

"Rural Impact County Challenge Webinar Series"

White House Rural Council National Association of Counties

Webinar Series #1

Wednesday, June 22, 2:00PM – 3:00PM

MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order and Welcome

- **The Hon. Mandy Metzger**, Supervisor, Coconino County, Arizona

Introduction

- **Doug O'Brien**, Senior Rural Advisor, White House Rural Council

Food & Nutrition Panel: Leveraging Federal Funds for Quality Education and Training Programs

This panel will discuss how counties can better utilize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to improve nutrition among low-income households. In addition to providing assistance in the purchase of food, SNAP also provides funding for job-driven employment, education, and training services to help SNAP participants gain the skills and education they need to secure jobs in high-demand and growing industries. The SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program provides funding for critical education and employment services, including case management, support with transportation and dependent care, and job retention services. SNAP E&T provides an opportunity for rural providers, including community and tribal colleges and community based organizations to partner with State and County agencies to leverage Federal funds and provide rural SNAP participants with quality education and training programs that offer a continuum of services and supports needed for their success.

- **Kaila Wilson**, Program Analyst, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- **Andrea Farmer**, Branch Chief, Community Meals, Children Nutrition Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Housing Presentation: Addressing Homelessness in Rural Communities

A group of concerned citizens in Curry County recognized the need to pursue their plan to end homelessness in the county. The coalition began meeting in the spring of 2006 to discuss the causes and effects of homelessness. By the fall of 2008, the group had collected data, conducted surveys of the homeless and area agencies, researched issues of homelessness and began the process of writing their plan; "Serving the Homeless in Curry County; 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness".

The planning committee was comprised of a diverse group of citizens, business leaders, religious organizations, government, service agencies and persons directly or indirectly affected by homelessness. The Curry County Commissioners endorsed the effort through a county resolution supporting the groups' efforts in the planning and development process. This planning committee met bi-weekly to develop the goals and strategies of the plan, with the input and endorsement of the communities.

- **The Hon. Susan Brown**, Commissioner, Curry County, Oregon

Closing Statements: Next Steps and New Partnerships

Participants will hear from RICC leaders about upcoming events and exciting new partnerships with foundations/non-profits offering additional resources to help counties develop and foster innovated and successful programs designed to combat chronic rural poverty.

- **The Hon. Mandy Metzger**, Supervisor, Coconino County, Arizona
- **Doug O'Brien**, Senior Rural Advisor, White House Rural Council

NACo Staff Liaison: Arthur Scott, Associate Legislative Director, 202.942.4230 or ascott@naco.org