

HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

RICHLAND COUNTY

Audit Report

For the Years Ended June 30, 2019 and 2018





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Members of the Board
Heartland Council of Governments
1495 Longview Avenue, Suite 100
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Heartland Council of Governments, Richland County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Heartland Council of Governments is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

February 12, 2020

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**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY
AUDIT REPORT
For the Years Ending June 30, 2019 and 2018**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Heartland Council of Governments
Richland County
1495 Longview Avenue, Suite 100
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

To the Members of the Board:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements, and related notes of the Heartland Council of Governments, Richland County, Ohio (the Council) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the Council's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the Council prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the Council does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Council as of June 30, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements, and related notes of the Heartland Council of Governments, Richland County as of June 30, 2019 and 2018, for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 20, 2019, on our consideration of the Council's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
December 20, 2019

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN CASH BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

	2019
Cash Receipts:	
Intergovernmental	127,836
Charges for Services	2,285,287
Sales	420,864
Earnings on Investments	7,383
Miscellaneous	77,749
Total Cash Receipts	2,919,119
Cash Disbursements:	
Salaries	1,317,761
Employee Fringe Benefits	580,096
Purchased and contractual Services	749,228
Supplies and Materials	419,425
Capital Outlay	62,025
Other	28,963
Total Cash Disbursements	3,157,498
Net Income (Loss)	(238,379)
Fund Cash Balance, July 1	1,194,774
Fund Cash Balances, June 30	
Assigned	16,280
Unassigned	940,115
Fund Cash Balances, June 30	956,395

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Heartland Council of Governments, Richland County, Ohio, (the COG) as a body corporate and politic. Eligibility for membership in the COG includes 15 local school districts, one educational service center, one career and technology center, and a consortium of community schools. Each member's Board appoints its Superintendent or Superintendent's designee to act as its representative at COG meetings and for all COG activities. The COG is directed by an appointed eight-member Board of Directors. The COG provides computer and data processing services to its members and other government entities. The COG provides an employing authority which can administer all personnel functions needed to facilitate the use of temporary excess computer capacity and personnel time to provide computer services to non-members and to permit the expansion into new areas of technology.

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Richland County, Ohio, (the Center) serves as the fiscal agent for the COG and provides certain accounting and administrative services to the COG.

The COG's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the COG is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The COG recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

C. Cash and Investments

The COG's cash is held and invested by the Center's Treasurer, who acts as custodian for COG monies. The COG's investments are held in the Center's cash and investment pool and are valued at the Center's reported carrying amount.

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash at June 30, 2019 was \$956,395.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

D. Fund Accounting

The COG uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The General Fund is the general operating fund of the COG and is used to account for all financial resources.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code does not require the COG to budget annually. However, management prepares a budget for internal monitoring. Budgetary basis expenditures include outstanding year end encumbrances.

A summary of 2019 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Accumulated Leave

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the basis of accounting used by the COG.

H. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable – The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted – Fund balance is restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

H. Fund Balance (continued)

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by Council for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the Council, which includes giving the administrative/fiscal agent the authority to constrain monies for intended purposes. The Board may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year’s appropriated budget

Unassigned – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from the overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The Council applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Note 2 – Budgetary Activity

The COG is not required to follow the budgetary process, but has decided to adopt a formal budget annually. Budgetary activity for the year ended June 30, 2019 follows:

	2019		
Fund Type	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
Revenues	\$2,875,278	\$2,919,119	\$43,841
Expenditures*	3,258,991	3,173,778	85,213

*Budgeted expenditures include prior year encumbrances and current year appropriations and actual expenditures include actual disbursements and current year encumbrances.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended June 30, 2019

Note 3 – Retirement System

Plan Description – The COG contributes to the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments; and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by state statute per Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report can be on SERS’ website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10% of their annual covered salary and the COG is required to contribute 14% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended, up to statutory maximum amounts, by the SERS’ Retirement Board. The Retirement Board acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund) of the System. For fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, the allocation to pension, Medicare B and death benefits is 13.5%. The remaining .5% of the 14% employer contribution rate is allocated to Health Care Fund. The COG has paid all contributions required through June 30, 2019.

Note 4 – Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The COG has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

The COG also provides health insurance, dental, and vision coverage to full-time employees through the Center. There has not been a significant reduction in coverage from the prior year. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years.

Note 5 – Other Commitments

The COG utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are reported as part of the assigned classification of fund balance. At year-end, the COG commitments for encumbrances in the governmental fund was \$16,280 for fiscal year ended 2019.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN CASH BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

	2018
Cash Receipts:	
Intergovernmental	134,392
Charges for Services	2,561,708
Sales	87,210
Earnings on Investments	3,729
Miscellaneous	357,994
 Total Cash Receipts	 3,145,033
Cash Disbursements:	
Salaries	1,301,852
Employee Fringe Benefits	567,156
Purchased and contractual Services	893,307
Supplies and Materials	133,323
Capital Outlay	257,476
Other	40,675
 Total Cash Disbursements	 3,193,789
Net Income (Loss)	(48,756)
Fund Cash Balance, July 1	1,243,530
Fund Cash Balances, June 30	
Assigned	272,446
Unassigned	922,328
Fund Cash Balances, June 30	1,194,774

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2018

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Heartland Council of Governments, Richland County, Ohio, (the COG) as a body corporate and politic. Eligibility for membership in the COG includes 15 local school districts, one educational service center, one career and technology center, and a consortium of community schools. Each member's Board appoints its Superintendent or Superintendent's designee to act as its representative at COG meetings and for all COG activities. The COG is directed by an appointed eight-member Board of Directors. The COG provides computer and data processing services to its members and other government entities. The COG provides an employing authority which can administer all personnel functions needed to facilitate the use of temporary excess computer capacity and personnel time to provide computer services to non-members and to permit the expansion into new areas of technology.

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center, Richland County, Ohio, (the Center) serves as the fiscal agent for the COG and provides certain accounting and administrative services to the COG.

The COG's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the COG is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The COG recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

C. Cash and Investments

The COG's cash is held and invested by the Center's Treasurer, who acts as custodian for COG monies. The COG's investments are held in the Center's cash and investment pool and are valued at the Center's reported carrying amount.

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash at June 30, 2018 was \$1,194,774.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2018

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

D. Fund Accounting

The COG uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The General Fund is the general operating fund of the COG and is used to account for all financial resources.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code does not require the COG to budget annually. However, management prepares a budget for internal monitoring. Budgetary basis expenditures include outstanding year end encumbrances.

A summary of 2018 budgetary activity appears in Note 2.

F. Property, Plant and Equipment

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

G. Accumulated Leave

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the basis of accounting used by the COG.

H. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable – The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted – Fund balance is restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2018

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

H. Fund Balance (continued)

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by Council for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the Council, which includes giving the administrative/fiscal agent the authority to constrain monies for intended purposes. The Board may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year’s appropriated budget

Unassigned – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from the overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The Council applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Note 2 – Budgetary Activity

The COG is not required to follow the budgetary process, but has decided to adopt a formal budget annually. Budgetary activity for the year ended June 30, 2018 follows:

	2018		
Fund Type	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
Revenues	\$3,128,218	\$3,145,033	\$16,815
Expenditures*	3,255,659	3,466,235	(210,576)

*Budgeted expenditures include prior year encumbrances and current year appropriations and actual expenditures include actual disbursements and current year encumbrances.

**HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Years Ended June 30, 2018

Note 3 – Retirement System

Plan Description – The COG contributes to the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments; and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by state statute per Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report can be on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10% of their annual covered salary and the COG is required to contribute 14% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended, up to statutory maximum amounts, by the SERS' Retirement Board. The Retirement Board acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund) of the System. For fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the allocation to pension, Medicare B and death benefits is 13.5%. The remaining .5 of the 14% employer contribution rate is allocated to Health Care Fund. The COG has paid all contributions required through June 30, 2018.

Note 4 – Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The COG has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

The COG also provides health insurance, dental, and vision coverage to full-time employees through the Center. There has not been a significant reduction in coverage from the prior year. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years.

Note 5 – Other Commitments

The COG utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are reported as part of the assigned classification of fund balance. At year-end, the COG commitments for encumbrances in the governmental fund was \$272,446 for fiscal year ended 2018.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Heartland Council of Governments
Richland County
1495 Longview Avenue, Suite 100
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

To the Members of the Board:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements of the Heartland Council of Governments, Richland County, (the Council) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 20, 2019 wherein we noted the Council followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinions on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Council's financial statements. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

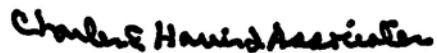
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Council's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
December 20, 2019

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



HEARTLAND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

RICHLAND COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
FEBRUARY 27, 2020**