

RESOLUTION APPROVING LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY FINANCIAL AUDITING SERVICES FOR FY2022

WHEREAS, Keith Faber, Auditor of State has presented a Letter of Engagement for auditing services ending December 31, 2022, for the approval of the Board, to-wit:

Scope of Contract: Auditing of basic financial statements for Ashtabula County

Provider: Auditor of State, Keith Faber, Voinovich Government Center
242 Federal Plaza W., Suite 302 Youngstown, OH 44503

Cost: **Not to Exceed**, \$106,395.00

Completion Date: Expected delivery date on or about July 28, 2023

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio that the Letter of Engagement outlined above is approved in accordance with a copy now on file in this office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, is authorized to execute any and all necessary documents.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2023-55

January 19, 2023

**RESOLUTION APPROVING LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AUDITOR OF
STATE KEITH FABER FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY FINANCIAL AUDITING
SERVICES FOR FY2022**

Upon the motion of J.P. Ducro IV, seconded by Kathryn L. Whittington.

VOTE:

**Casey R. Kozlowski
Kathryn L. Whittington
J.P. Ducro IV**

**Aye
Aye
Aye**

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, on the date noted above.



Lisa Hawkins, Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County, Ohio

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370

January 9, 2023

J.P. Durco, IV, President, Board of Commissioners
Ashtabula County
25 West Jefferson Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047

This engagement letter describes the arrangement between Ashtabula County (the County) and the Auditor of State including the objective and scope of the services we will provide, the County's required involvement and assistance in support of our services, the related fee arrangements, and other terms and conditions designed to ensure that our professional services satisfy the County's audit requirements.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

We will audit the County's basic financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022 to express our opinion concerning whether the basic financial statements and related disclosures present fairly, in all material respects, the County's financial position, changes in financial position, required budgetary comparisons, and cash flows (where applicable), in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements for each opinion unit and related disclosures are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (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. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

We will also opine on whether supplementary information is fairly presented, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

We will apply certain limited procedures to required supplementary information. However, we will not opine or provide any assurance on this information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any other assurance.

We also will read the other information included in the introductory and statistical sections of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and consider whether this information, including the manner of its presentation, is materially consistent with information appearing in the financial section. However, we will not express an opinion or any other assurance on the introductory or statistical sections of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

We expect to deliver our report on or about July 28, 2023.

Engagement Team

The engagement will be led by:

- * Allen K. Allred, CPA, CPE, Chief Auditor, who will be responsible for assuring the overall quality, value, and timeliness of our services to you;
- * Dennis Maurer, Senior Audit Manager, who will be responsible for managing the delivery of our services to you; and
- * Bob Christofil, Audit Manager, who will be responsible for on-site administration of our services to you.

OUR AUDITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the Comptroller General of the United States' standards for financial audits included in *Government Auditing Standards*, the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, and *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)*. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

1. Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. 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.
2. 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 entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
3. 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, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
4. Test the County's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants if noncompliance might reasonably directly and materially affect the financial statements. However, except for major federal financial assistance programs, our objective is not to opine on overall compliance with these provisions.
5. Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about your ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Because of inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS. It is not cost-efficient to design procedures to detect immaterial error or immaterial fraud. Also, because of the characteristics of fraud noted above, a properly designed and executed audit may not detect a material fraud.

Additional Auditor Responsibilities and Reporting under Uniform Guidance

For grant funding subject to the Uniform Guidance, as the Guidance requires, we will determine the major federal award program(s) and test controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to opine on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

Additionally, the Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the applicable compliance requirements occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on compliance based on the audit. While reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, it is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the entity's compliance with the requirements of the federal programs as a whole. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could directly and materially affect each of your major programs.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, the auditor's responsibilities are to:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 entity's compliance with compliance requirements subject to audit and performing such other procedures as the auditor considers necessary in the circumstances' and
- obtain an understanding of the entity's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

In accordance with the Uniform Guidance, we will prepare the following report:

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable To Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

Our report on compliance will include our opinion on compliance with major federal financial assistance programs and also describe instances of noncompliance with Federal requirements we detect that require reporting per the Uniform Guidance. This report will also describe any significant deficiencies and/or material weaknesses we identify relating to controls used to administer Federal award programs. However, this report will not opine on internal control used to administer Federal award programs.

We are also responsible for completing certain parts of OMB Form SF-SAC (the Data Collection Form).

Additional Auditor Communication

As part of this engagement the Auditor of State will communicate certain additional matters (if applicable) to the appropriate members of management and to those charged with governance. These matters include:

1. Misstatements for correction, whether corrected or uncorrected
 - a. We will present those charged with governance our Summary of Identified Misstatements (if any) at the conclusion of our audit;

2. Instances where we believe fraud may exist. These would include instances where we:
 - a. Have persuasive evidence that fraud occurred.
 - b. Determined fraud risks exist and were unable to obtain convincing evidence to determine that fraud was unlikely;
3. Noncompliance that comes to our attention. However, our audit provides no assurance that noncompliance generally will be detected and only reasonable assurance that we will detect noncompliance directly and materially affecting the determination of financial statement amounts;
4. Significant risks identified during the audit'
5. Any disagreements with management, whether or not satisfactorily resolved, about matters that individually or in the aggregate could be significant to the financial statements or our opinion;
6. Our views about matters that were the subject of management's consultation with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters;
7. Significant, unusual transactions;
8. Major issues that were discussed with management related to retaining our services, including, among other matters, any discussions regarding the application of accounting principles and auditing standards;
9. Significant difficulties we encountered during the audit, including significant delays by management, the unavailability of County personnel, or an unwillingness by management to provide information necessary to perform our procedures; and
10. Matters that are difficult or contentious for which we consulted outside the engagement team and that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process.

We will also communicate pertinent information, as necessary in our professional judgment, to those that have ongoing oversight responsibilities for the audited entity, including contracting parties or legislative committees, if any.

Our evaluation of internal control may provide evidence of waste or abuse. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, we are not required to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse. If we detect waste or abuse, we will determine whether and how to communicate such matters.

If for any reason we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form an opinion, we may disclaim an opinion on your financial statements. In this unlikely event, we will communicate the reason for disclaiming an opinion to you, and to those charged with governance, in writing.

YOUR MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE APPLICABLE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

We will audit assuming that management and those charged with governance acknowledge and understand they are responsible for:

1. Preparing the financial statements and other financial information, including related disclosures and selecting and applying accounting principles in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This includes compliance with Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-01 which requires designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

2. Providing us with:
 - a. draft financial statements, including all information relevant to their preparation and fair presentation, whether obtained from within or outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers (including all information relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of disclosures) and any accompanying other information in time to allow the auditor to complete the audit in accordance with the proposed timeline;
 - b. access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including an expectation that management will provide access to information relevant to disclosures;
 - c. written representations as part of the engagement, from management and/or attorneys, understanding separate legal fees from attorneys may result;
 - d. additional information that we may request from management for the audit;
 - e. unrestricted access to persons within the County from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
 - f. the initial selection of and changes in significant accounting policies and their application; and
 - g. the process management uses to formulate particularly sensitive accounting estimates and the basis for their conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates.
3. Inform us of events occurring or facts discovered subsequent to the date of the financial statements, of which management may become aware, that may affect the financial statements.
4. Preparing supplementary information (including the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards) in accordance with the applicable criteria.
 - a. Include our report on the supplementary information in any document that includes the supplementary information and that indicates that the auditor has reported on this supplementary information.
 - b. Present the supplementary information with the audited financial statements or, if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited financial statements, to make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by the County of the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
5. Coordinating the completion of components audits to meet the County's reporting deadlines.
6. Reporting fraud and noncompliance of which you are aware to us.
7. Reviewing drafts of the audited financial statements, disclosures, any supplemental information, auditor's reports and any findings; and informing us of any edits you believe may be necessary.
8. Designing and implementing programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud.

You should not rely on our audit as your primary means of detecting fraud.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Management and those charged with governance are responsible for:

1. Being knowledgeable of, implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with, and complying with, laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to the County.
2. Identifying for us other financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, internal audits, reports from regulators or other studies related to the County (if any), and the corrective actions taken to address these audits' significant findings and recommendations.
3. Tracking the status of prior audit findings.

4. Taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud, noncompliance, violations of provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, waste or abuse we may report.
5. Providing your views and planned corrective action on audit findings we may report.

Internal Control

Management and those charged with governance are responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to compliance and the preparing and fairly presenting financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Appropriate supervisory reviews are necessary to reasonably assure that adopted policies and prescribed procedures are followed.

Service Organizations

Service organizations are other governmental entities, organizations, or companies that provide services to you, as the user County, relevant to your internal controls over financial reporting. Service organizations process transactions reflected in your County's financial statements, and therefore fall within the scope of our audit. While service organizations are responsible for establishing and maintaining their internal control, you are responsible for being aware of the service organizations your County uses, and for establishing controls to monitor the service organization's performance. Because the complexity of service organization transaction processing can vary considerably, your monitoring activities can vary accordingly.

When transaction processing is complex and the volume of transactions is relatively high, obtaining and reviewing a service organization auditor's *Independent Service Auditor's Report on Management's Description of a Service Organization's System and the Suitability of the Design and Operating Effectiveness of Controls* Report (Type 2 Service Organization Control Report (SOC 1)) may be the most effective method of meeting your responsibility to monitor a service organization, and may also be the only efficient means by which we can obtain sufficient evidence regarding their internal controls. AT-C Section 320, *Reporting on an Examination of Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to User Entities' Internal Control Over Financial Reporting* discusses the aforementioned report. (In some circumstances, we can accept a suitably-designed agreed-upon procedures report (AUP) in lieu of a SOC 1 report.)

You are responsible for informing our staff of the service organizations your County uses, and for monitoring these service organizations' performance.

Service organizations of which we are aware are:

- Healthcare Billing Services Inc., which processes Medical Claims for the Board of DD.
- CEBCO, the County's Health Insurance consortium.
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield which processes your County's self-insurance claims

Please confirm to us that, to the best of your knowledge, the above listing is complete.

Of the service organizations above, those for which we believe the complexity of processing and volume of transactions warrant a SOC 1(or AUP) report are:

- Healthcare Billing Services Inc., which processes Medical Claims for the Board of DD.
- CEBCO, the County's Health Insurance consortium.
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield which processes your County's self-insurance claims

Without an acceptable SOC 1 or AUP report for the above-listed organizations, generally accepted auditing standards may require us to qualify our opinion on your County's financial statements due to an insufficiency of audit evidence regarding service organization transactions included in your County's financial statements. You are responsible for communicating the need for a SOC 1 or AUP report to these service organizations and also for communicating the deadline for which we need the report to meet your reporting deadline. We will require the reports by approximately June 1, 2023 in order to complete the audit.

Uniform Guidance and Related Reporting

You are responsible for identifying all federal awards received and understanding the compliance requirements, federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions relating to Federal award programs, and for complying with them. You are responsible for compiling the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and accompanying footnote disclosures.

For grant funding subject to the Uniform Guidance, you are required to design, implement, and maintain effective internal controls to reasonably assure compliance with federal statutes, regulations and terms and conditions of federal awards and controls relating to preparing the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards. Additionally, you are responsible for evaluating and monitoring noncompliance with federal laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements of federal awards; taking prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; promptly following up and taking corrective action on reported audit findings; and for preparing a summary of schedule of prior audit findings and a separate corrective action plan.

You are responsible for informing us of significant subrecipient relationships, beneficiary relationships and contractor relationships (previously known as vendor relationships), when the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are responsible for completing your County's Data Collection Form and assuring the reporting package (including the Data Collection Form) is filed in accordance with the electronic submission requirements.

You are responsible for providing electronic files that are unlocked, unencrypted and in an 85% text searchable PDF format for your County's single audit submission of the reporting package to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM MANAGEMENT

Upon concluding our engagement, management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance will provide to us written representations about the audit that, among other things, will confirm, to the best of their knowledge and belief:

- management's responsibility for preparing the financial statements and relevant disclosures in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance'
- the availability of original financial records and related data, the completeness and availability of all minutes of the legislative or other bodies and committee meetings;
- management's responsibility for the County's compliance with laws and regulations;
- the identification and disclosure to the auditor of all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements directly and materially affecting the determination of financial statement amounts; and
- the absence of fraud involving management or employees with significant roles in internal control.

Additionally, we will request representations, as applicable, regarding:

- the inclusion of all components, and the disclosure of all joint ventures and other related organizations;
- the proper classification of funds, net position and fund balances;
- the proper approval of reserves of fund equity;
- appropriate accounting and disclosure of related party transactions;
- compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including budget laws or ordinances; compliance with any tax or debt limits, and any debt covenants;
- representations relative to required supplementary information;
- the identification of all federal assistance programs, and compliance with grant requirements; and
- events occurring subsequent to the fiscal year end requiring adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements or Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

Management is responsible for adjusting the financial statements to correct misstatements we may detect during our audit and for affirming to us in the representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements we aggregate during our engagement and pertaining to the latest period the statements present are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the opinion units. (*Financial statements include the related disclosures and required and other supplemental information*).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS SUPPORTING FEE

As a result of our planning process, the County and the Auditor of State have agreed to an approach designed to meet the County's objectives for an agreed-upon fee, subject to the following conditions.

Our Auditor Responsibilities

In providing our services, we will consult with the County regarding matters of accounting, financial reporting or other significant business issues. Accordingly, our fee includes estimated time necessary for this consultation. Circumstances may require the Auditor of State to confirm balances with your financial institution resulting in additional nominal charges which will not require an amendment to this agreement. However, should a matter require research, consultation or audit work beyond this estimate, the Auditor of State and the County will agree to an appropriate revision in services and fee. These revisions will also be set forth in the form of the attached *Amendment to Engagement Letter*.

Your Management Responsibilities

The County will provide in a timely manner all financial records and related information to us, an initial list of which will be furnished to you, including timely communication of all significant accounting and financial reporting matters, as well as working space and clerical assistance as mutually agreed upon and as is normal and reasonable in the circumstances. When and if for any reason the County is unable to provide these schedules, information and assistance, the Auditor of State and the County will mutually revise the fee to reflect additional services, if any, we require to achieve these objectives. These revisions will be set forth in the form of the attached *Amendment to Engagement Letter*.

Confidential Information

You should make every attempt to minimize or eliminate the transmission of personal information to the Auditor of State (AOS). All documents you provide to the AOS in connection with our services including financial records and reports, payroll records, employee rosters, health and medical records, tax records, etc. should be redacted of any personal information. Personal information includes social security numbers, date of birth, drivers' license numbers or financial institution account numbers associated with an individual. The public office should redact all personal information from electronic records before they are transmitted to the AOS. This information should be fully blacked out in all paper documents prior to sending to the AOS. If personal information cannot be redacted from any records or documents; the public office must identify these records to the AOS.

If redacting this personal information compromises the audit or the ability to prepare financial statements, the public office and the AOS will consider these exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, if redacting this information creates a hardship on the public office in terms of resources, recordkeeping or other issues, the public office and the AOS may collaborate on alternative methods of providing the public office's data to the AOS without compromising the personal information of individuals served by the public office. The AOS is willing to work with the public office and it is our intent to greatly reduce the amount of personal information submitted to the AOS for audit or financial statement preparation purposes. It is important that the public office review internal policies to find ways to eliminate as much personal information from financial records as possible by substituting non-personal information (i.e., change social security numbers to employee identification numbers).

Fee

Except for any changes in fees and expenses which may result from the circumstances described above, we expect our fees and expenses for our audit services will not exceed \$106,395.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.13, you may charge all of this audit's cost to the general fund or you may allocate the cost among the general fund and other eligible funds. While eligible funds may include federal grant funds, additional restrictions under the Uniform Guidance 2 CFR 200.425 should be considered. For more information, refer to the annual *Hourly Audit Rates and Allocation of Audit Costs* technical bulletin available at www.ohioauditor.gov.

eServices Portal and Billing

The Auditor of State's billing statements are available through the office's eServices portal located at <https://eservices.ohioauditor.gov>. Clients are required to designate one, or more, authorized users who must complete the registration process to establish an eServices account. A confirmed account will have the ability to access and/or update information regarding their customer account, including entity contact information, billing and payments, and an electronic check option for online payments. Authorized users are encouraged to keep eServices contact information updated.

Auditor of State billing statements are prepared monthly, and are sent to clients who have an outstanding balance through a paperless electronic billing system. Audit and Local Government Services are charged monthly, while clients using the Uniform Accounting Network are charged quarterly. The County will receive an email notification at the beginning of the month that a statement is available for review. Clients are to access their billing statement upon receipt through eServices, and payment is due by the date identified on the statement.

Delinquent Accounts

A failure to pay the Auditor of State in full within forty-five days of the payment due date, identified on the monthly statement, shall constitute a delinquent account. Continued failure to make payment will result in the delinquent account being certified to the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Collection Enforcement, for collection under Ohio Revised Code 131.02(A). Alternatively, Ohio Revised Code 117.13(D) authorizes the Director of the Office of Budget and Management or the county auditor, in order to satisfy certified balances owed to the office of the Auditor of State, to withhold from a public office with delinquent accounts any amounts that are available up to the amount owed by the public office from those funds lawfully payable and due to the public office.

Audit clients experiencing difficulty meeting these requirements should contact the Auditor of State's Finance Department to make arrangements to pay delinquent balances prior to certification. Outstanding delinquent accounts may impact audit eligibility for reduced services, including agreed upon procedures and basic audits.

REPORTING

We will issue a written report upon completing our audit of your financial statements. We will address our report to those charged with governance. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis-of-matter paragraph or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement.

Upon completing our audit, we will also issue a written report in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* on internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters.

ACCESS TO OUR REPORTS AND WORKING PAPERS

AU-C 905—*Alert That Restricts the Use of the Auditor's Written Communication* requires our reports to disclose the following:

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by Government Auditing Standards:

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 County's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the County's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance:

This report only describes the scope of our internal control compliance tests and the results of this testing based on Uniform Guidance requirements. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

AU-C 905 requires us to include this restrictive language in our reports due to concerns that other readers may not fully understand the purpose of the report, the nature of the procedures applied in its preparation, the basis or assumptions used in its preparation, the extent to which the procedures performed are generally known or understood, and the potential for the report to be misunderstood, when taken out of the context for which it was intended.

However, under Revised Code § 117.26, an audit report becomes a public record under Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 when we file copies of the report with the public officers enumerated in the Revised Code. When we file the reports, our working papers become available to the public, including federal agencies and the U.S. Government Accountability Office, upon request, subject to information protected for criminal investigations, by attorney-client privilege or by local, state or federal law. AU-C 905 does not affect public access to our reports or working papers.

Under generally accepted auditing standards, we must retain working papers for five years after the release date of our opinion. However, AOS policy requires we retain working papers for seven years or longer, as needed.

PEER REVIEW REPORT

As required by *Government Auditing Standards*, we have made our most recent external quality control review report (Peer Review) publicly available, at https://ohioauditor.gov/publications/Peer_Opinion.pdf. Audit organizations can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)*, or *fail*. The Auditor of State received a peer review rating of *pass*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

Please sign and return this letter to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities. If you have any questions, please call Dennis Maurer, Senior Audit Manager at 440-813-2306.

Sincerely,

KEITH FABER
Auditor of State



Digitally signed by Allen K. Allred
Date: 2023.01.09 12:57:27 -05'00'

Allen K. Allred, CPA, CPE
Chief Auditor, Northeast Region

Attachment

cc: County Auditor
County Treasurer
County Commissioners
Audit Committee



ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO BY

1-9-23

DATE

President

TITLE

2 CFR Part 200 REPORTING PACKAGE

2 CFR Part 200 Reference	Item	Responsibility	
		Auditee	Auditor
.508(b); .510(a)	Financial Statements	✓	
.515(a)	Report (opinion) on financial statements		✓
508(b); .510(b)	Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	✓	
.515(a)	Report ("in-relation-to" opinion) on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards		✓
.515(b)	Report on Compliance and Internal Controls - Financial Statements		✓
.515(c)	Report on Compliance and Internal Controls - (Major) Federal Awards		✓
.515(d)	Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs		✓
.508(c); .511(a),(b)	Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	✓	
.512(a), (b)	Data Collection Form	✓	✓
.511(c)	Corrective Action Plan	✓	

**SAMPLE
AMENDMENT #___ TO ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

[Date]

[ENGAGEMENT LETTER ADDRESSEE]

Dear _____:

The engagement letter dated _____ between the Auditor of State and the County is hereby amended to reflect the following:

<u>Description of / Causes for Amendment</u>	<u>Estimated Fee Effect</u>
1	
2	
3	
4	
	<hr/>
Total this amendment	\$0.00
Previous fee estimate	
	<hr/>
Revised fee estimate	<u>\$0.00</u>

Please sign the copy of this letter in the space provided and return it to us. If you should have any questions, please call _____ at _____.

Sincerely,

KEITH FABER
Auditor of State

[Name of Chief Auditor]
Chief Auditor, [Name] Region

cc: [Engagement Letter cc's]

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED TO BY

DATE

TITLE

FISCAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE
5705.41 O.R.C.

The undersigned, County Auditor of Ashtabula County, hereby certifies that the amount required to meet the obligations of the County during the 2023, under the Agreement, has been lawfully appropriated for that purpose, and is in the Treasury of the County or in the process of collection to the credit of the following funds:

1001.001.101-601.0012 County Obligations/Contract Services Audit
Not to exceed: \$106,395.00

for the remainder of the year 2023 and free from any previous encumbrances.

Agreement Title: State Auditor Letter of Engagement.



**David Thomas, Ashtabula
County Auditor**

Contact: Lisa Hawkins, Clerk

Date: January 12, 2023

FISCAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE

5705.41 O.R.C.

The undersigned, County Auditor of Ashtabula County, hereby certifies that the amount required to meet the obligations of the County during the 2023, under the Agreement, has been lawfully appropriated for that purpose, and is in the Treasury of the County or in the process of collection to the credit of the following funds:

1001.001.101-601.0012 County Obligations/Contract Services Audit
Not to exceed: \$106,395.00

for the remainder of the year 2023 and free from any previous encumbrances.

Agreement Title: State Auditor Letter of Engagement.



**David Thomas, Ashtabula
County Auditor**

Contact: Lisa Hawkins, Clerk

Date: January 12, 2023