

NACo e-News



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

March 22, 2011

Counties and cities fight for CDBG on Capitol Hill

Homeless Veterans grants available

Two new publications explore county government authority and open records laws

Dear Member,

April is National County Government Month, are you ready? NACo, as your national association, has provided you with a variety of tools and examples to raise public awareness for all the good work you do each day. Please visit www.naco.org/NCGM to view, banners, resolutions, editorials, ideas for public displays and so much more. These resources are free to download. Let people know what you do and how it benefits the county.

This week's poll question, "A recent study shows that the average life expectancy is 78 years old. In light of this finding, should the age to obtain full Social Security benefits be raised to 70 and go into effect in 2021?" Click [here](#) to vote.

The last poll question asked, "Should your state pass legislation limiting the collective bargaining rights of public employees similar to what Gov. Scott Walker has proposed in Wisconsin?" 51 said yes, 48 said no, and 1 percent said other.

New from NACo



Homeless veterans grants available

"Stand Down" grants totaling \$600,000 are available to provide 10,000 homeless veterans with opportunities to reintegrate into society. The grants are being awarded under the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program. Click [here](#) for information.

Contact: [Ken Fenner](#) • 202.693.4728



New publications explore county government authority and open records laws

Two new research publications are available for purchase and on the NACo website. *County Authority: A State by State Report* provides detailed information about the authority granted to county governments to perform services and programs statutorily. *Open Records Laws: A State by State Report* examines the open records acts and freedom of information laws that county governments must follow in each state. Click [here](#) to view these recent publications.

Contact: [Jacqueline Byers](#) • 202.942.4285

Washington Update



President Whitley fights for CDBG at DC press conference

A bipartisan group of city and county officials, including NACo President Whitley, urged Congress during a press conference on March 16, not to cut the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The officials argued that the long-standing federal initiative creates jobs, grows local economies, generates wages, and increases state and local tax revenue. Click [here](#) to view a video of Whitley discussing the effort and [here](#) to review a preliminary report documenting the economic impact of CDBG on communities.

Contact: [Jim Philipps](#) • 202.942.4220

Upcoming Events

Quick Links

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Take the e-News Poll





NCGM is only days away. Is your county ready?

National County Government Month (NCGM) is less than two weeks away. Is your county planning to celebrate NCGM by showcasing essential services and programs? Has your county incorporated this year's theme — Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families — into its plans? Tell NACo about your events so we can share with other counties. New this year: an award to honor three counties for their outstanding NCGM activities. Click [here](#) for information.

Contact: [Tom Goodman](#) • 202.942.4222

NACo's first Rail Conference to be held in April

Make plans now to attend the 2011 Rail Conference, "Moving Freight and Passengers in the 21st Century," in DuPage County, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, April 27 – 29. The conference will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on county, city and state governments, including their citizens and businesses. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Bob Fogel](#) • 202-942-4217

Attend the 2011 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference

April 6 is the early bird registration deadline to save money on your registration for the WIR Conference, May 18 – 20 in Chelan County (Wenatchee), Wash. [Register](#) today to save money.

Contact: [Amanda Clark](#) • 202.661.8804



Register for the 2011 NACo Annual Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for the NACo Annual Conference, July 15 – 19, in Multnomah County (Portland), Ore. More than 40 educational sessions are planned along with abundant networking events to further your educational and informational experience. Plan to see more of Portland and the Northwest before or after the conference.

Contact: [Kim Struble](#) • 202.942.4288

Free NACo webinars

Innovative Practices for County Leaders: Promoting County Government in Your Community (Members only)

Wednesday, March 23, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

NACo Research Director Jacqueline Byers moderates a panel of county officials and staff on programs, services and activities that promote county government. Click [here](#) for member webinar registration.

Contact: [Jackie Byers](#) • 202.942.4285

Rural Counties and Health Reform: Community Health Needs Assessments

Thursday, March 24, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Learn 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

Using a Neighborhood Rating System to Measure Sustainable Development

Thursday, March 31, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Staff from NACo and the U.S. Green Building Council will introduce the new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development Rating System (LEED-ND) and demonstrate how it can be used to support your overall sustainable development goals. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Jared Lang](#) • 202.942.4224

NACo Prescription Discount Card Program: Too Good to be True? 1,400 Counties Say It's That Good!

Wednesday, April 6, 2 – 3:30 p.m. EDT

Find out how easy it is to implement NACo's Prescription Discount Card Program in your county so you can provide a "tough times" solution directly to your county residents. Click [here](#) for member webinar registration.

Contact: [Andrew Goldschmidt](#) • 202.942.4221

Using SafeRoadMaps to Reduce Road Crashes and Fatalities

Thursday, April 7, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Discover how county engineers and transportation officials are using SafeRoadMaps to identify rural areas with high crash and fatality rates. Also learn how to relay that information to the public. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [James Davenport](#) • 202.661.8807

A New Wave of Tools for Coastal County Resiliency

Thursday, April 14, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Are you in a coastal county? Haven't visited the Digital Coast? Get a sneak peek at upcoming tools and learn about NACo's Digital Coast partnership. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Carrie Clingan](#) • 202.942.4246

Promoting County Public Health: Prevention and Wellness in Health Reform

Thursday, April 21, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EDT



Learn about provisions in the Affordable Care Act that help strengthen local health infrastructure, and potential funding opportunities for county prevention and public health activities. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Anita Cardwell](#) • 202.942.4267

Green Infrastructure in Your Backyard: Northwest Area

Thursday, April 28, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Join the webinar to learn how northwestern counties are adopting county-specific habitat conservation plans to maintain wildlife populations in the midst of growth. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Cindy Wasser](#) • 202.942.4274

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.

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