

Legislative Conference Workshop Descriptions

Educational Session Block I

Monday, March 5 · 9:00 a.m. –10:15 a.m.

- **The Future of the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Planning and Development Programs**

HUD's Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs have been on the congressional funding chopping block lately. Learn about the current funding levels for key HUD CPD programs such as Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investments Partnerships and Sustainable Communities, and how to maintain funding. Also learn about HUD improvements in administering CPD grant programs, eligibility, and ways to apply. (Staff Liaison: Daria Daniel, 202/942-4212).



- **Highways, Bridges, Buses and Airports: When Will Help Arrive?**

Enactment of the federal surface transportation reauthorization legislation and the federal airport and aviation legislation has been a longtime NACo priority. Counties have substantial responsibility for road, bridges, transit systems and airports and depend on the funding provided by these two key laws. Both bills have been delayed and have been extended numerous times, which has led to delays in planning and construction of projects. Panelists will provide a timely status update. (Staff Liaison: Robert Fogel, 202/942-4217).

- **A Case for Juvenile Justice: Youth Safety and Prevention**

Support for federal juvenile justice programs has been on the decline for almost a decade. Over this same period, federal spending on policing, prosecution and incarceration has increased by more than 60%. These opposing trends are not only bad budgeting, but place the future of America's youth and communities at risk. This session will explore the fight to save these important programs and highlight effective juvenile justice and prevention strategies. (Staff Liaison: Dalen Harris, 202/942-4236).

- **Using Data Analytics to Make Smarter Public Safety Decisions**

This workshop will discuss how using data analytics can provide smarter budgetary and public safety decisions that will benefit the entire community. Since policing is a large part of the overall budget, expenses must be properly

allocated. Learn how better analytics can put your county on the path to making smarter public safety decisions. (Staff Liaison: Bert Jarreau, 202/942-4248).

- **The Clean Water Act: Out with the Wash**
Changes to the Clean Water Act (CWA) are coming for a number of new and existing CWA programs. These include stormwater program modifications, "Waters of the U.S." definitional changes, etc. in the agencies, on Capitol Hill, and in the courts. Come hear some of the CWA regulatory and legislative proposals that may impact your county. (Staff Liaison: Julie Ufner, 202/942-4269).

- **How do Federal Land-Use Decisions Impact the Local Economy?**

The designation of federal land as defacto wilderness, national monument, or similar designation without input from local governments can lead to devastating reductions in economic activity and the loss of jobs in resource dependent communities. This workshop will provide insight from elected county officials that have been impacted by top down federal land use policies. (Staff Liaison: Ryan Yates, 202/942-4207).

Educational Session Block II

Monday, March 5 · 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

- **Creating Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Jobs in Your Community**

Innovative counties are taking leadership roles in their communities to find ways to create new jobs. This is especially true in the arenas of energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. Come hear how counties are helping to create jobs and how the federal government is here to assist. (Staff Liaison: Jared Lang, 202/942-4224).

- **Opportunities in the Affordable Care Act to Strengthen the Local Health System**

A provision of the ACA requires nonprofit hospitals to develop an implementation strategy to address identified local health needs. County officials and local health departments should be involved in the Community Health Needs Assessments and implementation strategy process to ensure that other local health assessment efforts are not duplicated, that tax-exempt hospitals are measurably taking on uncompensated care in their communities and that the local safety net care burden is equitably shared. (Staff Liaison: Anita Cardwell, 202/942-4267).

- **Streamlining Citizen Social Services Eligibility Determination**

With many county citizens facing loss of income, home foreclosures and an uncertain economic

future, the demand on social services programs has grown exponentially. We will demonstrate how interactive case management in Erie County, NY has streamlined and revamped the eligibility determination process - improving the citizen experience in starting these programs and producing a more accurate summary of the exact benefits the citizen will receive. (Staff Liaison: Bert Jarreau, 202/942-4248).

- **The National Flood Insurance Program: Background, Challenges and Financial Status**

Since 2005, advocacy to reform the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has been a nationwide priority. These efforts have been both celebrated and scrutinized by federal, state and local leaders. Numerous challenges have hindered efforts to enact NFIP reform legislation and issues associated with locally owned and operated levees has increased. This session will provide an overview of the NFIP and flood mitigation debate and explore the impact to counties and residents. (Staff Liaison: Dalen Harris, 202/942-4236).

- **Will You be Financially Prepared to Live in Retirement?**

This workshop will identify the types of information you need in order to plan for and live in retirement while also providing analytical tools that you may want to use. Examples will be given on how to leverage resources to help make decisions while taking into consideration total family assets, goals, risk tolerance and other decision points. (Staff Liaison: Lisa Cole, 202/942-4270).

- **The Right Way to Run a Meeting**

There are procedures that must be followed in order to conduct business correctly, pass ordinances and other official governmental activities. Although many jurisdictions follow Robert's Rules of Order, some states have adopted their own rules of procedure. A panel of county attorneys will discuss rules that apply in their jurisdictions and other established rules of order. Take this information back to the Board and conduct not only a legal and procedurally correct meeting, but also a civil one. (Staff Liaison: Jacqueline Byers, 202/942-4285).

Educational Session Block III

Tuesday, March 6 · 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

- **Making Rural Development a Priority in the Farm Bill**

Water, wastewater and broadband infrastructure; rural business development; renewable energy; support for new farmers; and other federal rural development initiatives are Farm Bill programs that create rural jobs. These programs are critical sources of grant and loan funding for rural county economic development

efforts. Learn about the future of these programs which all face the threat of significant cuts in the Farm Bill and appropriations processes. (Staff Liaison: Erik Johnston, 202/942-4230).

• **Demonstrating the Positive Return on Investment in County Health Initiatives**

Maintaining disease prevention and health promotion efforts within the context of limited county budgets can be challenging. Join this session to learn how to better leverage existing local assets and implement strategies that have the potential to contain health care costs and improve coordination of county health promotion efforts. This workshop is part of NACo President Lenny Eliason's presidential initiative to provide counties with resources to develop local efforts that can improve overall community health. (Staff Liaison: Anita Cardwell, 202/942-4267).

• **What will Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Reauthorization Mean to My County?**

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF) expired December 21, 2011. The new legislation is likely to have mandates that will affect county TANF administration. Find out what changes were made to TANF and how they will affect counties. Hear what states are doing to cope with increased service demands. (Staff Liaison: Marilina Sanz, 202/942-4260).

• **The Legal Workforce Act: Implications of E-Verify Mandates**

Legislation recently introduced in Congress, The Legal Workforce Act of 2011 (H.R. 2164) would mandate use of the federal government's E-Verify electronic employment eligibility verification system for all newly hired employees. The bill would require all state and local governments to determine the employment eligibility of current employees. This workshop will provide an overview of H.R. 2164, the implication for county governments, and highlight best practices that state and local governments are using to comply. (Staff Liaison: Deseree Gardner, 202/942-4282 and Marilina Sanz, 202/942-4260).

• **Hydraulic Fracking: Balancing Energy Independence vs Environmental Concerns**

Hydraulic fracking, a process used by the natural gas industry to extract natural gas, is a controversial process. Supporters argue the process is safe and has the potential to provide jobs and natural gas for years to come. Opponents raise environmental concerns, such as ground water contamination. Can environmental concerns be balanced with energy needs? Come hear about federal actions, environmental concerns, industry efforts and county experiences to decide for yourself. (Staff Liaison: Julie Ufner, 202/942-4269).

• **Ensuring Your County's Message Rises Above the Discord**

This interactive workshop will explore a situation

that all county boards face -- an issue that will be controversial no matter what decision is made. The workshop will present steps the board should take to convey reasons for the decision. Attendees will learn how to develop key talking points, how to disseminate them and participate in a mock news conference. (Staff Liaison: Tom Goodman, 202/942-4222).

• **The State of Local Government Finances**

As the discussion on the federal deficit evolves, provisions vital to local government revenues and finance are increasingly under assault. Although recommendations such as eliminating tax exempt bonds may sound good for tackling the national debt and boosting the economy, they can be troublesome for county governments. Learn about the proposals that Congress is considering and how they could impact county finances. Finally, learn what tools are available to maximize your county's bond issuance experience. (Staff Liaison: Michael Belarmino, 202/942-4254).

Educational Session Block IV

Tuesday, March 6 · 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

• **Counties in the Global Economy: Creating Local Jobs with Foreign Investment**

Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) can create jobs in your community. Along with export promotion, foreign investment is a key strategy for achieving local economic growth in the global marketplace. Learn about FDI as an essential economic development resource in today's economy, and what it takes for your county to successfully attract it. Learn what challenges to anticipate along the way. Finally, get acquainted with SelectUSA, the federal government's one-stop shop for FDI assistance. (Staff Liaison: Stephanie Osborn, 202/942-4235).

• **Staying Ahead of Changes in Federal Economic Development Policy**

Regional Innovation, Livable Communities and Innovation Clusters are a few of the latest economic development strategies being promoted by the Obama Administration. These strategies are driving many federal funding decisions. Learn about the practical implications of these new economic development concepts for your county and how to be competitive for federal economic development funding streams which are focused on these new strategies. (Staff Liaison: Erik Johnston, 202/942-4230).

• **Using the Affordable Care Act to Improve Jail Health Care**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law nearly two years ago. Since that time, NACo has been working to ensure that counties are involved in fleshing out the details of the regulations. In 2014, the ACA will expand eligibility for Medicaid and subsidized private health plans to previously uninsured, low income individuals. Those incarcerated pending

disposition of charges may be able to enroll in a qualified health plan or Medicaid. This workshop will explore NACo's work on these new federal regulations, whether they will provide fiscal relief to counties and the opportunities and challenges counties and their jails may experience enrolling people in custody into appropriate plans. (Staff Liaison: Paul Beddoe, 202/942-4234).

• **Cybersecurity Services for Counties: Reducing Your Risks**

Cybersecurity is one of the most serious economic and national security risks facing our nation. The economic prosperity in the 21st century will depend on secure networks; and county systems are target rich environments which hold enormous amounts of critical data entrusted to elected and appointed local officials. These networks are also key to ensuring citizens receive essential public services. When these services are disrupted the consequences are severe. This workshop will provide further information on the cyber threat, and share direct services that are available to your county to reduce the hazard. (Staff Liaison: Dalen Harris, 202/942-4236 and Bert Jarreau, 202/942-4248).

• **Running Power Transmission Lines Across**



America's Counties: Opportunities and Challenges

Whether building new transmission lines to address future energy needs or replacing current lines, improving the national transmission grid impacts local governments. Siting, reliability, and environmental issues all come into play. Come hear about federal actions that both positively and negatively impact build out, the industry's plans for long term upgrades and how counties can be involved in the process. (Staff Liaison: Jared Lang, 202/942-4224 and Julie Ufner, 202/942-4269).

• **Budget and Appropriations: Understanding the Deficit Debate**

The battle over deficit reduction dominated the federal policy process in 2011. The funding decisions made during the first session of the 112th Congress will impact counties for decades to come. This workshop will provide a recap of those decisions and analysis regarding the key impacts on counties. Presenters will also discuss the budget and appropriations outlook for the year ahead in this new era of austerity. (Staff Liaison: Erik Johnston, 202/942-4230 and Edwin Rosado, 202/942-4271).