



Public Safety Update: August, we can hope for the best with “ALL” that is happening. Forestry is starting to acquire or being able to put some equipment on hold as things allow at the military bases. They are doing the best possible with “ALL” that is happening. At this time departments can go to forestry by appointment only to pick up or look at possible equipment.

As mentioned before, the start of inventory would take place in August and will happen as appointments are made or travel is acceptable. At this time no cuts to the

budget are projected. Also, the “OPERATIONAL” monies will be available to the certified departments.

Economic Development Opportunity Zones:

ASCOG Grady, Stephens and Tillman counties. Opportunity Zones are designed to enhance return on investment (ROI) for business interests and encourage the public/private partnerships needed to drive private investment to distressed areas. Opportunity Zones are eligible for EDA funding through its special needs category and are included as one of EDA’s five investment priorities. For more information on how to apply for a federal grant to help your community develop new business or retain existing jobs, contact **Tom Zigler** at 580.736.7971.

Administration Grants Prioritize has Opportunity Zones in Caddo, Comanche,

OPPORTUNITY ZONES WILL ENCOURAGE INVESTORS TO ▶

-  *fund new businesses*
-  *develop properties*
-  *finance construction*



ASCOG to Help Local Impacted Communities Deal with COVID-19:

Our ASCOG Community and Economic Development planners are ready to help identify economic development grant-eligible projects with state and federal resources for locally impacted communities to ensure our communities take full advantage of available funding opportunities. To learn more, contact one of the following planners: For Caddo, Comanche and Cotton counties – **Shannon Yarbrough** at 580.736.7965. For Jefferson, Grady and McClain counties – **Ronald Peel** at 580.736.7024. For Stephens and Tillman Counties – **Danielle Carpenter** at 580.736.7969.

Jefferson, Grady and McClain counties – **Ronald Peel** at 580.736.7024. For Stephens and Tillman Counties – **Danielle Carpenter** at 580.736.7969.



White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Launches New Rural Community Toolbox Website:

On June 24, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) launched a new website, ruralcommunitytoolbox.org, to provide “funding [and] tools to build healthy drug-free rural communities.” The site

includes tools which provide data and recommended action steps for building effective grassroots solutions to the addiction crisis.

“An Acceptable Loss” (excerpt from Oklahoma Alliance on Aging):

The novel coronavirus of 2019 has had a permanent impact on the American lexicon. New words and phrases have become common knowledge, phrases like “personal protective equipment (PPE),” “with an abundance of caution,” and “social distancing.” But one phrase has crept back into the conversations of leaders that should have never been spoken. That phrase is, “an acceptable loss.”

It is ironic that most personal protective equipment is “disposable.” But our seniors are not. Because of our lack of preparation, they are living isolated away from friends and loved ones. They are living in fear. They are dying unnecessarily.

Let’s move forward with careful attention to the impact our actions have on our loved ones in long-term care. And let’s count the cost.

To learn more about how you can help our loved ones in nursing homes, contact **David Sexton** at 580.736.7974.



REAP 2021 Workshop Recording Available Online:

The 2021 REAP Workshop was recorded and is available online at [ASCOG.org](http://www.ascog.org/portfolio/reap/) for those wishing to review the instructions for completing the ASCOG 2021 REAP application. For more information, click the following link - <http://www.ascog.org/portfolio/reap/>.



Population Changes for ASCOG Members: ASCOG members include 72 towns and cities. In calculating member dues for FY 2021, we found that 44 of those members experienced decreases in estimated 2019 populations, and 26 members had increases in estimated populations. Population declines totaled 8,376 people and



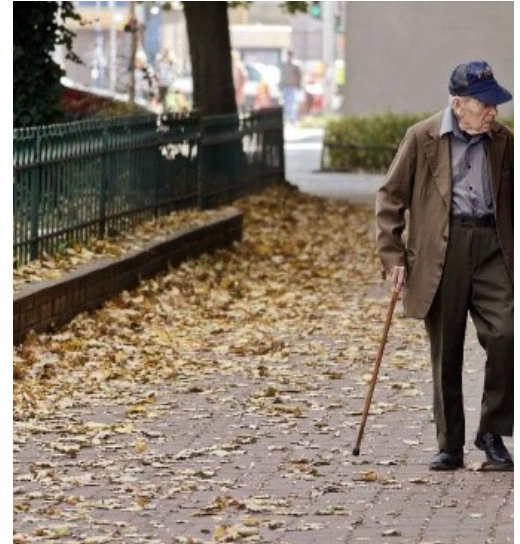
increases totaled 6,730 people for a net decline in member population of 1,646. Town of Hydro had the largest percentage increase in population with 35.4%, and Town of Carnegie had the largest percentage decrease with 20.6%.

Six of ASCOG's eight member counties experienced declines in estimated 2019 populations. Those counties were Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Jefferson, Stephens, and Tillman. The total decline was 7,831 persons. Two

counties, Grady and McClain, experienced an increase in estimated population of 9,371 people. The net increase in populations of all eight counties was 1,540. A net increase in county populations with a net decrease in populations of cities and towns implies that populations of unincorporated areas increased in 2019. The largest percentage increase was McClain County at 17.3% while Tillman County had the largest decline at 9.3%.

The 65-and-older population grew by over a third (34.2% or 13,787,044) during the past decade, and by 3.2% (1,688,924) from 2018 to 2019...according to the Census Bureau's [2019 Population Estimates](#).

The 2019 estimated populations came from census.gov.



Census Takers to Start Follow Up With Nonresponding Households:

The majority of census offices across the country will begin follow-up work on August 11. All offices will conclude work no later than October 31. Households can still respond now by completing and mailing back the paper questionnaire they received, by responding

online at 2020census.gov, or by phone at 844-330-2020. Households can also respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more. Those that respond will not need to be visited to obtain their census response. To learn more, contact one of the following planners: For Caddo, Comanche and Cotton counties – **Shannon Yarbrough** at 580.736.7965. For Jefferson, Grady and McClain counties – **Ronald Peel** at 580.736.7024. For Stephens and Tillman Counties – **Danielle Carpenter** at 580.736.7969.

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USDA Rural Development Offers Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Assistance:

The USDA RD Water and Wastewater program provides loans and grants to eligible entities in rural areas and towns for maintaining or developing water and waste disposal and solid waste facilities. Project priorities include populations less than 1,000, correcting health/sanitary standards, low income, mergers, serving new users, leverage funds and target areas. To learn more, contact one of the following planners: For Caddo, Comanche and Cotton counties – **Shannon Yarbrough** at 580.736.7965. For Jefferson, Grady and McClain counties – **Ronald Peel** at 580.736.7024. For Stephens and Tillman Counties – **Danielle Carpenter** at 580.736.7969.



Oklahoma Main Street Releases Findings of COVID-19 Impact Survey:

Restaurant sales are down 66% and retail sales are down 70% since COVID-19 hit Oklahoma main streets. Read more about this survey here - <https://www.okcommerce.gov/oklahoma-main-street-releases-findings-of-covid-19-impact-survey/>.



ASCOG is Asking Our Local Governments to Keep Us Informed of Local COVID-19 Restrictions:

Please keep us updated on any COVID-19 restrictions passed by your local government. Please contact one of the following planners: For Caddo, Comanche and Cotton counties – **Shannon Yarbrough** at 580.736.7965. For Jefferson, Grady and McClain counties – **Ronald Peel** at 580.736.7024. For Stephens and Tillman Counties – **Danielle**



AUGUST

Please be good to **us.**