

# NACo e-News



The National Association of Counties' biweekly electronic newsletter on current programs, projects and initiatives

February 22, 2011

**NACo's Legislative Conference draws big name speakers**

**NACo testifies that rural development should be a priority**

**New federal livability partnership with regional councils announced**

Dear Member,

All about the budgets - everywhere you turn, federal, state and county budgets are hot topics. NACo is representing you before the federal government to keep you informed of budget implications and direct impact to your county budget. Visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) frequently for legislative updates.

This week's poll question, "Congress must pass a continuing resolution by March 4, to fund the federal government for the remainder of FY11. Do you think the federal government will shut down for an undetermined period of time before reaching a resolve?" Click [here](#) to vote.

The last poll question asked, "Has your Department of Public Works' budget been busted by winter storms?" 37 percent said not at all, 33 percent said a little, 28 percent said a lot and 2 percent said broke the budget

## New from NACo



**NACo testifies that rural development should be a priority**  
Brookings County, S.D. Commissioner Don Larson testified in support of making rural development a priority in the next Farm Bill on Feb. 15 before the House subcommittee on Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture. Larson, who chairs NACo's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee, also told the panel that federal rural development programs in the next Farm Bill must allow counties greater

flexibility to advance their strategic local and regional priorities. Click [here](#) to read the full testimony.

Contact: [Erik Johnston](#) • 202-942-4230



**New award to recognize best NCGM activities**

NACo has created an award to honor three counties for their outstanding National County Government Month (NCGM) activities. The awards will be presented at the Annual Conference in July. April is NCGM. This year's theme is "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families." For information about the award and this year's activities, click [here](#).

To submit your online award application for your counties efforts click [here](#).

NCGM booklets are also available by contacting NACo.

Contact: [Tom Goodman](#) • 202.942.4222

**NACo accepting applications for 2011 County Courthouse Awards**

Applications for the 2011 NACo County Courthouse Awards program are now available [here](#).

### Quick Links

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## Take the e-News Poll



Sponsored by Siemens, the awards recognize innovative governance by county elected officials from NACo member counties. Winners will receive an engraved plaque that they can display in their county, recognition at the 2011 NACo Annual Conference and a \$5,000 college scholarship to present to a graduating high school senior. Awards will be in three categories: rural, suburban and urban. All NACo members are encouraged to apply. Applications must be received by April 29. Contact: [Dalen Harris](#) • 202.942.4236 or [Erik Johnston](#) • 202.942.4230



#### Share your successful Community Development Block Grant stories

Has your county successfully completed a CDBG-funded project in the last five years? NACo's Research Division wants to know. NACo is compiling a publication of successfully completed projects, jobs created and funding leveraged for presentation to the White House and Congress. Share your success with other counties. Please send written descriptions that include the details mentioned above to [jbyers@naco.org](mailto:jbyers@naco.org).

Contact: [Jacqueline Byers](#) • 202.942.4285

#### New federal livability partnership with regional councils

NACo will seek input from members about implementing federal livability goals through a new project led by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), with support from U.S. Department of Transportation. The two-year project is intended to assist localities in building the governance, strategies and tools needed to create and implement regional transportation plans that support sustainable development. NARC and NACo will partner to offer listening sessions at upcoming NACo conferences.

Contact: [James Davenport](#) • 202.661.8807



#### "Contact Us" provides members with information, answers

NACo has a free, easy way to ask questions and get information from NACo staff. Just use the "Contact Us" feature on the NACo website to email your question to us. It is in the upper right corner of the [NACo website](#). If you have a question about conferences, the website, legislative issues, or want to make an address change, just click "Contact Us" and send an email. Of course, you could also give us a call. The phone number is listed there, too. Contact: [Bill Cramer](#) • 202-942-4264

## Coming up...



#### Legislative Conference 2011 – just two weeks away

The speaker line-up is almost complete with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder as the latest to be added to the list. Along with Admiral Mike Mullen, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, this year's conference promises to provide attendees with the latest information to help back home. For the full listing of general session speakers click [here](#).

Contact: [Kim Struble](#) • 202.942.4288



#### NACo Annual Conference and Exposition 2011 registration now open

Register now for NACo's 76th Annual Conference and Exposition. Plan to attend this year's event in Multnomah County (Portland), Ore., July 15 – 19. Featured speaker at the Opening Session will be Aron Ralston, the subject of the movie "127 Hours," who amputated an arm to free himself when trapped by a boulder while hiking. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Kim Struble](#) • 202.942.4288

## Free NACo webinars

#### Tell Your County Story: Creating a Countywide Media-Communications Plan (Members only)

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EST

If you don't tell your county's story, few will know. Learn the importance of having a countywide communications or media plan, and the tools necessary to tell your county story. To register for



this member only webinar, click [here](#).

Contact: [Jim Philipps](#) • 202.942.4220

### **Implementing the Affordable Care Act: Updates and Upcoming Issues**

*Thursday, Feb. 24, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EST*

Learn about upcoming provisions in the health reform law, current state implementation efforts and the potential effects of the new political climate. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Anita Cardwell](#) • 202.942.4267

### **Rural Counties and Health Reform: Community Health Needs Assessments**

*Thursday, March 24, 2–3:15 p.m. EST*

Find out how new requirements in the health reform law for nonprofit hospitals can help counties ensure the health care safety net burden is shared. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Anita Cardwell](#) • 202.942.4267

### **About NACo – The Voice of America’s Counties**

National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the U.S. NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.

Executive Director: Larry E. Naake

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