

National Association of Counties

SAFE AND SECURE COUNTIES INITIATIVE



OVERVIEW

Counties play an essential role in keeping America's communities safe and secure by preserving public health and well-being, protecting public safety and promoting local economies and resiliency. Under the leadership of President Sallie Clark, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is embarking on an initiative in 2015 and 2016 to strengthen the safety and security of the nation's 3,069 counties and the people we serve.



To remain healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient, America's counties must anticipate and adapt to all types of challenges and changes. Through the Safe and Secure Counties Initiative, NACo is working with county leaders and partners to bolster our nation's ability to thrive amid changing physical, social and economic conditions.

The Safe and Secure Counties Initiative will focus on strengthening counties' capacities in three distinct areas:

- **Protecting public safety:** Counties invest more than \$70 billion annually in justice and public safety services to keep our communities safe and secure by providing law enforcement and promoting crime prevention. Counties patrol the streets, combat human trafficking, protect against cyber threats, operate and maintain county jail and detention facilities, and serve as an arm of the county courts and the judicial system. We also operate 911 emergency call centers and emergency transport agencies, and provide children and adult protective services. Counties assist our communities with emergency preparedness, response and recovery from economic, natural and man-made disasters. Key players in the justice system include county sheriffs and law enforcement, emergency managers, judges, district attorneys, public defenders, court clerks, jail administrators and coroners, among others.
- **Preserving public health and well-being:** Counties invest \$70 billion annually in support systems to keep residents healthy for their entire lives. Many counties operate hospitals and health facilities that provide clinical services, cancer and cardiac care, and emergency and trauma care. We also provide behavioral and mental health services to those in need. County nursing homes offer restorative care and rehabilitation, and promote quality of life and wellness for the elderly. County Veteran Service Officers help veterans and their families by connecting them to resources in their communities. County public health departments address needs in communities across the country including preventative measures such as immunizations and flu shots, educating the public with important life-saving information, response to public health-related emergencies and food-borne illnesses.
- **Promoting local economies:** Strong county economies are the building blocks of safe and secure counties. Our residents' well-being is directly linked to counties' economic vitality. That is why counties invest more than \$25 billion each year into economic development efforts and are committed to helping residents obtain the skills necessary to compete in the global marketplace. Counties are at the forefront of innovative technology and data analyses, and invest in transportation, infrastructure and workforce development which are critical components of fostering financial security and improving Americans' quality of life. From building schools and hospitals, to improving transportation safety, cleaning up storm debris and safeguarding drinking water, county services and functions are the basis of strong economies and safe and secure counties.

Through the Safe and Secure Counties Initiative, NACo is exploring ways that counties are working to implement locally-driven strategies to strengthen our communities and help the people we serve. NACo will assist counties in identifying ways to leverage changing conditions and take advantage of new technologies and proven practices.

Activities

Within this initiative, NACo convenes public, private and philanthropic leaders, produces special reports, develops webinars and podcasts, facilitates peer learning and hosts symposiums, workshops and roundtable events. Below is a snapshot of scheduled events.

September 11, 2015

NACo Strategic Planning Fly-In
Washington, D.C.

September 30–October 2, 2015

NACo Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC)
Symposium
King County, Washington

October 15–17, 2015

NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC) Symposium
Ouray County, Colorado

December 2–4, 2015

NACo National Safe and Secure Counties
Symposium
Sponsored by the:
NACo Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee
NACo Resilient Counties Advisory Board
El Paso County, Colorado

December 4–5, 2015

NACo Board of Directors Fall Meeting
El Paso County, Colorado

January 2016

NACo Healthy Counties Forum
Salt Lake County, Utah, Date TBD

February 20–24, 2016

NACo Legislative Conference
Washington, D.C.

May 25–27, 2016

NACo Western Interstate Region Conference
Teton County, Wyoming

July 22–25, 2016

NACo Annual Conference
Los Angeles County, California



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