

NACo e-News



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

April 5, 2011

April is National County Government Month

Technical assistance health grants available for rural counties

County health rankings released

Upcoming Webinars

Dear Member,

Celebrate National County Government Month (NCGM)! President Glen Whitley's Presidential Initiatives, "County Government Works" and "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families" are both in the spotlight this month as counties across the nation are raising the public's awareness about county government.

This week's poll question is tied to NCGM. "Do you think the majority of your residents understand the role, responsibilities and services provided by county government?" [Participate in the survey.](#)

The last poll question asked, "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?" A resounding 74% said No, 21% said yes and 5% said other.

New from NACo



National County Government Month is here

President Glen Whitley helped Caddo Parish, Louisiana kick off its Parish Government Awareness Month. Whitley addressed the importance of county government before the Caddo Parish Commission. Click [here](#) to view a video of his address.

Linn County, Iowa is hosting a veteran affairs open house and resource fair. Manistee County, Mich. is holding a presentation on available services for local veterans. How is your county celebrating National County Government Month? The theme is Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families. 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 and the online award application.
Contact: [Tom Goodman](#) • 202.942.4222

Excellence in parks and recreation programs to be recognized

Nominations are now being accepted for National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) awards. The awards recognize excellence in county parks and recreation programs, facilities and people. The application deadline is April 15. Click [here](#) for information.
Contact: [Carrie Clingan](#) • 202.942.4246

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Take the e-News Poll



Technical assistance health grants available for rural counties

Applications are being accepted from rural counties to receive technical assistance to assess their local health needs and strengthen health care delivery systems. NACo will grant three technical assistance awards on a competitive basis. Selected counties will work with National Center for Rural Health Works consultants to conduct a community health needs assessment. Applications are due April 29. Click [here](#) for more information.

Contact: [Anita Cardwell](#) • 202.942.4267



County health rankings released; assistance grants available

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute have released the second annual County Health Rankings, which ranks nearly every county on health outcomes and factors. Along with the rankings, RWJF has issued a call for proposals to provide local funds for up to 14 communities to implement tangible, measurable health improvements. Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more information about the rankings and funding opportunities. County News will have more on the story in its April 11 issue.

Contact: [Anita Cardwell](#) • 202.942.4267



Coalition to support computer, Internet access at libraries

An unprecedented national coalition has formed to design and pilot a series of public access technology benchmarks for public libraries with \$2.8 million in funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The coalition, which represents library and local government leaders, will develop guidelines that define quality technology services at libraries and how to continuously improve

them to motivate local re-investment in public technology access at libraries. For more information, please click [here](#).

Contact: [Sheila Murphy](#), Public Access Technology Benchmarks Coalition • 312. 676.0959

Washington Update



Rural Action Caucus fly-in brings rural issues to Washington, D.C.

Members of NACo's Rural Action Caucus (RAC) are currently in Washington, D. C., April 5 - 7, for the Annual RAC Legislative Fly-in. They will meet with more than 60 members of Congress to advance priority issues for rural counties. RAC members will meet with officials from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. RAC's leadership will meet with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. Click [here](#) for information.

Contact: [Erik Johnston](#) • 202.942.4230

Upcoming Events



NACo's first Rail Conference to be held in April

It's not too late to register for the 2011 Rail Conference in DuPage County, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, April 27 - 29. The conference, "Moving Freight and Passengers in the 21st Century," will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on citizens, businesses, and county, city and state governments. Click [here](#) to register.

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

National Network of Public Health Institutes holds annual conference May 16-18

The National Network of Public Health Institutes is holding its 10th annual conference, May 16 - 18, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme is 10 Years of Innovations in Public Health, A Lifetime of Healthier Communities. Click [here](#) for information.

Contact: [Anita Cardwell](#) • 202.942.4267



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 and save.](#)

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



NACo Prescription Discount Card Program: Too Good to be True?

1,400 Counties Say It's That Good! (Members only)

Wednesday, April 6, 2:00 – 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, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Learn how county engineers and transportation officials are using SafeRoadMaps to identify rural areas with high crash and fatality rates. Also find out 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, 2:00 – 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

Innovative Practices for County Leaders: Outreach to Returning Veterans (Members only)

Wednesday, April 20, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Discover how NACo's Veterans Taskforce is helping counties reach out to returning veterans in the nation's counties. Click [here](#) for member webinar registration.

Contact: [Jackie Byers](#) • 202.942.4285

Promoting County Public Health: Prevention and Wellness in Health Reform

Thursday, April 21, 2:00 – 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, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Find out how the Northwest 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

Using County Health Indicators to Inform Local Policy Decisions

Thursday, May 5, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. EDT

Many health data sources and tools exist that can help identify health assets and challenges within your community. Join us as speakers demonstrate how your county can utilize community health and quality of life indicator information to help inform policy decisions and more effectively target local public health resources. 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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