

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

OTTAWA COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR AUDIT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022





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Governing Board
Clearwater Council of Governments
235 North Toussaint South Road
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Clearwater Council of Governments, Ottawa County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. 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 Clearwater Council of Governments is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

October 05, 2023

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CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
OTTAWA COUNTY, OHIO
Regular Audit
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis	4
Statement of Net Position – Modified Cash Basis	9
Statement of Activities – Modified Cash Basis	10
Statement of Modified Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances - Governmental Fund	11
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes In Modified Cash Basis Fund Balances – Governmental Fund	12
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Modified Cash Basis	13
Statement of Change in Fiduciary Net Position – Modified Cash Basis	14
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements	15
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	29

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Clearwater Council of Governments
Ottawa County
235 N. Toussaint South Road
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the modified cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clearwater Council of Governments, Ottawa County, Ohio (the Council), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Council as of December 31, 2022, and the respective changes in modified cash basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Council, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

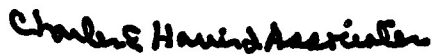
Other Information

We applied no procedures to Management's Discussion & Analysis. Accordingly, we express no opinion or any other assurance on it.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 13, 2023, 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. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's 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.
July 13, 2023

**Clearwater Council of Governments
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For Year Ended December 31, 2022
Unaudited**

The following discussion and analysis provides a summary overview of the financial activities of the Clearwater Council of Governments ("Council") for the year ended December 31, 2022, within the limitations of the Council's modified cash basis of accounting. This information should be read in conjunction with the basic financial statements and notes included in this report.

Financial Highlights

- Net position of governmental activities decreased \$212,182 or 4%.

Using the Basic Financial Statements

This annual report is presented in a format consistent with the presentation requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, as applicable to the Council's modified cash basis of accounting.

Report Components

The statement of net position and the statement of activities provide information about the cash activities of the Council as a whole.

Fund financial statements provide a greater level of detail. Funds are created and maintained on the financial records of the Council as a way to segregate and keep track of money specified for a particular purpose. The Council has a general fund to report its activities.

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the government-wide and fund financial statements and provide expanded explanation and detail regarding the information reported in the statements.

Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting is a set of guidelines that determine when financial events are recorded. The Council has elected to present its financial statements on a modified cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the Council's modified cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

Clearwater Council of Governments
Management's Discussion and Analysis, Continued
For Year Ended December 31, 2022
Unaudited

As a result of using the modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable) are not recorded in the financial statements. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this report, the reader must keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the modified cash basis of accounting.

Reporting the Council as a Whole

The statement of net position and the statement of activities reflect how the Council did financially during 2022, within the limitations of the modified cash basis accounting. The statement of net position presents the cash balance and investments of the governmental activities of the Council at year end. The statement of activities compares cash disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the Council's governmental activities. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental program is self-financing on a modified cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the Council.

These statements report the Council's cash position and the changes in cash position. Keeping in mind the limitations of the modified cash basis of accounting, you can think of these changes as one way to measure the Council's financial health. Over time, increases or decreases in the Council's cash position is one indicator of whether the Council's financial health is improving or deteriorating. When evaluating the Council's financial condition, you should also consider other nonfinancial factors as well.

Reporting the Council's Most Significant Funds

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Council's major funds - not the Council as a whole. The Council establishes separate funds to better manage its many activities and to help demonstrate that money that is restricted as to how it may be used is being spent for the intended purpose. The Council has a governmental fund and fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds - The Council's activities are reported in governmental funds. The governmental fund financial statements provide a detailed view of the Council's governmental operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent to finance the Council's programs. Significant governmental funds are presented on financial statements in separate columns. The information for nonmajor funds (funds whose activity or balances are not large enough to warrant separate reporting) is combined and presented in total in a single column. The

Clearwater Council of Governments
Management's Discussion and Analysis, Continued
For Year Ended December 31, 2022
Unaudited

Council has one governmental fund; the General Fund. The programs reported in governmental funds are closely related to those reported in the governmental activities section of the entity-wide statements.

Fiduciary Funds - The Council has three fiduciary funds. One that is used to pay insurance premiums on behalf of one of our member counties, another is a payee account for individual with developmental disabilities and the third is use to pay future match payments on behalf of our member counties. They are classified as custodial funds. Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to account for assets held by the Council for other parties.

The Council as a Whole

Table 1 provides a summary of the Council's net position for 2022 compared to 2021 on the modified cash basis:

(Table 1)
Net Position

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>			
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Assets				
Cash	\$2,768,181	\$3,010,596	(\$242,415)	(9%)
Investments	<u>2,023,000</u>	<u>1,992,767</u>	<u>30,233</u>	3%
Total Assets	<u>\$4,791,181</u>	<u>\$5,003,363</u>	<u>(\$212,182)</u>	(4%)
Net Position				
Unrestricted	<u>\$4,791,181</u>	<u>\$5,003,363</u>	<u>(\$212,182)</u>	(4%)
Total Net Position	<u>\$4,791,181</u>	<u>\$5,003,363</u>	<u>(\$212,182)</u>	(4%)

As mentioned previously, net position of governmental activities decreased \$212,182, or 4% during 2022.

Clearwater Council of Governments
Management's Discussion and Analysis, Continued
For Year Ended December 31, 2022
Unaudited

Table 2 reflects the changes in net position on the modified cash basis in 2022 and 2021 for governmental activities.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Receipts				
Program Receipts:				
Waiver Revenue	\$ 277,378	\$ 358,552	(\$ 81,174)	(23%)
Waiver Match Revenue	850,000	795,506	54,494	7%
Services Revenue	1,208,193	727,436	480,757	66%
Other Revenue	37,517	33,967	3,550	10%
Medicaid Revenue	533,507	642,238	(108,731)	(17%)
Supported Living Revenue	<u>310,682</u>	<u>225,756</u>	<u>84,926</u>	38%
Total Program Receipts	3,217,277	2,783,455	433,822	16%
General Receipts:				
Interest Revenue	<u>118,004</u>	<u>28,863</u>	89,111	308%
Total Receipts	3,335,281	2,812,318	522,963	19%
Disbursements:				
Program	3,342,278	3,003,208	339,070	11%
Administrative	<u>205,185</u>	<u>151,939</u>	<u>53,246</u>	35%
Total Disbursements	<u>3,547,463</u>	<u>3,155,147</u>	<u>392,316</u>	12%
Change in Net Position	<u>(\$ 212,182)</u>	<u>(\$ 342,829)</u>	<u>\$130,617</u>	38%

For the year ended December 31, 2022:

- The 23% decrease in Waiver Revenue is due to changing our fee structure and moving more fees to the Services Revenue.
- The 67% increase is due to our adding services of about \$271,000 along with increasing the usage of services we had in 2021.
- The 17% decrease in Medicaid Revenue is primarily due to receiving two settlement payments in 2021 and none in 2022.
- The 38% increase in Supported Living is primarily due to one county sending about \$128,000 more for their supported living services and one county sending about \$47,000 less for their supported living services in 2022 compared to 2021.
- The 308% increase in Interest Revenue is due primarily to an increase in interest rates.
- The 11% increase in Program Expense is due mostly to the increase in Salary and Benefits due to adding staff along with Professional Services Expenses.

**Clearwater Council of Governments
Management's Discussion and Analysis, Continued
For Year Ended December 31, 2022
Unaudited**

- The 35% increase in Administrative Expenses is due mostly to the increase in Salary and Benefits due to adding staff along with Professional Services Expenses.

General Fund

General fund balance decreased \$212,182 in 2022. This decrease is due primarily to the same reasons for the decrease in net position, as previously discussed.

Economic Factors

It should be noted that future receipts could be reduced due to the possibility of State budget cuts.

Contacting the Council's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Council's finances and to reflect the Council's accountability for the monies it receives. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Director of Fiscal Operations, Clearwater Council of Governments, 235 N. Toussaint South Road, Oak Harbor, OH 43449, or by telephone at (419) 898-8264.

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
December 31, 2022

	Governmental <u>Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,768,181
Investments	<u>2,023,000</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 4,791,181</u></u>
 NET POSITION	
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 4,791,181</u>
 TOTAL NET POSITION	<u><u>\$ 4,791,181</u></u>

**"The Accompanying Notes are an Integral
Part of These Financial Statements"**

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>Cash</u> <u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Program</u> <u>Cash Receipts</u> <u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Net (Disbursement)</u> <u>Receipts and Changes</u> <u>in Net Position</u>
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES			
Community Support	\$ 3,342,278	\$ 3,049,657	(\$ 292,621)
General and Administrative	<u>205,185</u>	<u>167,620</u>	<u>(37,565)</u>
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u>\$ 3,547,463</u>	<u>\$ 3,217,277</u>	<u>(330,186)</u>

General Receipts	
Interest	<u>118,004</u>
Total General Receipts	<u>118,004</u>
Change in Net Position	(212,182)
Net Position Beginning of Year	<u>5,003,363</u>
Net Position End of Year	<u>\$ 4,791,181</u>

**"The Accompanying Notes are an Integral
Part of These Financial Statements"**

**CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
STATEMENT OF MODIFIED CASH BASIS ASSETS AND FUND BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2022**

	<u>General Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 2,768,181
Investments	<u>2,023,000</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 4,791,181</u>
FUND BALANCE	
Unassigned	<u>\$ 4,791,181</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 4,791,181</u>

**"The Accompanying Notes are an Integral
Part of These Financial Statements"**

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN MODIFIED CASH BASIS FUND BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>General Fund</u>
RECEIPTS	
Waiver Revenue	\$ 277,378
Other Revenue	37,517
Waiver Match	850,000
Services Revenue	1,208,193
Medicaid	533,507
Supported Living Revenue	310,682
Interest Revenue	<u>118,004</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,335,281
 DISBURSEMENTS	
Program	3,342,278
Administrative	<u>205,185</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>3,547,463</u>
 NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	 (212,182)
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>5,003,363</u>
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 4,791,181</u></u>

**"The Accompanying Notes are an Integral
Part of These Financial Statements"**

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - MODIFIED
CASH BASIS
December 31, 2022

	<u>Custodial</u>
ASSETS	
Equity in Pooled Cash Equivalents	\$ 199,791
Investments	<u>560,000</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 759,791</u></u>
NET POSITION	
Held on Behalf of member - Payee	\$ 47,850
Held on Behalf of member - Insurance	146,357
Held on Behalf of members - Future Waiver Match	<u>565,584</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u><u>\$ 759,791</u></u>

**"The Accompanying Notes are an Integral
Part of These Financial Statements"**

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION -
MODIFIED CASH BASIS
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>Custodial</u>
ADDITIONS	
Other Amounts Collected for Distribution - Payee	\$ 396,995
Other Amounts Collected for Distribution - Match	<u>205,202</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>602,197</u>
DEDUCTIONS	
Distributions - Payee	390,885
Distributions - Insurance	<u>5,766</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>396,651</u>
NET CHANGE IN NET POSITION	205,546
NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>554,245</u>
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 759,791</u></u>

**"The Accompanying Notes are an Integral
Part of These Financial Statements"**

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization

Clearwater Council of Governments (“Council”) was organized in 1996 under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Council is authorized to administer programs on behalf of the following nine county boards of developmental disabilities in North-Central Ohio: Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland and Seneca. The Council, pursuant to its bylaws, contracts for services with providers for the use of funds for specific programs awarded from the State of Ohio and is responsible for monitoring the use of the funds by such providers.

The Council, being a public body, is tax exempt under the laws of Ohio.

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of the Council are presented on a modified cash basis of accounting. This modified cash basis of accounting differs from generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States. Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent applicable to the modified cash basis of accounting. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

The Council’s basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the Council as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the Council.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance and investments of the governmental activities of the Council at year end. The statement of activities compares disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the Council’s governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the Council is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program.

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

Basis of Presentation, Continued

Government-Wide Financial Statements, Continued

Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the Council, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental program is self-financing on a modified cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the Council.

Fund Financial Statements

During the year, the Council segregates transactions related to certain Council functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the Council at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

Fund Accounting

The Council uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The Council has a governmental fund and three fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the Council are financed. The following is the Council's only governmental fund:

General – The General Fund accounts for all financial resources of the Council, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The primary financial resources are State of Ohio and other funding.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position. The custodial funds are the Council's only fiduciary funds. The custodial fund is purely custodial in nature and is used to account for assets held by the Council for other parties. One custodial fund is used for county boards of developmental disabilities for which the County acts as a fiscal agent. One is used to pay insurance premiums on behalf of one of our member counties. The third is used to pay future match payments on behalf of our member counties.

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

Basis of Presentation, Continued

The Council's financial statements are prepared using the modified cash basis of accounting. Except for modifications having substantial support, receipts are recorded in the Council's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Any such modifications made by the Council are described in the appropriate section of this note.

As a result of the use of the modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

Budgetary Process

The Council is not required to prepare a budget in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. Accordingly, a statement of actual to budget has not been included in these financial statements.

Cash and Investments

The Council considers all demand deposits in banks to be cash equivalents.

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra revenue), respectively.

During 2022, the Council invested in certificates of deposit, federal agency securities, money market funds and STAR Ohio. Certificates of deposit and federal agency securities are valued at cost. The Council's money market fund investments are recorded at the amount reported by PNC at December 31, 2022.

STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio) is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, "Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants." The Council measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides a NAV per share that approximates fair value.

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

For 2022, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, notice must be given 24 hours in advance of all deposits or withdrawal exceeding \$100 million. STAR Ohio serves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during 2022 were \$118,004.

Capital Assets

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

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Council's modified cash basis of accounting.

Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The Council recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 3 and 4, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

Long-Term Obligations

The Council's modified cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset when entering into a capital lease is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Lease payments are reported when paid.

Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The Council has no restricted components of net position.

The Council's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available.

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

Fund Balances

In the fund financial statements, fund balance for governmental funds are reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the Council is bound to honor constraints on the specific purpose for which amounts in the funds can be spent. Fund balance is reported in five components – nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned.

Nonspendable - Nonspendable fund balance includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or legally or contractually 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 reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed – Committed fund balance consists of amounts that can be used only for specific purposes imposed by formal action of the Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Council removes or changes the specific use by taking the same type of action it employed to previously commit those amounts. In contrast to fund balance that is restricted by enabling legislation, the committed funds balance classification may be redeployed for other purposes with appropriate due process. Constraints imposed on the use of committed amounts are imposed by the Council, separate from the authorization to raise the underlying revenue; therefore, compliance with these constraints is not considered to be legally enforceable. 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.

Assigned – Assigned fund balance consists of amounts that are constrained by the Council’s intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by the Council or a Council official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute. The Council may also assign fund balance as a result when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year’s appropriated budget in the General Fund.

Unassigned – Unassigned fund balance consists of amounts that have not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes.

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

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, Continued

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.

The Council has no nonspendable, restricted, committed or assigned fund balances.

NOTE 2 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS

There are no legal restrictions on the Council's investments or deposits. However, the Council has adopted as their investment policy the legal restrictions imposed by the Ohio Revised Code on certain political subdivisions.

Monies held by the Council are classified into three categories.

Active monies are monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the Treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the Treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are deposits that the Council has identified as not required for use within the current two-year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim monies are those monies that are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Interim monies held by the Council can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 2 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS, Continued

3. Interim deposits in eligible institutions. Such deposits are to be awarded to the depository offering to pay the highest permissible rate of interest. The treasurer or the board is to determine the periods for which such deposits are to be made;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio;
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in 1. and 2. above and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations; and
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).

The Council may also enter into overnight or term repurchase agreements consisting of an agreement to repurchase any of the securities listed in 1. or 2. above.

Depository Credit Risk

As of December 31, 2022, the carrying amount of the Council's deposits was \$220,067 and the bank balance was \$225,985. Of the bank balance, \$255,985 is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Depository Custodial Risk

The Council has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State. The banks of the Council are approved for a reduced collateral rate of 50%.

**CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022**

NOTE 2 - CASH AND INVESTMENTS, Continued

Investments

As of December 31, 2022, the Council had the following investments:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Maturities</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>
Federal Agency Securities:		
T Bond	04/15/2023	\$400,000
T Bond	05/31/2023	210,000
Federal Farm Credit Bank	11/01/2023	105,000
T Bond	11/15/2023	260,000
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	11/16/2023	138,000
Federal Home Loan Bank	4/29/2024	175,000
Federal Home Loan Bank	06/03/2024	350,000
Negotiable Certificate of Deposit	10/28/2024	160,000
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	10/28/2024	180,000
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	11/08/2024	150,000
Federal Home Loan Bank	03/07/2025	130,000
Federal Farm Credit Bank	04/21/2025	150,000
Federal Home Loan Bank	05/23/2025	175,000
Star Ohio	31.9 days	2,706,792
Money Market Fund	N/A	<u>41,113</u>
Total Investments		<u>\$5,330,905</u>

Interest Rate Risk - Council policy requires that an investment mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Council, and that an investment must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Council policy limits investments in commercial paper to a maximum maturity of 180 days from the date of purchase. Repurchase agreements are limited to 30 days and the market value of the securities must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2% and be marked to market daily. Council policy limits the investment of interim and inactive monies to certificates of deposit with a term of no more than five years and the expiration of the depository agreement, respectively.

Credit Risk - The investment in the money market fund carry a rating of AAAM by Standard and Poor's. The Council's investments in the federal agency securities were rated AA+ by Standard and Poor's. Council policy requires that money market funds have the highest credit rating issued by at least one national rating service.

Custodial Credit Risk - Council policy requires that depositories must collateralize deposits and that securities underlying term repurchase agreements must be delivered to the Council or its designee. The Council has no other policies that address custodial credit risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk - Council places no limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer.

**CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022**

NOTE 3 - PENSIONS

The employees of the Council participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) which administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan and the combined plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan with defined contribution features. While members may elect the member-directed plan and the combined plan, substantially all members are in the OPERS' traditional plan; therefore, the following disclosure focuses on the traditional pension plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits and annual cost-of-living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by state statute per Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <http://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (800) 222-7377.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members in the traditional and combined plans were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional and combined plans as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343:

Group A Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013 or five years after January 7, 2013	Group B 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013 or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	Group C Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
State and Local	State and Local	State and Local
Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35
Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	Combined Plan Formula: 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 35

Final average Salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

Members who retire before meeting the age and years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount.

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 3 - PENSIONS, Continued

When a traditional plan benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) is provided. This COLA is calculated on the base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. Members retiring under the combined plan receive a cost-of-living adjustment of the defined benefit portion of their pension benefit. For those retiring prior to January 7, 2013, the COLA will continue to be a 3 percent simple annual COLA. For those retiring subsequent to January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the COLA will be based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent.

Defined contribution plan benefits are established in the plan documents, which may be amended by the Board. Member-directed plan and combined plan members who have met the retirement eligibility requirements may apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the combined plan consists of the member's contributions plus or minus the investment gains or losses resulting from the member's investment selections. Combined plan members wishing to receive benefits must meet the requirements for both the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Member-directed participants must have attained the age of 55, have money on deposit in the defined contribution plan and have terminated public service to apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the member-directed plan consists of the members' contributions, vested employer contributions and investment gains or losses resulting from the members' investment selections. Employer contributions and associated investment earnings vest over a five-year period, at a rate of 20 percent each year. At retirement, members may select one of several distribution options for payment of the vested balance in their individual OPERS accounts. Options include the purchase of an annuitization of their benefit (which includes joint and survivor options), partial lump-sum payments (subject to limitations), a rollover of the vested account balance to another financial institution, receipt of entire account balance, net of taxes withheld, or combination of these options. When members choose annuitize their defined contribution benefit, the annuitized portion of the benefit is reclassified to a defined benefit.

Beginning in 2022, the Combined Plan will be consolidated under the Traditional Pension Plan (defined benefit plan) and the Combined Plan option will no longer be available for new hires.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 3 - PENSIONS, Continued

	State and Local
2022 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates	
Employer	14.0 %
Employee	10.0 %
2022 Actual Contribution Rates	
Employer:	
Pension	14.0 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits	0.0
 Total Employer	 14.0 %
 Employee	 10.0 %

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The Council’s contributions to OPERS for the year ended December 2022 was \$163,542. All required contributions were made prior to the end of each the year.

NOTE 4 - POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan. The combined plan is a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has the elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple employer defined benefit post-employment health care trusts, which funds multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage and deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) to qualifying benefit recipients of both the traditional pension and the combined plans. Currently, Medicare-eligible retirees are able to select medical and prescription drug plans from a range of options and may elect optional vision and dental plans. Retirees and eligible dependents enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B have the option to enroll in a Medicare supplemental plan with the assistance of the OPERS Medicare Connector. The OPERS Medicare Connector is a relationship with a vendor selected by OPERS to assist retirees, spouses and dependents with selecting a medical and pharmacy plan. Monthly allowances, based on years of service and the age at which the retiree first enrolled in OPERS coverage, are deposited into an HRA. For non-Medicare retirees and eligible dependents, OPERS sponsors medical and prescription coverage through a professionally managed self-insured plan. An allowance to offset a portion of the monthly premium is offered to retirees and eligible dependents. The allowance is based on the retiree’s years of service and age when they first enrolled in OPERS coverage.

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 4 - POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, Continued

Medicare-eligible retirees who choose to become re-employed or survivors who become employed in an OPERS-covered position are prohibited from participating in an HRA. For this group of retirees, OPERS sponsors secondary coverage through a professionally managed self-insured program. Retirees who enroll in this plan are provided with a monthly allowance to offset a portion of the monthly premium. Medicare-eligible spouses and dependents can also enroll in this plan as long as the retiree is enrolled.

OPERS provides a monthly allowance for health care coverage for eligible retirees and their eligible dependents. The base allowance is determined by OPERS.

The health care trust is also used to fund health care for member-directed plan participants, in the form of a Retiree Medical Account (RMA). At retirement or separation, member directed plan participants may be eligible for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses from their vested RMA balance.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS will discontinue the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

In order to qualify for postemployment health care coverage, age and service retirees under the traditional pension and combined plans must have 20 or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit with a minimum age of 60. Members in Group A are eligible for coverage at any age with 30 or more years of qualifying service. Members in Group B are eligible at any age with 32 years of qualifying service or at age 52 with 31 years of qualifying service. Members in Group C are eligible for coverage with 32 years of qualifying service and a minimum age of 55. Current retirees eligible (or who become eligible prior to January 1, 2022) to participate in the OPERS health care program will continue to be eligible after January 1, 2022. Eligibility requirements will change for those retiring after January 1, 2022, with differing eligibility requirements for Medicare retirees and non-Medicare retirees. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement 75. See OPERS' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced below for additional information.

The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the OPERS Board of Trustees in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or (800) 222-7377.

**CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022**

NOTE 4 - POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, Continued

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund post-retirement health care through their contributions to OPERS. A portion of each employer’s contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans. Beginning in 2018, OPERS no longer allocated a portion of its employer contributions to health care for the traditional plan and the combined plan.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2022, local government employers contributed at a rate of 14.0% of earnable salary. The Ohio Revised Code currently limits the employer contribution to a rate not to exceed 14.0% of earnable salary for local government employers. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active members do not fund health care.

Each year, the OPERS Board of Trustees determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. For 2022, OPERS did not allocate any employer contributions to health care for members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the member-directed plan for 2022 was 4.0 percent.

The Council’s contributions for health care to OPERS for the year ending December 31, 2022 was \$0 which was equal to the required contributions for the year.

NOTE 5 - LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Council rents office space on a year-to-year basis from the Marion and Ottawa County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The rent expense for 2022 was \$13,585.

The Council leases equipment under a noncancelable lease. The Council disbursed \$5,000 to pay lease costs for the year ended December 31, 2022. Future lease payments are as follows:

<u>Year Ending December 31</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2023	\$ 4,980
2024	4,980
2025	4,980
2026	4,980
2027 and thereafter	<u>415</u>
Total	<u>\$20,335</u>

CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED
Year Ended December 31, 2022

NOTE 6 - COMPLIANCE WITH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

The Council serves as a pass through agency for the State of Ohio's Medicaid allocations to its providers. Providers are required to comply with the terms and conditions specified in the Medicaid provider agreements. Medicaid permits the providers one full year from the date services were provided to bill for reimbursements.

Ohio has the authority to audit the providers' compliance with such agreements and grants. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits would require repayment by the provider. Management of the Council is not aware of any material disallowed or questioned costs due to noncompliance.

NOTE 7 - RELATED PARTY

The Council has a relationship with a represented county for payroll services. The county processes the Council's payroll transactions. The amount paid to the county in 2022 for payroll and payroll services was approximately \$1,501,000.

NOTE 8- RISK MANAGEMENT

The Council is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Council maintains comprehensive insurance coverage with a private carrier for building contents and general liability. Contents are fully insured. There have been no claims in each of the past three years. There have been no reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year.

NOTE 9 - CONTINGENCIES

The Medicaid Administrative Claiming income is subject to retroactive adjustment which could result in increases or decreases in future revenue upon settlement. The Council is unable to determine the amount, if any, of the cost settlements for the open years of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

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

Clearwater Council of Governments
Ottawa County
235 N. Toussaint South Road
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clearwater Council of Governments, Ottawa County (the Council) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 13, 2023, wherein we noted the Council uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinion the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Council's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. 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 deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.


Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Council's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

However, we noted a certain other matter not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Council's management in a separate letter dated July 13, 2023.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

July 13, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



CLEARWATER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

OTTAWA COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 10/17/2023

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov