

NACo e-News



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

January 11, 2011

Jan. 31 is the deadline for NACo-Nationwide Scholarships

Register today for NACo's March Legislative Conference

New state and local workforce data guide available

Theme set for National County Government Month

Dear Member,

Happy New Year! 2010 sure flew by; don't expect 2011 will be any different. This issue of *e-News* features several new grants, publications, programs and webinars offered by NACo that can assist you and county staff to save you time and money in 2011. NACo is here for you. By e-mail, phone or face to face, we are available to assist you throughout the coming year.

This week's poll question, "The leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives is proposing to cut \$100 billion from the federal budget. What should be cut?" Choose three areas where you think cuts should be made. Click [here](#) to vote.

The last poll question asked, "Should Congress extend long term unemployment benefits?" 49 percent said No, 43 percent said Yes, 5 percent said Not Sure and 3 percent said Other.

New from NACo



Jan. 31 is the deadline for NACo-Nationwide Scholarships

For the sixth straight year, four high school seniors will earn \$2,000 for college from the NACo-Nationwide Scholarship. Winning applicants will be chosen based on a short essay describing why it is important for a public sector employee to start saving early for retirement. Applicants must be the child or grandchild of a participant in NACo's Deferred Compensation Program, administered by Nationwide Retirement Solutions. The deadline is

Jan. 31. More information is available at www.nrsforu.com/scholarship.

Contact: [Lisa Cole](#) • 202.942.4270



Is your county doing great things? Apply today for an Achievement Award

Give your county programs and employees national recognition by applying for a NACo Achievement Award. The Achievement Award program is non-competitive and recognizes innovative county government

programs that have achieved results. Application forms and program summaries must be postmarked by Feb. 11. For more information on the application process, click [here](#).

Contact: [Kathryn Murphy](#) • 202.661.8806

New state and local workforce data guide available

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration recently published the Guide to State and Local Workforce Data: For Analysis and Informed Decision Making. The guide provides links to state and local employment and economic data from government and private sector sources. It is intended for a wide variety of users and contains local labor market and workforce information that can be customized according to topic area. To view, click [here](#).

Contact: [Anita Cardwell](#) • 202.942.4267

NACo to launch public safety and congestion project

NACo was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Motorola Foundation to help counties

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address traffic congestion and safety challenges. Through a series of workshops, forums, webinars, and fact sheets, NACo will present tools and resources counties can use to reduce the impacts on congestion on its residents. Program areas include: employer implemented tools to reduce rush hour congestion, incident management, and peripheral impacts of congestion reduction programs on local roads.

Contact: [James Davenport](#) • 202.661.8807



Five Star Restoration Grant applications now being accepted

The Five Star Restoration Program will accept applications for the 2011 round of funding through Feb. 14. This program funds wetland, river or stream restoration in connection with community-based environmental education. For more information, click [here](#).

Contact: [Carrie Clingan](#) • 202.942.4246

Technical Assistance Grants available for pipeline safety

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration is now accepting applications for Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) until Feb. 28. The TAG program is designed to provide funding (up to \$50,000) to communities and non-profit groups for engineering or other scientific analysis of pipeline safety and/or to help promote public participation in official proceedings pertaining to pipeline safety. To learn more about the TAG program, click [here](#).

Contact: [James Davenport](#) • 202.661.8807

New pipeline safety report now available

A new report by the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance and the U.S. Department of Transportation recommends nearly 50 planning practices to help local governments improve pipeline safety. NACo assisted in the development of the report by identifying elected county officials and key county professional staff such as planners for the report's researchers. To view, click [here](#).

Contact: [James Davenport](#) • 202.661.8807



Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program is a new U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program that will award grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives who will provide supportive services to very low-income veterans and their families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing. These grants are part of the VA's effort to end homelessness among the veteran and military service

population in our counties. For information, click [here](#).

Contact: [Jim Sawyer](#) • 202.661.8868

January 17 is the deadline to nominate for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Award

One of President Glen Whitley's initiatives is to engage counties to develop and highlight county best practices and policies to promote innovative programs, services and benefits for our nation's military, veterans and their families. With this in mind, NACo would like to make you aware of the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. One week remains for Guard and Reserve members and their families to nominate supportive employers for the Award. Guard and Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers that have provided exceptional support to Guard and Reserve employees beyond the federal law requirements. For more information and to nominate please visit www.FreedomAward.mil through January 17, 2011 or contact Maj. Melissa Phillips, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-696-1171, ext. 519 or by email at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.



Coming Up ...



NACo's 2011 Legislative Conference -

[Register now and SAVE \\$25](#)

Featured speakers of this year's Legislative Conference, March 5 - 9 in Washington, D.C., include: Former Congressman Joe Scarborough, aka "Morning Joe" of MSNBC, a signer of the Contract with America, who will provide an insightful look at today's Congress; Paul Ballew, senior vice president, Nationwide Mutual insurance Company, who will discuss the current economic climate and what the near future holds; and Dr. David Brown, director of Integrative Wellness for the Defense Centers of

Excellence, who will share his knowledge on service member issues related to deployment and re-integration. To view the descriptions of more than 25 educational workshops, click [here](#).

Contact: [Kim Struble](#) • 202.942.4288

Plan for National County Government Month (NCGM)

This year's theme for National County Government Month in April is "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces, and Their Families." A NCGM booklet full of ideas to celebrate NCGM will be sent to member counties later this month. The booklet will contain suggested community activities, a draft proclamation, a sample news release, and many more possibilities. This year, for the first year, NACo will recognize and present an award to three counties for their outstanding NCGM activities. Each of the three winners will win two free conference registrations to any NACo meeting. Details on the award's program can be found in the booklet as well as on NACo's website starting the week of Jan. 17th at www.naco.org.

Contact: [Jim Philipps](#) • 202.942.4220



Free NACo webinars

Getting the Most of Your Conference Attendance

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EST

Join this webinar for a review of the upcoming Legislative Conference schedule and opportunities with NACo staff. Begin now to plan your participation for the most benefit to your county and your leadership. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Ruth Nybro](#) • 202.942.4277

Communities Working Together for Lasting Solutions: Increasing Civic Understanding (Members only)

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EST

The first in a series of three, this webinar will explore tools you can use to connect with your residents through an interactive process that will build positive relationships and generate innovative problem-solving. To register, click here: [member webinar registration](#).

Contact: [Trudy Rice](#) • 202.661.8805

Communities Working Together for Lasting Solutions: Increasing Public Participation (Members only)

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EST

The second in a series of three, this webinar will explore tools to help communities tackle problems using a well thought-out process for educating and engaging community members. To register, click here: [member webinar registration](#).

Contact: [Trudy Rice](#) • 202.661.8805

ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager for America's Counties

Thursday, Feb. 10, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. EST

Co-hosted by NACo and EPA, participants will learn about ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, an interactive energy management tool, and how to use it to analyze energy use in county facilities, set investment priorities, verify efficiency improvements, and receive EPA recognition for superior energy performance. County representatives will also share their experiences using Portfolio Manager. To register, click [here](#).

Contact: [Eryn Rosenblum](#) • 202.661.8834

Communities Working Together for Lasting Solutions: Building Effective Leadership (Members only)

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EST

The third in a series of three, this webinar will explore ways you can diversify your leadership base, as you prepare new leaders for future responsibilities. To register, click here: [member webinar registration](#).

Contact: [Trudy Rice](#) • 202.661.8805

A New Wave of Tools for Coastal County Resiliency

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EST

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

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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