Resilient Counties:
Leadership amid Rapid Change

County Leaders Forum
December 5-6, 2013
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Cedar Rapids Convention Complex
Linn County, Iowa

Counties are on the front lines of coping with an increasing variety of disasters: hurricanes, forest fires, economic disruptions, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes. In order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, America’s counties must be able to anticipate and adapt to all types of change. Resilient communities recover faster and better, and fostering resilience makes for a stronger community and a thriving county.

Within NACo President Linda Langston’s 2013-2014 presidential initiative, Resilient Counties, NACo is hosting a series of trainings and peer learning activities to bolster county leadership in fostering community resilience.

As the first forum in this series, Resilient Counties: Leadership amid Rapid Change, will build the capacity of county leaders to:

- Identify and prepare for potential threats;
- Address short-term and long-term recovery needs in a post-disaster situation; and
- Develop collaborative partnerships to address county resiliency.

Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, a community tour and small group dialogues, county leaders will learn from national leaders in the resiliency field and from their peers’ first-hand experiences.

Counties are encouraged to participate in this forum as teams, by engaging elected and appointed officials as well as key staff and local stakeholders working in emergency management, public safety, planning, economic development and related fields. Pre-registration is required here.

Support for the forum was provided by:

- Colorado Counties Inc.
- Idaho Association of Counties
- Iowa State Association of Counties
- Motorola Solutions Foundation
- Rockwell Collins
- Transamerica
- Wisconsin Counties Association

Agenda begins on following page.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

1:30 p.m.  Registration Opens  
*Grand Ballroom A & B*

2:00 p.m.  Welcome and Introductions  
- Hon. Linda Langston, NACo President and Supervisor, Linn County, Iowa  
- Hon. Rob Corbett, Mayor of Cedar Rapids  

2:15 p.m.  Keynote Address: Leadership amid Rapid Change  
Ken Burris, Witt O'Brien's CEO and the former COO of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will highlight the important roles that county leaders play in building strong networks to prepare for and respond to changing conditions. He will draw on his experiences in managing response efforts in a multitude of national incidents including 9/11, Columbia Shuttle Recovery, 2004 Hurricanes, Hurricane Katrina and Deepwater Horizon Oil and Gas Recovery.  
- Ken Burris, CEO, Witt O'Brien  

3:00 p.m.  Lessons from County Leaders: Partnering to Confront Change  
A panel of county leaders will discuss how their communities responded to significant local disasters and the steps they are taking to mitigate potential future disasters, with a particular focus on local and regional partnerships to maintain and improve county operations during times of crisis.  
- Hon. Linda Langston, NACo President and Supervisor, Linn County, Iowa  
- Hon. Frank Magsamen, Supervisor, Black Hawk County  
- Hon. Jane Hague, Councilmember, King County, Washington  
- Hon. Darry Stacy, Commissioner, Cleveland County, Oklahoma  
- Moderator: Bill Peterson, Executive Director, Iowa State Association of Counties  

4:00 p.m.  Peer Networking Break  

4:15 p.m.  Professional Leadership in Disaster Situations  
This discussion will offer the perspectives of emergency management and public safety staff in crisis situations, highlighting their partnerships with county officials and the importance of streamlining operations and communications to quickly address problems.  
- Rusty Russell, Director of Emergency Management, Madison County, Alabama  
- Judson Freed, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Ramsey County, Minnesota  
- Sean O’Brien, Coordinator, Regional Emergency Planning Committee, Barnstable County, Massachusetts  
- Moderator: Paul Fitzgerald, Sheriff, Story County, Iowa and Past President, National Association of Sheriffs  

5:30 p.m.  Cedar Rapids Tour
Participants will board buses for a tour of downtown Cedar Rapids. Five years after record flooding caused billions of dollars of damages, the community has reinvested in new infrastructure and capital projects to invigorate downtown while enhancing community resiliency to future disasters.

6:30 p.m.  Reception at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library
The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library was inundated when the Cedar River flooded its banks in 2008. After four years of restoration, the original structure was relocated to higher ground nearby and the expanded, elevated facility opened in 2012. This reception will include a video about Linn County’s rebuilding efforts and opportunities to network over heavy hors d’oeuvres. A bus will bring participants back to the hotel after the reception.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00 a.m.  Peer Networking Breakfast
*Grand Ballroom A & B*

8:30 a.m.  Leveraging Technology Tools to Prepare for Threats
New technologies, innovative mapping tools, mobile applications, social media and other tech resources can revolutionize how counties prepare for and recover from crisis situations. A panel of experts will highlight innovative tools available to counties.

- Lori Cary-Kothera, Operations Manager – Science and Geospatial Solutions Division, NOAA Coastal Services Center
- Jason Hutchens, Solution Sales Engagement Manager – Public Safety (Central Region), Motorola Solutions Foundation
- Rob Welton, National Business Manager – Enterprise Security, Siemens
- Moderator: Lauren Alexander Augustine, Director – Office of Special Projects on Risk, Resilience, and Extreme Events, National Academy of Sciences

9:45 a.m.  Peer Networking Break

10:00 a.m.  Local Philanthropic, Business and Economic Development Engagement in Recovery Efforts
The philanthropic community, local business leaders and economic development professionals can play a key role in fostering county resilience. Experienced community leaders will describe how their organizations have partnered with public- and private-sector leaders in recovery efforts.

- Les Garner, President and CEO, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
- Karla Tweed-Ball, Vice President for Programs, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
- Robin Barnes, Executive Vice President and COO, Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Lon Olejniczak, Senior Vice President, TransAmerica
- Cindy Dietz, Director of Corporate Communications, Rockwell Collins
- Moderator: Gerald McSwiggan, Director of Issue Networks, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Business Civic Leadership Center
11:15 a.m.  Small Group Exercise: Mapping Your Network of Resiliency Stakeholders  
Through facilitated discussions and exercises, participants will identify and map out their existing  
network of emergency responders, crises managers and other stakeholders in the public, private and  
philanthropic sectors. Participants will identify gaps and outline opportunities to engage new partners to  
strengthen county resilience.  
• Facilitator: Jami Haberl, Executive Director, Safeguard Iowa

12:00 p.m.  Luncheon Address: County Leadership in Times of Crisis  
Grand Ballroom C  
David Miller, FEMA’s Associate Administrator for the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration,  
will discuss the opportunities for county officials to be strong leaders in post-disaster situations. Mr.  
Miller will offer lessons from his experiences serving as the Administrator of the Iowa Homeland  
Security and Emergency Management Division, during which time he served as the Governor’s  
Authorized Representative for eleven President-declared major disasters, including the 2008 flooding  
disaster.  
• David Miller, Associate Administrator for the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration,  
Federal Emergency Management Administration

1:30 p.m.  Adjourn

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.   National Association of Counties Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 p.m.   NACo Board of Directors Dinner

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  NACo Board of Directors Meeting