COUNTIES MOVING AMERICA FORWARD:
THE KEYS ARE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
National County Government Month (NCGM), held each April, is an annual celebration of county government. Since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties to actively promote the services and programs they offer. Counties can schedule activities any time during the month. NCGM is an excellent opportunity for your county to highlight effective county programs and raise public awareness and understanding about the various services provided to the community.

**NACo’S VISION:**
Healthy, Vibrant and Safe Counties Across America

**NACo’S MISSION:**
The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America’s 3,069 county governments. Through NACo, county officials:

- Advocate with a collective voice on national policy
- Exchange ideas and build new skills
- Innovate transformational county solutions
- Enhance the public’s understanding county government, and
- Implement trusted, value-added services that counties and the public money
COUNTIES MOVING AMERICA FORWARD:
THE KEYS ARE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Show how Counties Move America Forward using transportation and infrastructure

Dear Fellow County Leader,

A group of high school students was recently asked, “What is a county? What do counties do?” After some struggling, one student said, “Counties take care of important things no one else has time to do.” In some ways, she was right. But, the point is we need to do a better job of highlighting the role of county government, and April, National County Government Month (NCGM), is a perfect opportunity to do that.

Since 1991, NACo has encouraged counties to actively promote their programs and services during NCGM. This year’s theme is “Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure.” This is also the focus of my presidential initiative because counties are at the forefront of strengthening transportation and infrastructure fundamental to moving America forward. We play a key role in everything from moving people and goods to moving the economy forward.

County resources are the core building blocks for healthy, vibrant and safe communities. Nationwide, we invest more than $100 billion each year in transportation, broadband services, water systems and public facilities. Counties run most of our nation’s local jails and courthouses, own the largest share of America’s road miles and operate more than 900 public hospitals and countless parks, libraries, firehouses and 911 call centers. As I’ve said all over the country, county transportation and infrastructure are vital to boosting economic competitiveness, moving our food efficiently and maintaining a strong national defense.

This booklet provides you with a variety of ideas of how you can join your colleagues in celebrating NCGM. April presents an opportunity to highlight key transportation projects like new bridges, roads, resurfacing projects or other infrastructure work. Even if your county does not have transportation responsibilities, you probably fund infrastructure projects, which you can highlight.

There are also other examples to show how your county plays a central role in your community and helps “move America forward.” Counties participate in NCGM by hosting a variety of community outreach events and activities, including tours of county facilities, recognition ceremonies for volunteers and county employees, outreach on county services and programs, sponsoring student essay or art contests and adopting resolutions.
One activity that you should pursue during NCGM is to meet with your members of Congress. When you meet stress to them that federal policy matters to counties and counties matter to America’s local communities. They should know that county governments are responsible for the fundamental building blocks for healthy, safe and vibrant communities and that federal policy decisions have a major, cascading impact on county government.

With transportation and infrastructure as the theme for NCGM this year, you should also emphasize the need for Congress to approve a long-term reauthorization of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and fixing the Highway Trust Fund. You can find information on this issue in this booklet and also on the NACo website.

NACo wants to know what you are doing to celebrate NCGM. When you share photos, videos, articles and activities on social media, use the hashtag #NCGM. Include @NACoTweets on Twitter and tag NACo in your Facebook postings. Explore the wide range of resources at www.naco.org/NCGM to support your activities.

I look forward to celebrating NCGM with you this April, and thank you for your efforts to show how counties are moving America forward.

— Riki Hokama
NACo President
Maui County, Hawaii council member
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Under the leadership of President Riki Hokama, NACo is strengthening the capacity of leaders in the nation’s 3,069 counties to deliver first-class transportation and infrastructure services to their communities.

A vast majority of the people and goods in the United States travel via county transportation infrastructure every day. Counties are responsible for building and maintaining 45 percent of public roads and nearly 40 percent of bridges and are involved in the operations of a third of the nation’s transit systems and airports.

The decisions that county leaders make about transportation, infrastructure, land use and economic development policies and investments influence local and national economic opportunities, shape how communities grow and enhance Americans’ quality of life. Through regional partnerships and collaboration with federal, state and other local governments, nonprofit organizations and private firms, counties connect residents, businesses and communities and strengthen local economies.

Within the initiative, NACo convenes public- and private-sector stakeholders, produces publications, develops webinars and podcasts, facilitates peer learning and hosts forums, workshops and roundtable events.

In December, NACo held the Symposium on America’s County Transportation & Infrastructure in President Hokama’s home county, Maui County, Hawaii. NACo released a special report, Capital Investments: Counties Drive Economic Development with Transportation and Infrastructure Innovations. This and other information is available at www.naco.org/presidential-initiative.

The Transportation & Infrastructure Initiative addresses the county role in promoting investments that support economic competitiveness, improve passenger travel, foster creative partnerships, ensure safety and enhance community quality of life. This initiative focuses on the fundamentals of today’s county transportation and infrastructure needs and explores the future of America’s infrastructure advancements, including broadband expansion and technology innovations.

What transportation and infrastructure projects has your county initiated? Use NCGM to let your citizens know about road improvements, new bridges, building projects and public works activities. Plan ribbon cuttings or tours to inform them about the improvements you have made.

Contact: Kathy Nothstine • knothstine@naco.org • 202.661.8807
GETTING STARTED

This year’s theme is “Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure.”
National County Government Month (NCGM) is an annual celebration of county government held each April. Since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties to actively promote the services and programs they offer. Counties can schedule activities any time during the month. NCGM is an excellent opportunity for your county to highlight effective county programs and raise public awareness and understanding about the various services provided to the community. Here are a few ideas on how to get started:

ESTABLISH A PLANNING COMMITTEE

The committee will plan, organize and coordinate all activities relating to NCGM. Committee members should include representatives from the county board, administration, school system and each county department. In addition, a public information officer or county official experienced in media relations should be included. Consider including a County Extension Service representative. This could be a staff member, 4-H volunteer or 4-H member. All areas of county government and schools should be involved in the planning process.

DECIDE HOW EXTENSIVE YOUR ACTIVITIES WILL BE

Plan activities throughout the month or organize just a few featured events. Hold fun, interactive and informative activities to reach different segments of your community including students, educators, senior citizens, young families, business leaders and community organizations. Activities should be designed to bring residents to county facilities such as the courthouse, parks, public safety building, and recycling/waste transfer station. Activities can be planned to deploy county officials to locations where residents are already assembled. Suggestions for activities such as open houses and public tours are described elsewhere in this booklet.

INVOLVE THE MEDIA

Be sure members of the local news media are aware of NCGM and the activities your committee has planned. Consider involving a member of the news media in the planning process. Media outreach tips are described elsewhere in this guide. The following pages will provide you and your planning committee several ideas on what to include in your county’s celebration of NCGM.
Transportation and infrastructure are critical components that support the economies of our counties and improve the standard of living for all Americans. By providing efficient transportation and transit options such as buses, trains, light rail and subway systems, counties are the driving force connecting communities. Counties invest in building the schools where students learn, the hospitals that treat and provide care to the community and the jails that house and rehabilitate wrongdoers. From cleaning up storm debris and restoring safety to the community to cleaning the water we drink by maintaining reservoirs, purification plants and pumping stations, counties provide the basic services that are often taken for granted.

**Transportation & Infrastructure**

Counties invest $52.3 billion in construction of public facilities annually.

Counties own and maintain 45% of America’s roads.

Counties invest $106.3 billion in building infrastructure and maintaining and operating public works annually.

Counties invest $18.6 billion in sewage and solid waste management annually.

Counties own 230,690 bridges.

Counties are involved in the operation of 30% of public airports.

Services include:

- Transit
- Roads
- Bridges
- Airports
- Construction of public facilities
- Water and sewage systems
- Solid waste management
- Utilities like gas and electricity
- Construction of public facilities
- Water and sewage systems
- Solid waste management
- Utilities like gas and electricity
- Construction of public facilities

National County Government Month offers an opportunity to educate residents about county programs, services and responsibilities. It is also an opportunity to address misinformation about county government. In short, it’s an opportunity to tell the public *Why Counties Matter.*
As part of NCGM, prepare and distribute county fact sheets. Some counties roll out a “County Fact of the Day” or distribute fact sheets representing key county departments, such as public safety, parks and recreation, public works and health. Tell them things many residents do not know about county services, but need to know.

Send the fact sheets to the media, post them on the county website and distribute via social media. Fact sheets can highlight county services and programs provided by your county:

**TRANSPORTATION**
- How many bridges are owned and maintained by the county?
- How many miles of roads and highways are owned and maintained by the county?
- How many vehicles such as pavers, sweepers and snow plows are owned by the county?
- What public transportation systems does the county operate?
- What are the costs for maintaining the transportation system?
- Show the importance of the transportation systems to the county economy?

**INFRASTRUCTURE**
- How many infrastructure projects were completed last year?
- How many projects are planned for the future?
- What are the greatest infrastructure needs?

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE, PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE**
- How many trained emergency responders are employed by the county?
- How many trained volunteer emergency responders serve the county?
- How many emergency calls were responded to last year?
- How many bookings were processed at the county jail last year?
- What is the daily average jail population?

**HEALTH**
- How many patients were served last year at county hospitals and clinics?
- How many health department inspections were conducted last year?
- How many vaccinations were administered last year?
- How many emergency room visits were made last year?

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**
- How many children, senior citizens or veterans received county services last year?

**EMPLOYMENT**
- How many residents received direct job training or unemployment services last year?
- How many businesses have been added to the county that bring in how many new jobs?

**ELECTIONS**
- How many residents voted in the last election?
- How many poll workers were deployed on Election Day?
- What was the cost of running the last election?
OPEN THE COUNTY TO THE PUBLIC

A great way to educate residents about county services is getting them to visit county facilities for an open house or public tour.
HOLD AN OPEN HOUSE
Feature county departments showcasing the services provided. Arrange for county employees to be available to discuss the services. Schedule guided tours through the building. Use your local historical society or library to create presentations or displays to educate residents about the county’s rich history. If the weather is nice, have the displays outside in the courtyard or a nearby parking lot. Have music, face painting, balloons, refreshments and entertainment for children. Make it a fun and interesting learning experience for the entire family.

OFFER TOURS
Schedule public tours at county facilities such as health facilities, parks, libraries, courts, recycling/waste transfer stations, and public safety buildings. Reach out to community groups, such as service clubs, 4-H and scouts and encourage them to come as a group to see how various county facilities operate.

BRING INFORMATION TO RESIDENTS
Hold public outreach events at the shopping mall, senior center, recreation center, county library or other location where people are expected to gather. Arrange to set up displays, provide county fact sheets and brochures and conduct presentations on county services. Work with the county extension service to spread the message about what counties do.

HOLD A JOBS FAIR
Highlight your county’s workforce development and employment services at a “county jobs fair.” Partner with the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to educate job seekers about the skills and education local employers are looking for.

ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERISM
Encourage residents to volunteer their time and talents to the community. Organize fellow county officials to spearhead a specific community service project and ask others to volunteer. Ask residents to volunteer their time to visit the elderly, disabled and ill in county hospitals and nursing homes. Ask residents to volunteer their services to assist area non-profit organizations such as those who serve veterans, seniors, juveniles, foster children, homeless persons, the mentally ill and domestic violence victims.
Every day, in counties across America, national service is tackling tough problems and strengthening communities. On April 7, 2015, as part of National County Government Month, county leaders are encouraged to recognize the impact of national service and thank those who serve on the first annual County Day of Recognition for National Service.
COUNTY DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

On this day, county executives and board chairs will hold public events and use media to highlight the impact of national service to the nation’s counties and inspire more citizens to serve. The initiative is being led by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

As the federal agency for national service and volunteering, CNCS annually engages five million citizens in service at more than 60,000 locations. Through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund and other programs, CNCS leverages federal and private funds to support organizations that achieve measurable results where the need is greatest. Whether supporting food banks and homeless shelters, restoring parks, building homes, providing health services, strengthening public safety and juvenile justice services, and managing community volunteers, national service members help local leaders tackle tough problems.

County governments have a broad range of responsibilities to their residents, which matches CNCS’s mission to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement. A coordinated day of recognition presents a unique opportunity to spotlight the key role that national service plays in helping counties solve problems. Participating in the day will highlight the impact of citizen service, show support for nonprofit and national service groups, and inspire more residents to serve in their communities.

All county board chairs and county executives are encouraged to participate. Suggested activities include holding a thank you event, issuing a proclamation, visiting a national service program, joining a service project, taking a group photo with national service members and using social media to thank those who serve.

Contact: PJ Andrews, CNCS Office of Government Relations, 202-606-6613 or pandrews@cns.gov. To learn more and sign up your county, visit www.nationalservice.gov/countiesforservice.
Be sure to include schools in your National County Government Month activities to enable students to begin learning about county government.
PRESENTATIONS IN SCHOOLS
Plan visits to schools by various elected and appointed county officials. Discuss interesting historic facts about the county, such as famous residents or important events. Discuss how county government is structured and define its roles and responsibilities. Explain how the county works in conjunction with the state and federal government. Consider organizing a panel discussion with residents who have been positively affected by county programs. Make information on county government available to teachers to use in presentations or as part of their lesson plans.

CAREER DAY
Plan career days at local high schools. Share information about various occupations within county government such as sheriff deputies, police officers, social workers, nurses, court clerks, tax collectors, elections officials, parks and recreation employees, transportation department workers, librarians, corrections officers, firefighters and emergency dispatchers. Emphasize the essential services that these public servants provide each day to the community.

TOURS OF COUNTY FACILITIES
Encourage schools to set up tours of county offices and facilities. The approach should be part of a class lesson plan on government structure, the legislative process, public safety, healthcare and other services.

COUNTY OFFICIAL FOR A DAY
This is a popular activity for many students. High school students interested in government could be part of a program to become a county official for a day (i.e.: “shadow” a county official) and share the experience with other students.

CONTESTS
For younger students, sponsor a poster, essay or coloring contest involving the “Counties Moving America Forward: Transportation and Infrastructure are the Keys” theme or other county government theme.

LECTURES
Offer to teach a class at the community college or give a lecture. The topics could include healthcare, green government, economic development, technology, public safety, disaster preparedness, infrastructure and transportation, or careers in county government.
DEBATES

Encourage college and high school students to address issues affecting local government through debates. Hold the debates in classrooms or as part of a high school assembly.

COUNTIES WORK: ONLINE GAME FOR STUDENTS

As part of NCGM, tell students and educators in your county about “Counties Work,” an online game developed by NACo with iCivics. It was created to educate students, grades 6 through 12, about the important role and functions of county government. Players will learn about local government functions by letting them run their own county.

While playing the game, a student will be a county official responsible for providing services, dealing with citizen requests, setting and raising revenues, and working within a budget. Along the way, students will learn about the various services provided by county departments while having to make tough decisions.

This is a great opportunity for students to better understand the programs and services that counties provide. A curriculum and web quest is available to assist teachers with preparing lessons on county government.

iCivics was the vision of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, who was concerned that students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation and that civics teachers need better materials and support. It is a web-based education project designed to teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy.

Play the game yourself and encourage your fellow county officials to play it. Set up game demonstrations in conjunction with other NCGM events at schools and libraries where young people are gathered. Be sure to contact teachers, principals and school superintendents in your county to let them know the game is available.

NACo and iCivics have developed the sequel to Counties Work. It is County Solutions, a curriculum for teachers to encourage civic engagement. The County Solutions curriculum complements Counties Work. Tell school administrators and teachers about County Solutions and encourage them to use it. The curriculum allows students to use their own county or create a fictional county and develop a community action plan. In a series of lessons, students learn about current events, the role of local government and the outreach methods available to average citizens working to influence public policy. To assist teachers, the program offers a public policy flow chart that is helpful in showing the “bigger picture,” fun facts activity sheets, graphic organizers and other helpful resources.

Contact: Tom Goodman • tgoodman@naco.org • 202.942.4222
National County Government Month is an ideal time to discuss national issues affecting county government with members of Congress who represent your county.

During NCGM, schedule a meeting with your Congressional representative(s) or key staff in your Congressional district office. Use the meeting to explain the great challenges facing your county and how Congress can help.

Many important issues are being debated nationally that affect counties. Be prepared with facts and information about how specific federal issues affect your county. Know where your member of Congress stands on important issues and on which committees he or she serves. Your message should be focused, compelling and relevant. To find out about NACo’s 2014 Key Legislative Priorities and obtain fact sheets on current national issues important to counties, visit the Legislation and Policy section of the website.

Contact: Deborah Cox • dcox@naco.org • 202.942.4286
REAUTHORIZE MAP 21 AND FIX THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

The year’s NCGM theme fits with one of NACo’s top legislative priorities, the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation law known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, or MAP-21. This past summer, the Highway Trust Fund, which pays for the majority of MAP-21 programs, was heading toward insolvency. In order to avoid a funding crisis, Congress passed a stop-gap measure to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent through May 2015 — when MAP-21 will expire. April is a critical time to advocate for long-term reauthorization of MAP-21 and fixing the Highway Trust Fund.

During meetings with members of Congress, it is important to show lawmakers why a federal investment in transportation is essential. Which transportation assets in your community would not have been possible without federal investment? Are there highways, bridges or other transportation projects that would benefit from MAP-21 and the Highway Trust Fund?

Short-term fixes and uncertainty significantly hinder counties’ ability to plan and fund transportation projects. That is why we urge counties to seize NCGM as an opportunity to push Congress to take action — pass a six-year reauthorization of MAP-21 and a long-term solution for the Highway Trust Fund.

RESOURCES:


Additional resources, one pagers and background documents - http://www.naco.org/legislation/Pages/MAP21.aspx
National County Government Month - April 2015
“Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure”

WHEREAS, counties move America forward by building infrastructure, maintaining roads and bridges, providing health care, administering justice, keeping communities safe, running elections, managing solid waste, keeping records and much more; and

WHEREAS, [INSERT YOUR COUNTY’S NAME] and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, through National Association of Counties President Riki Hokama’s “Transportation and Infrastructure” initiative, NACo is encouraging counties to focus on how they have improved their communities through road projects, new bridges, building new facilities, water and sewer improvements and other public works activities; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe, and economically competitive, America’s counties provide transportation and infrastructure services that play a key role in everything from residents’ daily commutes to shipping goods around the world; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote their own programs and services to the public they serve; and

WHEREAS, [INSERT COUNTY SPECIFIC INFO TO HIGHLIGHT]

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, [INSERT NAME & TITLE OF CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL], do hereby proclaim April 2015 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Contact: Brian Namey • bnamey@naco.org • 202.942.4220
Be sure to check out the National County Government Month Media Resources Kit on the NACo website under About Counties/What Counties Do/National County Government Month. This is your one-stop online shop for NCGM design templates to produce your county’s own posters, flyers, banners, proclamations and buttons.

These additions are sure to enhance the festive atmosphere of your NCGM events. Each template is specially designed for the 2015 theme, “Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure.” Each template contains the NACo and NCGM logo. Plenty of space will be left available for you to add your county’s logo or unique county government month slogan or message. If you find something you want to use, download the file onto a disc, add your county’s local touch, and take the file to a local business to have the materials produced in the quantities you need.

Contact: Tom Goodman • tgoodman@naco.org • 202.942.4222
EDUCATE THE MEDIA
Inform local reporters, editors and broadcasters early and often about NCGM and your county’s plans to celebrate it.

PLAN TO MAKE NEWS
Coordinate newsworthy events or announcements. You can launch new initiatives, announce plans for new programs or recognize county employees for their excellent public service. Keep in mind that newspapers seek in-depth facts, television stations want good visuals and radio reporters want snappy sound bites. All reporters seek good stories. They want access to knowledgeable and articulate sources to make their stories interesting and informative.

PUBLISH A CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Publish a calendar of NCGM events on your county’s website. Ask the local newspapers to publish the calendar. Ask the local television, cable and radio stations to air public service announcements about county services or events.

SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIES
The emergence of social media in recent years provides tremendous opportunities to promote your NCGM events. If you already have a Facebook or Twitter account, use it to promote county government month activities. Coordinate a county government month “social media team” to plan social media outreach efforts.
WRITE MEDIA ADVISORIES
Prepare and send media notices well in advance for specific NCGM events, such as the open house, tour of the hospital or visit to a local school. Describe who, what, where, when and why. Make it newsworthy.

WRITE NEWS RELEASES
Have news releases ready to distribute to the media the day of special NCGM events. Highlight what’s new, beneficial and cost-effective. Use lively, concise quotes from appropriate county officials. Provide contact information.

WRITE AN OP-ED
Write and submit an op-ed column to your local newspaper(s) to highlight programs and services the county offers. You might focus on a new initiative or two, showcase top successes or address an important timely issue in your community. Op-eds are a great way to communicate with residents, and NCGM can provide a news hook to discuss a wide range of issues.

TAKE YOUR MESSAGE TO THE MEDIA
Do not assume the news media will cover your events or announcements. Ask for a meeting with the newspaper’s editorial board; volunteer to stop by the television station for an interview; be an in-studio guest on a local radio program. Be accessible, proactive and enthusiastic about county government and the services provided to the community.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
The NACo Media Relations Guide for Counties contains helpful tips on speaking with reporters, writing news releases, planning press conferences, and much more. Look for upcoming NACo webinars or workshops on media relations and social media strategies.

Contact: Brian Namey • bnamey@naco.org • 202.942.422
Able County to Celebrate National County Government Month
Leaders to highlight county transportation, infrastructure, other county programs

Everytown, USA (April 1, 2015) — Able County will celebrate National County Government Month (NCGM) during the month of April to showcase how the county is moving America forward through transportation and infrastructure projects and other county programs and services that help its communities to grow and prosper.

The theme for this year’s celebration of NCGM is “Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure.”

Featured NCGM events include public tours of Able County’s most recent road, bridge and public works projects. Commissioners and department heads will visit local schools and senior citizen centers throughout the month of April. The popular “Able County Family Day” will be held on Friday, April 25, 2015, which will showcase essential county programs and services.

“Able County is proud of the programs and services provided to our residents,” said Board Chair Tim Timmons. “Our efforts combined with efforts of counties across the country do help move America forward. I encourage all county residents to take advantage of National County Government Month outreach events to learn how the county can assist you and your loved ones.”

Since 1991 the National Association of Counties (NACo) has encouraged counties across the country to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of counties.

Able County NCGM public events include:
[INSERT COUNTY SPECIFIC INFO TO HIGHLIGHT].

A full listing of NCGM events is available at: www.ablecounty.gov.

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Contact: Brian Namey • bnamey@naco.org • 202.942.4220
The National Association of Counties has many programs and initiatives available to assist counties.
If your county participates in any of NACo’s programs, National County Government Month is an excellent opportunity to inform the public about them. If your county does not participate in any of these programs, consider involving your county in one or more of NACo’s programs and announce it during NCGM.

**U.S. COMMUNITIES COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM**

U.S. Communities, founded in 1996, is the leading national government purchasing cooperative, providing world class government procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education institutes and nonprofits looking for the best overall supplier government pricing.

The program offers:

- no costs or fees to participate
- access the best overall supplier government pricing by combining the potential cooperative purchasing power of up to 90,000 public agencies
- access to thousands of the best brands available in a wide variety of categories, services and solutions, and
- oversight by public purchasing professional who ensure that program pricing commitments are met.

*Contact: Sarah Lindsay • slindsay@naco.org • 202.942.4228*

**PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY**

The Public Finance Authority (PFA) partners with local governments to assist in the financing of public benefit projects that create temporary and permanent jobs, affordable housing, community infrastructure and improve the overall quality of life in local communities. PFA offers accelerated economic development opportunities and cost effective financing in all 50 states.

*Contact: Lisa Cole • lcole@naco.org • 202.942.4270*

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

To help counties implement innovative and effective local programs, NACo provides members with information, trainings and assistance to engage counties and their multi-sector partners who are bound by a common interest in growing stronger, more competitive, more equitable counties and communities. The *Community and Economic Development* practice area supports county leaders seeking to develop and implement creative, innovative, locally driven strategies that will foster economic growth and ensure long-term county resiliency.
Topics within this practice area include:

- economic visioning and diversification
- entrepreneurship and small business development
- workforce development
- infrastructure and transportation investments
- land use planning
- water resource protection and restoration
- energy management
- disaster mitigation, preparedness and response, and eco-efficient purchasing and facility management.

Contact: Kathy Nothstine • knothstine@naco.org • 202.661.8807

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND JUSTICE

To help counties implement innovative and effective local programs, NACo provides members with information, training and assistance to create healthy and safe counties. The Health, Human Services and Justice practice area aims to build knowledge and capacity for successful policies and practices among the nation’s counties and provide a closer examination of the need for intergovernmental collaboration and public private partnerships to create healthy, safe and resilient counties.

Topics in this practice area include:

- Public health
- Local health care delivery and financing systems
- County Health Rankings
- Early childhood development
- Aging
- Mental illness and substance use disorders
- Pretrial justice
- Jail to community reentry
- Intersection between health services and justice systems
- Jail population management
- Right to counsel
- Juvenile justice reform

Contact: Maeghan Gilmore • mgilmore@naco.org • 202.942.4261
NACo PRESCRIPTION, HEALTH AND DENTAL DISCOUNT PROGRAM

NACo has created one, unified health discount solution for counties and their residents by adding the dental program to the NACo Prescription health Discount Program. This change makes the programs easier for counties to administer and also help residents better understand what is available and how to take advantage of the great savings.

The program offers amazing discounts on prescriptions, vision care, LASIK & PRK vision procedures, hearing aids & screenings, prepaid lab work, prepaid diagnostic imaging, diabetic supplies and dental care. The prescription portion of the program provides average savings of 24 percent on thousands of medications. The savings range from 15 to 75 percent, and the free discount card is accepted at more than 65,000 pharmacies nationwide. Since the prescription program began, residents nationwide have saved $590 million on 46 million prescriptions. The beauty of this program is that residents can begin saving on prescriptions as soon as they receive a free prescription discount card.

To receive savings on health services, memberships are available on a monthly or annual subscription basis for both individuals and families. The best part is that the discounts are available immediately upon enrollment. For individuals, the fees are $6.95 a month or $69 a year. For families, the fees are $8.95 a month or $79 a year.

Adding the dental discount program enables residents to save on all health services through one program. This program helps residents of NACo member counties save 15 to 50 percent on dental care, and is accepted by more than 110,000 participating providers nationwide. The dental discounts help people who are uninsured, but can also complement health insurance plans or work with health savings accounts and flexible spending accounts. Here are the details:

• Prescription Drug Discount Card: Free for Residents
• Dental Discount Program Fees: $6.95 month or $69 year for individuals; $8.95 month or $79 year for families
• Medical Service Fees: $6.95 month or $69 year for individuals; $8.95 month or $79 year for families

Counties benefit from the program by being able to offer their residents an affordable alternative to paying full price for health care. Residents benefit from the program by saving on auxiliary health care services that are not currently included in the Affordable Care Act. More information on all of these great programs is available at www.naco.org/health.

Contact: Andrew Goldschmidt • agoldsch@naco.org • 202.942.4221
TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM
Thank you for your interest in celebrating National County Government Month! NACo wants to know what activities and programs you have planned so we can share this information with other counties to help them have successful NCGM celebrations. Please e-mail your activities to Brian Namey at bnamey@naco.org. Be sure to send NACo your proclamations, photos and videos of your county’s celebrations.

If your county is on social media, please share your activities, photos and proclamations directly on NACo’s Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/NACoDC or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/NACoTweets using the hashtag #NCGM.

Thank you for your commitment to county government!

Contact: Brian Namey • bnamey@naco.org • 202.942.4220
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