



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS
HAMILTON COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Prepared by Management:	
Basic Financial Statements:	
Statement of Fund Net Position – Cash Basis.....	3
Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Position – Cash Basis	4
Statement of Cash Flows – Cash Basis.....	5
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements.....	7
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	29

This page intentionally left blank.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Center for Collaborative Solutions
Hamilton County
11083 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

To the Governing Board:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying cash-basis financial statements of the Center for Collaborative Solutions, Hamilton County, Ohio (the COG), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the COG's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the cash accounting basis Note 2 describes. This responsibility includes determining that the cash accounting basis is acceptable for the circumstances. Management is also responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements that are 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 COG'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 COG's internal control. Accordingly, we express no 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.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash financial position of the Center for Collaborative Solutions, Hamilton County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2018, and the respective changes in cash financial position and where applicable cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting basis described in Note 2.

Accounting Basis

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the accounting basis. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which differs from generally accepted accounting principles. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 6, 2018, on our consideration of the COG'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 COG's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

November 6, 2018

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
June 30, 2018

	<u>Center for Collaborative Solutions</u>
Assets:	
Current Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$2,116,556</u>
Total Assets	<u>2,116,556</u>
Net Position:	
Unrestricted	<u>2,116,556</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$2,116,556</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Net Position - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

	Center for Collaborative Solutions
Operating Revenues:	
Charges for Services	\$10,424,382
Other Revenues	34,730
Total Operating Revenues	<u>10,459,112</u>
Operating Expenses:	
Salaries	8,312,903
Fringe Benefits	1,486,702
Purchased Services	319,903
Materials and Supplies	708
Other Expenses	150,000
Total Operating Expenses	<u>10,270,216</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>188,896</u>
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses):	
State and Federal Grants	1,793
Total Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>1,793</u>
Change in Net Position	190,689
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>1,925,867</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u><u>\$2,116,556</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Statement of Cash Flows - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

	Center for Collaborative Solutions
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Cash Received from Member Districts	\$10,459,112
Cash Payments to Employees	(8,312,903)
Cash Payments to Fringe Benefits	(1,486,702)
Cash Payments to Suppliers	(319,903)
Cash Payments for Materials and Supplies	(708)
Cash Payments for Other Expenses	(150,000)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	188,896
	<hr/>
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities:	
Cash Received from State and Federal Grants	1,793
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Noncapital Financing Activities	1,793
	<hr/>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	190,689
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year	1,925,867
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year	2,116,556
	<hr/> <hr/>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Operating Income (Loss)	188,896
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	\$188,896
	<hr/> <hr/>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

This page intentionally left blank.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Note 1 - Description of the COG and Reporting Entity

Description of the COG

The Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments (the "COG"), is a body Corporate and Politic established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167, by agreement of its members. The COG is a collaborative between Hamilton County Educational Service Center and Clermont County Educational Service Center. The COG is currently providing services for thirty member school districts and other entities in Hamilton County and Clermont County, principally providing substitute teachers and substitute classified personnel. Hamilton County Educational Service Center acts as a fiscal officer for the COG.

The governing authority of The Center for Collaborative Solutions (COG) is the COG Board, which is comprised of two superintendents, two board members and one treasurer. All members are from The Hamilton County ESC and Clermont County ESC. The Officer positions of the COG Board are President, Vice-President and Secretary. Currently, the Clermont County ESC Superintendent is appointed President and the Hamilton County ESC Superintendent is appointed Vice President. The ESCs rotate those positions as determined by the COG Board. All other officers serve until his/her successor is appointed.

Reporting Entity

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the COG consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the COG. For the COG, this is the general operation.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the COG is financially accountable. The COG is financially accountable for an organization if the COG appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the COG is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the COG is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the COG is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the COG is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the COG in that the COG approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. The COG has no component units.

The COG is associated with the Hamilton Clermont Cooperative (HCC), a jointly governed organization. Information about HCC is presented in Note 7 to the basic financial statements.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the COG's accounting policies:

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Basis of Presentation

The COG's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position, a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and a statement of cash flows.

The COG uses a single enterprise presentation for its financial records. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position and financial position.

Basis of Accounting

The COG's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the COG'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 the liability is incurred.

As a result of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue billed for provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities (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. If the COG utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted, the financial statements would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, cash received by the COG is kept in a bank account. Individual fund integrity is maintained through COG records. The COG's cash and cash equivalents is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the financial statements.

Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. The financial statements do not report these assets.

Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the COG or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws, or regulations of other governments.

The COG applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the COG. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the COG. All revenues and expenditures not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension/OPEB plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.

Note 3 - Deposits

State statutes classify monies held by the COG into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the COG 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 public deposits that the Board has identified as not required for use within the current two year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must be either 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 deposits are deposits of interim moneys. Interim moneys are those moneys which 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 accounts including passbook accounts.

Protection of the COG's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of 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.

Interim monies may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, 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 obligations or securities 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, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities.
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above, provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

agreement by at least two percent and be marked to fair value daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days.

4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio.
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) of this section, and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions.
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).
7. Certain banker's acceptances and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days from the date of purchase in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent of interim monies available for investment at any time.
8. Under limited circumstances, corporate debt interests rated in either of the two highest rating classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the COG, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Fiscal officer or qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the COG will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At June 30, 2018, the carrying amount of all COG deposits was \$2,116,556. As of June 30, 2018, \$2,017,826 of the COG's bank balance of \$2,267,826 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and collateralized. The COG's financial institution was approved for a reduced collateral through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System.

The COG has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

Eligible securities pledged to the COG and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105% of the deposits being secured; or

Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of 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.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Investments

As of June 30, 2018, the COG did not have any investments.

Note 4 - Risk Management

The COG 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 COG carries insurance coverage with the following companies.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Automobile	The Argonaut Insurance Company
Property	The Argonaut Insurance Company
General Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company

Limits and deductible amounts for the above policies vary accordingly.

<u>TYPE OF COVERAGE</u>	<u>LIMITS</u>	<u>DEDUCTIBLE</u>
Automobile	\$1,000,000 each occurrence	\$500 collision
Property	\$1,000,000 each occurrence	\$500 each loss
General Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$2,000,000 general aggregate	

The COG pays the State of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the past years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from last year.

Note 5 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Net Pension Liability

Pensions are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension liability represents the COG’s proportionate share of each pension plan’s collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan’s fiduciary net position. The net pension liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Ohio Revised Code limits the COG’s obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The COG cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions are financed; however, the COG does receive the benefit of employees’ services in exchange for compensation including pension.

GASB 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan’s board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – COG non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. 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 Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS’ fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire on or after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit Age 65 with 5 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

* Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017, will be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on year of service; 2.20% for the first thirty years of service and 2.50% for years of service credit over 30 or \$86.00 multiplied by the years of service credit. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

Post-Retirement Increases – Before January 1, 2018; on each anniversary of the initial date of retirement, the allowances of all retirees and survivors are increased by 3% of the base benefit. On or after January 1, 2018; on each anniversary of the initial retirement, the allowance of all retirees and survivors are increased by the annual rate of increase in the CPI-W measured as of the June preceding the beginning of the applicable calendar year. The annual rate of increase shall not be less than 0% nor greater than 2.5%. COLA’s shall be suspended for calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

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

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10% for plan members and 14% for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 13.5%. The remaining 0.5% was allocated to the Health Care Fund.

The COG's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$117,679 for fiscal year 2018.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – COG licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site at www.strsoh.org.

New members have a choice of three retirement plans; a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307.

The DB Plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Effective July 1, 2017, the cost-of-living adjustment was reduced to zero. Members are eligible to retire at age 60 with five years of qualifying service credit, or at age 55 with 26 years of service, or 31 years of service regardless of age. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5% of the 14% employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12% of the 14% member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2% is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity after termination of employment at age 50 or later.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

New members who choose the DC Plan or Combined Plan will have another opportunity to reselect a permanent plan during their fifth year of membership. Members may remain in the same plan or transfer to another STRS Ohio plan. The optional annuitization of a member’s defined contribution account or the defined contribution portion of a member’s Combined Plan account to a lifetime benefit results in STRS Ohio bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS Ohio therefore has included all three plan options for GASB 68 reporting purposes.

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. New members on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least 10 years of qualifying service credit to apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member’s designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member’s account balance.

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, plan members were required to contribute 14% of their annual covered salary. The employer was required to contribute 14%; the entire 14% was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2018 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The COG’s contractually required contribution to STRS was \$1,046,128 for fiscal year 2018.

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2017, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The COG’s proportion of the net pension liability was based on the COG’s share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$1,399,126	\$16,486,568	\$17,885,694
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.02341720%	0.06940189%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.00836890%</u>	<u>0.05936270%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.01504830%	0.01003919%	

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

SERS’ total pension liability was determined by their actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each defined benefit retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment termination). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2017, are presented below:

Wage Inflation	3.00%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.50% - 18.20%
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.50%
Investment Rate of Return	7.50% net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Actuarial Assumptions Experience Study Date	5 year period ended June 30, 2015

Prior to 2017, an assumption of 3.0% was used for COLA or Ad Hoc COLA.

For 2017, the mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females. Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries were based upon the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates. Mortality among disable members were based upon the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement. The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended June 30, 2015.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in the SERS' Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating an arithmetic weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major assets class are summarized in the following table:

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	1.00%	0.50%
US Stocks	22.50%	4.75%
Non-US Stocks	22.50%	7.00%
Fixed Income	19.00%	1.50%
Private Equity	10.00%	8.00%
Real Assets	15.00%	5.00%
Multi-Asset Strategies	10.00%	3.00%
Total	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.50%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return 7.50%. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the COG's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.50%, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.50%), or one percentage point higher (8.50%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease 6.50%	Current Discount Rate 7.50%	1% Increase 8.50%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$1,941,623	\$1,399,126	\$944,674

Changes in Benefit Terms

The COLA was changed from a fixed 3.00% to a COLA that is indexed to CPI-W not greater than 2.5% with a floor of 0% beginning January 1, 2018. In addition, with the authority granted the Board under HB 49, the Board has enacted a three-year COLA suspension for benefit recipients in calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the July 1, 2017, actuarial valuation, compared with July 1, 2016 are presented below:

	July 1, 2017	July 1, 2016
Inflation	2.50%	2.75%
Projected salary increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	12.25% at age 20 to 2.75% at age 70
Investment Rate of Return	7.45%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.75%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.50%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0%, effective July 1, 2017	2% simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2% per year; for members retiring August 1 2013, or later, 2% COLA commences on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

For the July 1, 2017, actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

For the July 1, 2016 actuarial valuation, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males’ ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set-back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89, and no set back from age 90 and above.

Actuarial assumptions used in the July 1 2017, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016. Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2016, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study, effective July 1, 2012.

STRS Ohio’s investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return*
Domestic Equity	28.00%	7.35%
International Equity	23.00%	7.55%
Alternatives	17.00%	7.09%
Fixed Income	21.00%	3.00%
Real Estate	10.00%	6.00%
Liquidity Reserves	1.00%	2.25%
Total	100.00%	

*10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and does not include investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.45% as of June 30, 2017. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with the rates described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2017. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.45% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2017.

Sensitivity of the COG's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2017, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.45%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.45%) or one percentage point higher (8.45%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 6.45%	Current Discount Rate 7.45%	1% Increase 8.45%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$23,632,934	\$16,486,568	\$10,466,826

Changes in Assumptions

The Retirement Board approved several changes to the actuarial assumptions in 2017. The long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, the inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%, the payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00%, and total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

decrease of 0.25% due to lower inflation. The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016. Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

Changes in Benefit Terms

Effective July 1, 2017, the COLA was reduced to zero.

Note 6 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans

Net OPEB Liability

For fiscal year 2018, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions" was effective. This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position as reported June 30, 2017, as the net OPEB liability is not reported in the accompanying financial statements. The net OPEB liability has been disclosed below.

OPEB is a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. OPEB are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net OPEB liability represents the employers's proportionate share of each OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net OPEB liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting these estimates annually.

Ohio Revised Code limits the employer's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The employer cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which OPEB are financed; however, the employer does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including OPEB.

GASB 75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because they benefit from employee services. OPEB contributions come from these employers and health care plan enrollees which pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. Any change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net OPEB liability. Resulting adjustments to the net OPEB liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The COG contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. The SERS Retirement Board established the rules for the premiums paid by the retirees for health care coverage for themselves and their dependents or for their surviving beneficiaries. Premiums vary depending on the plan selected, qualified years of service, Medicare eligibility, and retirement status.

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2018, .5 percent of covered payroll was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2018, this amount was \$23,700. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.0% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2018, the surcharge obligation was \$12,345.

The surcharge, added to the unallocated COG portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The contractually required contribution to SERS was \$16,548 for fiscal year 2018.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued effective January 1, 2020. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net OPEB Liability

The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2017, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The employer's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the employer's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$634,588	\$2,707,806	\$3,342,394
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.02364570%	0.06940189%	

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

The total OPEB liability is determined by SERS' actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment terminations). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases, actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2017, are presented below:

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Wage Inflation	3.00%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.50% to 18.20%
Investment Rate of Return	7.50% net of investments expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.56%
Prior Measurement Date	2.92%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:	
Measurement Date	3.63%
Prior Measurement Date	2.98%
Medical Trend Assumption	
Medicare	5.50% to 5.00%
Pre-Medicare	7.50% to 5.00%

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and Scale BB, 120 percent of male rates and 110 percent of female rates. RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates set back five years.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended June 30, 2015.

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2010 through 2015, and was adopted by the Board on April 21, 2016. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.50 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, as used in the June 30, 2015 five-year experience study, are summarized as follows:

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	1.00%	0.50%
US Stocks	22.50%	4.75%
Non-US Stocks	22.50%	7.00%
Fixed Income	19.00%	1.50%
Private Equity	10.00%	8.00%
Real Assets	15.00%	5.00%
Multi-Asset Strategies	10.00%	3.00%
Total	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2017 was 3.63 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2017 was 2.98 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the state statute contribution rate of 2.00 percent of projected covered employee payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and 0.50 percent of contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make future benefit payments during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan assets was used to present value the projected benefit payments through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 and the Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index rate of 3.56 percent, as of June 30, 2017 (i.e. municipal bond rate), was used to present value the projected benefit payments for the remaining years in the projection. The total present value of projected benefit payments from all years was then used to determine the single rate of return that was used as the discount rate. The projection of future benefit payments for all current plan members was until the benefit payments ran out.

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates

The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (2.63%) and higher (4.63%) than the current discount rate (3.63%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.5% decreasing to 4.0%) and higher (8.5% decreasing to 6.0%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease 2.63%	Current Discount Rate 3.63%	1% Increase 4.63%
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$766,346	\$634,588	\$530,203

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

	1% Decrease 6.50% decreasing to 4.00%	Current Trend Rate 7.50% decreasing to 5.00%	1% Increase 8.50% decreasing to 6.00%
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$514,921	\$634,588	\$792,970

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2017, actuarial valuation are presented below:

Inflation	2.50%
Projected salary increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.45%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00%, effective July 1, 2017
Blended Discount Rate of Return	4.13%
Health Care Cost Trends	6.00% to 11.00% initial, 4.5% ultimate

Projections of benefits include the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and retired plan members.

For healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100 percent of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2017, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

Since the prior measurement date, the discount rate was increased from 3.26% to 4.13% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB) and the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

Also since the prior measurement date, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.1% to 1.9% per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019. Subsequent to the current measurement

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

date, the date for discontinuing remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements was extended to January 2020.

STRS' investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return*
Domestic Equity	28.00%	7.35%
International Equity	23.00%	7.55%
Alternatives	17.00%	7.09%
Fixed Income	21.00%	3.00%
Real Estate	10.00%	6.00%
Liquidity Reserves	1.00%	2.25%
Total	100.00%	

*10 year annualized geometric nominal returns, which includes the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and does not include investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actual rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 4.13 percent as of June 30, 2017. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes STRS Ohio continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was not projected to be sufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. The OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make future benefit payments during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2037. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan assets was used to determine the present value of the projected benefit payments through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2036 and the Bond Buyer 20-year municipal bond rate of 3.58 percent as of June 30, 2017 (i.e. municipal bond rate), was used to determine the present value of the projected benefit payments for the remaining years in the projection. The total present value of projected benefit payments from all years was then used to determine the single rate of return that was used as the discount rate. The blended discount rate of 4.13 percent, which represents the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45 percent for the funded benefit payments and the Bond Buyer 20-year municipal bond rate of 3.58 percent for the unfunded benefit payments, was used to measure the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2017.

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate

The following table represents the net OPEB liability as of June 30, 2017, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 4.13%, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (3.13%) or one percentage point higher (5.13%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB liability as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease 3.13%	Current Discount Rate 4.13%	1% Increase 4.13%
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$3,635,186	\$2,707,806	\$1,974,872

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$1,881,267	\$2,707,806	\$3,795,627

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date

The discount rate was increased from 3.26% to 4.13% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB) and the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date

The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.1% to 1.9% per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019.

Note 7 - Jointly Governed Organizations

Hamilton Clermont Cooperative

The Hamilton Clermont Cooperative (HCC) is a governmental jointly governed organization consisting of 36 school districts. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. Each of the governments of these schools support HCC and shares in a percentage of equity based on the resources provided. HCC is governed by a board of directors consisting of the superintendents of the member school districts. The degree of control exercised by any participating School District is limited to its representation on the Board. The Board consists of one representative from each of the participating 36 school districts.

Center for Collaborative Solutions, A Regional Council of Governments
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Note 8 – Liabilities

In August of 2012 the COG received \$300,000 from Hamilton County Educational Service Center. \$200,000 of this amount has been repaid leaving \$100,000 that has not been repaid as of June 30, 2018. The COG plans to repay this loan in the coming years.

This page intentionally left blank.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

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

Center for Collaborative Solutions
Hamilton County
11083 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

To the Governing 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 cash basis financial statements of the Center for Collaborative Solutions, Hamilton County, (the COG) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the COG's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 6, 2018 wherein we noted the COG uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the COG's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the COG'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 COG'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 COG'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 COG's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the COG's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and "Y".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

November 6, 2018



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

HAMILTON 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
NOVEMBER 20, 2018**