

# FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES APRIL 25, 2023

#### VISION

HEALTHY, SAFE AND VIBRANT COUNTIES across America

#### MISSION

#### ABOUT NACO

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO) STRENGTHENS AMERICA'S 3,069 COUNTIES, serving nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees

Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to:

- Advocate county priorities in federal policymaking
- Promote exemplary county policies and practices
- Nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks
- Optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings
- Enrich the public's understanding of county government

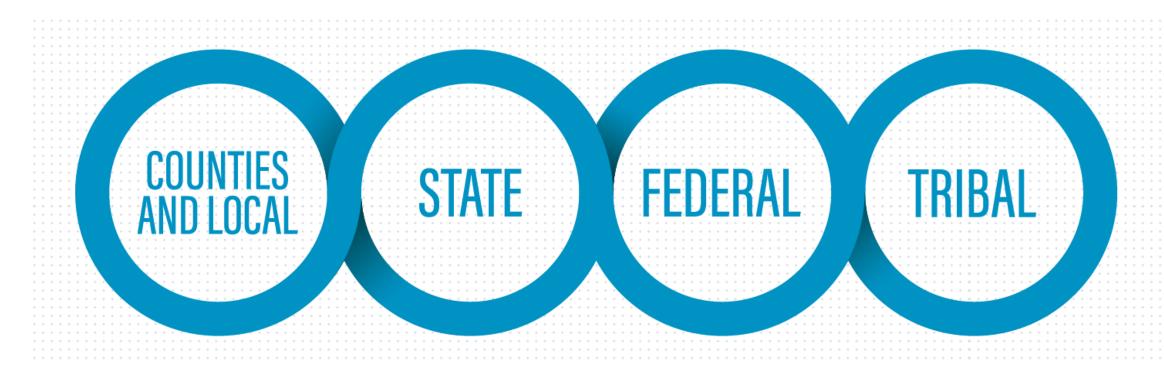
### The NACo Blueprint harnesses the

### collective ingenuity, knowledge and powers

of America's county officials,

### ultimately helping people and places to thrive.

# ROLE OF NACO AND AMERICA'S COUNTIES IN OUR INTERGOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM



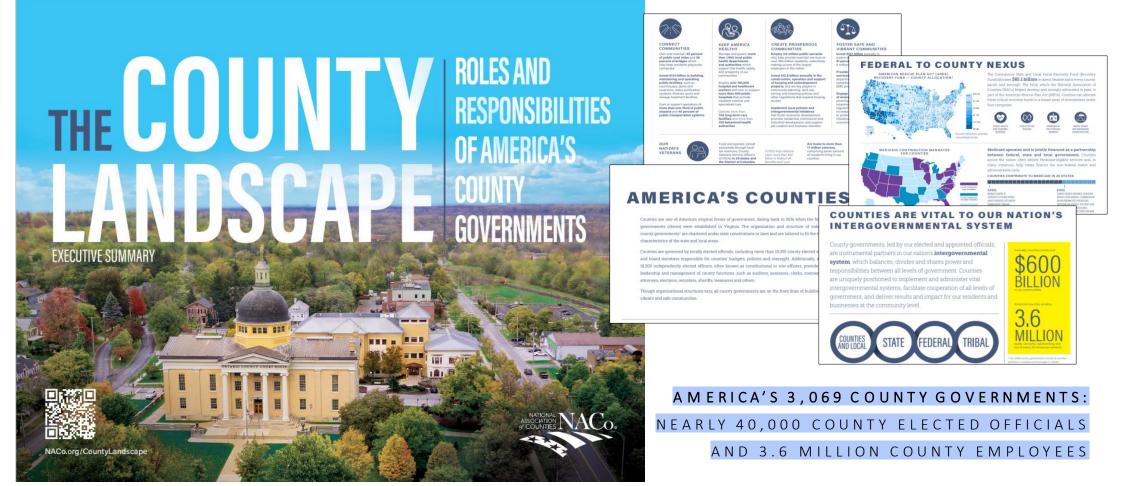
Under America's form of federalism, the intergovernmental system is about the

balance, division and sharing of power and responsibilities between levels of government.

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROLE IN OUR NATION'S INTERGOVERMENTAL SYSTEM

BLUEPRINT

NACo I





- L. Optimize Intergovernmental Partnerships of America's Counties, with federal, state, local and tribal counterparts
- 2. Ensure County stewardship and impact with American Rescue Plan Act's Fiscal Recovery Funds
- 3. Position Counties to leverage the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act & the CHIPS and Science Act
- 4. Advance Federal Behavioral Health Policy Reforms, including modernize the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion and IMD policies
- 5. Secure the County priorities in 2023 Farm Bill Reauthorization
- 6. Boost Advanced Broadband Deployment and Accessibility while preserving local decision-making
- 7. Support Full Funding for Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program
- 8. Promote County Priorities in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal rulemaking
- 9. Maintain Election Integrity with an emphasis on strengthening election worker safety
- **10.** Enhance Community Resilience through regional and local disaster preparedness
- 11. Promote Economic Recovery including **Workforce and Housing Opportunities**



# erican Rescue Plan Act

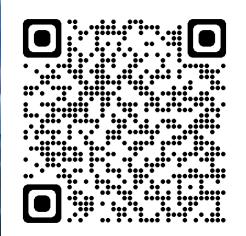
# CHIPS and Science Act

# Inflation Reduction Act

# UNITORIO DE LA COLLA COL

Join NACo's **Untold Stories** campaign to highlight the human impact of county services

Visit NACo.org/UntoldStories to submit your story and access resources to engage local your audience, including a letter to the editor template, a media relations guide, social media templates and more.



## U.S. TREASURY UPDATED RULEMAKING for CORNYN-PADILLA AMENDMENT

Newly enacted Cornyn-Padilla amendment expands the eligible use of Recovery Funds for natural disaster relief, including COVID-19, that meets the immediate needs of counties.

#### As part of the pending final rule, NACo is urging the U.S. Treasury to include:

- Debris Cleanup
  Removal of debris from disaster-affected areas
- Mental Health Services
  Providing mental health services to those affected by a disaster
- Housing
  Short-term and long-term housing solutions (HUD, CDBG)
- Economic Resiliency Revitalizing the economy following a disaster
- Emergency Response Search and rescue operations in disaster-affected areas
- Food and Water
  Providing food and water to those affected by a disaster

 Power Grid Back Online Restoring power to disaster-affected areas

#### • Hardening of Lifelines

Strengthening roads, bridges, emergency rooms/hospitals, communications infrastructure before and after a disaster

#### Insurance Deductibles

Reducing insurance deductibles for those affected by a disaster (e.g. flood insurance deductible)

• Staff Pay

Providing regular and overtime pay for staff in disaster-affected areas

- Secondary Homes Relief Providing relief to individuals with secondary homes with no insurance
- Individual Assistance

Getting relief to individuals who often fall through the cracks

# State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Reporting Requirements and Resources





#### Add new individuals to the portal

Ensure all necessary personnel have access to the portal from your jurisdiction. Add new indivduals on portal.treasury/gov/compliance

#### **Update POC information**

Confirm that the contact information in the portal is up to date for authorized representative and point of contact

#### Submit P&E Report by April 30, 2023

All counties must submit a Project and Expenditure (P&E) Report by April 30, 2023 – Portal will open early April

By following these steps, you can ensure a smooth process for submitting your county's P&E Report by April 30, 2023.

### Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund

- Covers 2,086 "eligible revenue sharing counties"
- **\$1.5 billion in new federal funding** over two-year period (FY2022 and FY2023)
- Minimum allocation of \$100,000 and maximum amount of \$12 million
- Funds may be used "for any governmental purpose other than a lobbying activity
- Maintain active SAM.gov registration throughout the duration of the award
- Funds will remain available to eligible counties until expended



#### NACo SUPPLEMENTAL TO BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW ANALYSIS:

# BREAKDOWN OF FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AVAILABLE TO COUNTIES

← → C බ Ô https://airtable.com/shrlLOvhcVP8YBhKJ/tblRGDAHVILFjwyy

#### ▷ Open Notices of Funding

🜣 Customize cards \Xi Filter 👫 Sort 🚥

Railroad Crossing Eliminatio	All Stations Accessibility Pro	Reconnecting Communities	Reconnecting Communities	Rural ReConnect Program	State and Local Cybersecurit	Strengthening Mobility and
FY 2022 AVAILABLE AMOUNT	FY 2022 AVAILABLE AMOUNT	FY 2022 AVAILABLE AMOUNT	FY 2022 AVAILABLE AMOUNT	FY 2022 AVAILABLE AMOUNT	FY 2022 AVAILABLE AMOUNT	FY 2022 AVAILABLE AMOUNT
\$573 million	\$373 million	\$50 million	\$145 million	\$1.5 billion	\$185 million	\$100 million
AGENCY	AGENCY	AGENCY	AGENCY	AGENCY	AGENCY	AGENCY
U.S. Department of Transportation	U.S. Department of Transportation	U.S. Department of Transportation	U.S. Department of Transportation	U.S. Department of Agriculture	U.S. Department of Homeland Se	U.S. Department of Transportation
SUB-AGENCY	SUB-AGENCY	SUB-AGENCY	SUB-AGENCY	SUB-AGENCY	SUB-AGENCY	SUB-AGENCY
Federal Railroad Administration	Federal Transit Administration	Federal Highway Administration	Federal Highway Administration	Rural Utilities Service	Cybersecurity and Infrastructure S	Office of the Secretary
DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION
Provides funding for projects that improve, relocate and/or close at- grade rail highway crossings	Provides federal financing for capital projects to upgrade access for legacy rail fixed guideway public transit systems for people with disabilities	Supports planning activities for projects to restore community connectivity	Provides funding for eligible projects that will restore community connectivity	Provides loans, grants and combinations of the two to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas	Supports the strengthening of state and local cybersecurity infrastructure	Provides funding for demonstration projects focused on smart community technologies and systems
SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
	Only inaccessible legacy stations are eligible for funding		Must be the owner of an eligible facility (defined as one that creates barriers to mobility and accessibility or one that is no longer justified by	For a proposed funded service area (PFSA) to be eligible, >90% of households in the PFSA must lack sufficient access to broadband		
NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
Notice of Funding Opportunity	Notice of Funding Opportunity	Notice of Funding_Opportunity	Notice of Funding Opportunity	Notice of Funding Opportunity	Notice of Funding Opportunity	Notice of Funding Opportunity
DEADLINE TO APPLY	DEADLINE TO APPLY	DEADLINE TO APPLY	DEADLINE TO APPLY	DEADLINE TO APPLY	DEADLINE TO APPLY	DEADLINE TO APPLY
10/4/2022	10/7/2022	10/13/2022	10/13/2022	11/2/2022	11/15/2022	11/18/2022

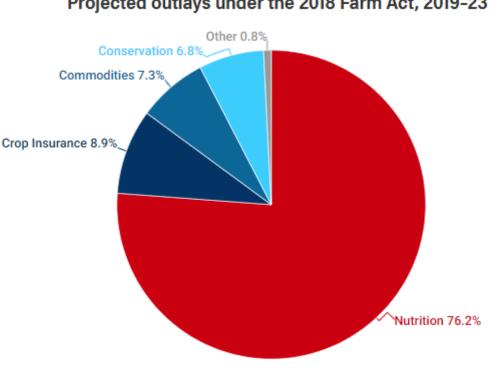




### 2023 FARM BILL REAUTHORIZATION

#### **NACO PRIORITIES**

- Improve ease of access and flexibility of Farm Bill programs
- Provide stronger support for small and mid-size producers
- Advance comprehensive farm labor reform
- Maintain and expand voluntary conservation programs
- Bridge the broadband digital divide
- Invest in the rural development capacity of rural counties
- Close the water and wastewater access gap
- Maintain SNAP funding levels, structure and eligibility
- Elevate the county role in federal land management



#### Projected outlays under the 2018 Farm Act, 2019-23





# NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### NATIONAL LANDSCAPE: A CASE FOR ACTION

- Nearly 1 in 4 U.S. adults and 1 in 5 adolescents experienced a mental illness in 2021, with people aged 18 to 25 having the lowest rate of treatment.
- Nearly a quarter of adults today take prescription pills for mental health, up from only 16 percent in 2019.
- Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for 15-to-24-year-olds, with teenagers experiencing a 17.3 percent increase in the use of anxiety medications since 2020.
- One third of the U.S. population lives in a county designated as a mental health professional shortage area.
- Serious mental illness causes \$193.2 billion in lost earnings each year across the U.S. economy, with substance use disorders resulting in more than \$740 billion annually in additional lost workplace productivity, healthcare expenses, and crime-related costs.

**1 IN 4 ADULTS** AND 1 IN 5 ADOLESCENTS IN THE U.S. EXPERIENCED A MENTAL ILLNESS IN 2021

Sources: 1- SAMHSA; 2-CDC; 3-CDC; 4-HRSA; 5-American Journal of Psychiatry

# NACO MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION CHARTER

- 1. Stimulate national sense of urgency, through an intergovernmental partnership framework, for addressing our nation's crisis with mental health and wellbeing of residents, *especially our most vulnerable*.
- 2. Elevate the national awareness of the roles, innovations and pain-points facing county governments in addressing this escalating crisis.
- **3.** Achieve NACo's public policy agenda, such as the full implementation of Mental Health Parity standards, modernize the unequal coverage of mental health care through the "institutions for mental disease" (IMD) prohibition, repeal the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy for people held in jail pre-trial, and build the mental health workforce and continuum of care for the future.
- 4. Align a cohesive national and intergovernmental strategy to improve and enhance the mental health and wellbeing of all Americans, with a special focus on our most vulnerable populations.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL FRAMEWORK

### FEDERAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

- Mental Health Parity enforcement and incentives
- Institutes of Mental Disease (IMD) modernization
- Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy repeal
- Workforce Development incentives and resources
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic evaluation & scale

### **STATE** POLICIES AND PRACTICES

- County-informed state models for state-county collaboration
- State innovations, investments, alignment & empowerment

### **COUNTY** POLICIES AND PRACTICES

- County policies, practices & innovations
- Public-private-nonprofit partnerships and collaboration
- Scale NACo peer learning networks including county policymakers and practitioners



# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: COUNTY PARTICIPATION TOOLKIT



### COUNTY LANDSCAPE: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – MAY 2023

M

(File)



**May is Mental Health** 

Awareness Month! #MentalHealthAwarenessMonth **HOST:** Host a congressional representative, state policy lead or other key stakeholders;

POST: Post on your county's social media platforms using NACo's social media toolkit;

**VISIT:** Go visit your county's behavioral health programs or facilities and invite key stakeholders to observe the work happening at the local level;

**LEAD:** Pass a resolution declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month, share a press release, op-ed, and other resources with your community;

LISTEN: Invite key stakeholders and those with lived experience to share needs that can inform policy decisions;

**ADVOCATE:** Speak to state and federal legislative leaders and partners and advocate for key policy priorities; and

**LEARN:** Access NACo's resources on mental and behavioral health and share them with your connections and partners.

### COUNTY LANDSCAPE: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – MAY 2023

#### SHARE YOUR EFFORTS WITH US

Explore the resources below and share with NACo how your county plans to participate

#### SHARE YOUR STORY

#### SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

Use this template to spread the word about Mental Health Awareness Month and encourage county governments and partner organizations to participate in highlighting local efforts to address mental health in your community.

#### DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE

#### DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE

Mental Health Awareness Month: County Participation Toolkit (naco.org)

#### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Download the Mental Health Awareness Month flyer to spread the word and share key information on how to take action.

Use this template to pass a resolution recognizing May as

Mental Health Awareness Month in your county.

#### DOWNLOAD THE FLYER

**RESOLUTION TEMPLATE** 

FLYER

#### SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS

Use this template to ask your congressional delegation to ask your congressional delegation to pass bipartisan behavioral health policies that enhances the ability of localities to provide comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services in all settings, strengthens the behavioral health workforce, bolsters crisis response systems and increases resident access to services.

#### POLICY PRIORITIES

Download and share these county policy priorities in behavioral health.

#### DOWNLOAD THE SAMPLE LETTER

#### DOWNLOAD THE PRIORITIES

#### SOCIAL MEDIA TEMPLATES

Use our social media templates to share your participation in Mental Health Awareness Month and showcase your county's efforts.

- Y We are excited to announce that [COUNTY] is joining our colleagues across the nation in recognizing #MentalHealthAwarenessMonth
- Join [COUNTY] and recognize May as #MentalHealthAwarenessMonth!
- Vow more than ever, we need to act to address the mental health crisis in the U.S., as 1 in four adults experience a mental illness. Join us in participating in #MentalHealthAwarenessMonth.









# MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID AND NACo

#### WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), a skills-based training administered by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges in their peers, friends and colleagues.

To help the National Association of Counties (NACo) realize its vision of creating healthy, safe and vibrant counties across America, the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and NACo are partnering to offer crucial MHFA trainings to county employees and the communities they serve. The National Council-NACo partnership will support elected officials and county staff, who are asking for help with their own mental health and wellbeing. And, by extension, create a framework for counties to destigmatize mental health and substance use issues as they provide community residents with more equitable access to quality mental health and substance use treatment services.

#### LEARN MORE

To learn more about mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, visit MentalHealthFirstAid.org or email MHFA\_NACo@TheNationalCouncil.org.

#### DOWNLOAD THE ONE-PAGER







ABOUT TOPICS ADVOCACY RESOURCES EVENTS & EDUCATION NEW



- f Through the Opioid Solutions Initiative, NACo empowers local leaders to invest resources in effective treatment,
- recovery, prevention and other public health practices that save lives and address the underlying causes of

Aug 2021 .....

Deadline: 46 states

confirm participation

in the MDL (Ala., Okla.,

Wash., and W.Va. elect

not to participate).

substance use disorder

#### Brief History of the 2022 Opioid Settlements

Multi-district litigation (MDL) between states and opioid manufacturers and distributors

To resolve their liabilities in 3,000+ lawsuits nationwide, opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson (\$5 billion) and the "big three" distributors McKesson, Amerisource Bergen and Cardinal Health (\$21 billion) offer a \$26 billion settlement.

Participating states are entitled to about half of the offered (base) payout. To unlock the full amount, states must convince counties, cities to surrender individual suits and join their state agreements. Deadline: 90% of eligible counties, cities surrender individual suits and join their state agreements, increasing the base payout by about 50%.

**Jan 2022** 

First payments expected.

Deadline: Defendants agree MDL has reached critical mass, finalize

the \$26 billion settlement.

# OPIOID Solutions

Empowering local leaders to leverage opioid settlement funds and other resources for effective treatment, recovery, prevention and other public health practices that save lives and address the underlying causes of substance use disorder.

#### NACo's Opioid Solutions Initiative features

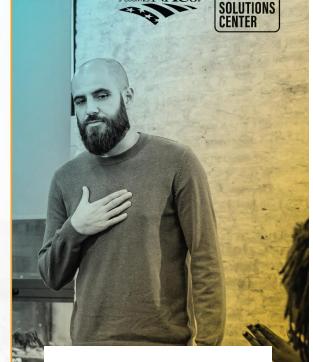
#### **Opioid Solutions Center**

A web-based resource center for best practices and case examples related to addressing opioid and substance use disorder

#### Leadership Network

A national network of county officials focused on reducing overdose deaths and addressing substance use disorder in their communities

NACo will begin accepting applications to the Opioid Solutions Leadership Network in September 2022.



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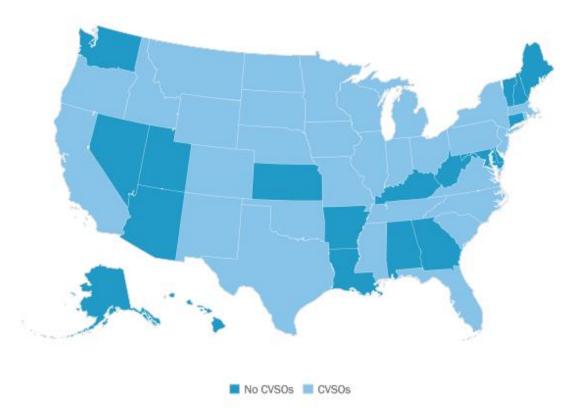
OPIOID



# County Veteran Service Officers

At least 29 states have accredited county veteran service officers (CVSOs), primarily supported from local county tax dollars. Even though CVSOs work with the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA)

U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) to coordinate and secure veterans' federal benefits, **there is currently no federal funding** for county service offices, and very few states contribute funds.



CVSOs help veterans claim more than \$52 billion annually in federal health, disability, pension and compensation benefits

# **PRIORITIES** POLICY DERAL ш 11 $\mathbf{m}$ $\sim$ C

# Light it green to welcome America's veterans home

# OPERATION GREEN LIGHT for VETERANS

RESOURCES EVENTS & EDUCATION NEWS

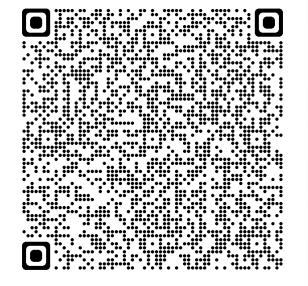
COUNTY EXPLORER

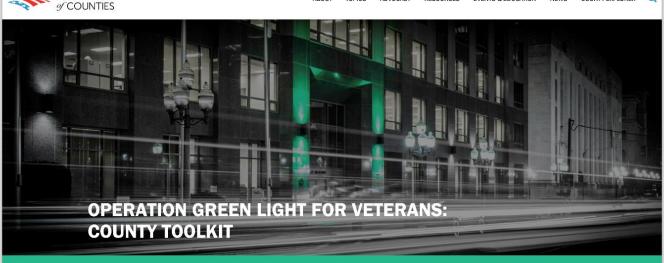
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#OperationG

NACO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION





ADVOCACY

Advocacy Legislative Presentations, Reports & Toolkits Veterans Affairs

America's counties have a long and proud history of serving our nation's veterans, a legacy that continues to this day as we work with our federal, state and local partners to ensure that the former service members in our communities have access to the resources they need to thrive.

#### COUNTIES MATTER FOR VETERANS

America's counties are home to 17.5 million veterans, and we are deeply invested in veterans' health and well-being, often serving as a veteran's first point of contact in the community for accessing services. Counties support

**NACo County Explorer** COUNTIES WITH MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

# **COUNTIES AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS 101**

LEVERAGING THE FARM BILL TO PROMOTE COMPATIBLE LAND USE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

military installation

Has a military installation

the map on NACo's County Explorer.

# NACo Technology Guides FOR COUNTY LEADERS

GIS o



CONNECTED COUNTIES

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Familiar Faces Initiative: Improving Outcomes through Coordinated Heath & Justice Systems

The Familiar Faces Initiative empowers communities to share data and integrate care options between health and justice systems so they can intervene earlier, improve outcomes and reduce incarceration and hospitalization rates.



The Economic Mobility Leadership Network (EMLN) is a NACo cohort of county leaders that facilitates and incubates countyspecific discussion and problem-solving on issues of economic mobility and helps county leaders identify and assess their current barriers to mobility and share scalable and transferable programs across the country.



The NACo Resilient Counties Initiative builds leadership capacity to identify and manage risk, and prepare counties to become more flexible and responsive to system shocks and stresses. It has a holistic approach to resilience, examining social and economic resilience, sustainability and disaster management.



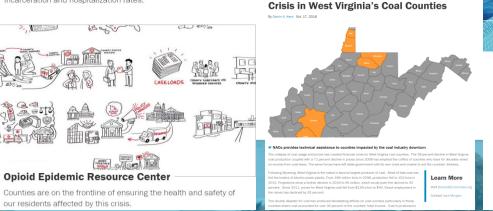
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any childhood

Counties not only play a pivotal role in building thriving communities for an estimated 16 million children ages birth to three across the United States, but also invest in core policies and services that help to shape early childhood systems.







Creative Placemaking Toolkit for Counties

The Creative Counties Placemaking Initiative supports counties as they work to identify and strengthen ways to integrate arts into solutions to local challenges.



Transforming County Human Services Network

Counties Matter in Human Services There are over 257,000 county human services employees across the country delivering vital services to our nation's most vulnerable populations.

### **BUILDING KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS**





National Center for Public Lands Counties Advancing the policy and anation study of America's public lands counties

> Processed by the Weatorn Warehold Regio and the 1980's Research Translation



A NACo led national initiative to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders in jalls.



**NACo members can serve** on 31 policy and practice committees, caucuses, task forces and advisory boards to inform national policy and help solve problems impacting counties.

### **Over 1,500 county officials and staff participate**

#### **Committees focus on:**

Arts and Culture | Broadband | Disaster Mitigation & Recovery | Economic Development | Elections | Finance | Health | Housing | Human Service Delivery | Infrastructure & Transportation | Justice Reform | Natural Resources Management | Public Lands | Public Safety | Resiliency | Rural Affairs | Technology | Veteran Services

#### www.naco.org/getinvolved





2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

# **IRAVIS** COUNTY, TEXAS $2023_{21-24}^{JULY}$





#### STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

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