous years, employees could claim allowances for themselves and a spouse and any dependents they could claim on their tax returns. The 2018 Form W-4 continues to provide an allowance for the employee (Line A) but eliminates the allowances for the employee's spouse and dependents.

Additionally, the 2018 Form W-4 adds an allowance for employees who file jointly (Line B). Continued

allowances from previous year Form W-4s are provided for employees who file as heads of households and employees who (a) are single or married filing separately and have only one job, (b) are married filing jointly, have only one job, and whose spouse does not work, or (c) whose wages from a second job or whose spouse's wages (or the combined total) are \$1,500 or less.

Also continued are allowances provided to reflect the child tax credit that employees will be able to claim on their tax return for each qualifying child under age 17 (Line E). However, there has been a significant change to this portion of Form W-4. Depending on the employee's income level, the employee may be allowed as many as four withholding allowances for each dependent child, compared to two allowances in previous years. These changes in child tax credit are intended to account for the increase in the child tax credit amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000, as well as for the increase in the income level at which the child tax credit is reduced or eliminated. Under prior law, the credit began to phase out once income exceeded \$110,000 for joint filers, \$75,000 for singles and heads of household, and \$55,000 for those who are married filing separately. Under the new law, there is no reduction of credit until income exceeds \$400,000 on a joint return or \$200,000 on all other returns.

The updated Form W-4 for 2018 adds a line, Line F, to reflect tax credits that an employee may be able to claim for other dependents. A change made by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

creates a new \$500 tax credit for dependents who do not qualify for the regular child tax credit. This credit is treated as part of the regular child tax credit for purposes of determining any credit reduction.

In previous years, Form W-4 provided a dedicated line for employees who could claim an income tax credit for child or dependent care expenses. That line has been eliminated from the 2018 Form W-4. Instead, employees who can claim other credits are directed to Line G to compute those additional allowances for other credits in [Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax](#).

Continued from previous years, employees who plan to itemize deductions, claim certain adjustments to income, or have large amounts of nonwage income will continue to use the [Deductions, Adjustments, and Additional Income Worksheet](#) to compute their withholding allowances. Note that the new law has caused changes in this worksheet to reflect the increased standard deduction amounts of \$24,000 for married employees filing jointly or surviving spouses, \$18,000 for heads of household, and \$12,000 for singles or married employees filing separately.

The 2018 update to Form W-4 continues the Two Earners/ Multiple Jobs Worksheet for employees who have more than one job at a time or who are married filing jointly and both spouses work.



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

USDOT BUILD Grants to Replace TIGER Program

On April 20, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the new Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

BUILD Transportation grants replace the pre-existing Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. BUILD Transportation grants in fiscal year 2018 are for investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

Projects for BUILD will be evaluated based on merit criteria including safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental protection, state of good repair, innovation, partnership, and additional non-Federal revenue for future transportation infrastructure investments.

USDOT intends to award a greater share of BUILD Transportation grant funding to projects located in rural areas that align well with the selection criteria than to such projects in urban areas. The notice highlights rural needs in several of the evaluation criteria, including support for rural broadband deployment where it is part of an eligible transportation project.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 made available \$1.5 billion for National Infrastructure Investments, otherwise known as BUILD Transportation Discretionary grants, through September 30, 2020. For this round of BUILD Transportation grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single state, as specified in the FY 2018 Appropriations Act. At least 30% of funds must be awarded to projects located in rural areas.

To provide technical assistance to a broad array of stakeholders, USDOT is hosting a series of webinars during the FY 2018

BUILD grant application process:

- Thursday, May 24: How to compete for BUILD Transportation Grants for all applicants.
- Tuesday, May 29: Information for rural and tribal applicants.
- Thursday, May 31: How to prepare a benefit cost analysis for a BUILD application.

All webinars will take place from 2:00-4:00 PM EDT. Details and registration information regarding these webinars will be made available at <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/outreach>. Additional webinars on these topics are anticipated to be scheduled in June.

The deadline to submit an application for the FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program is July 19, 2018.

For more information, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>.

 **County Technical Assistance Service**
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