

THE COUNTY LANDSCAPE

ROLES AND
RESPONSIBILITIES
OF AMERICA'S
COUNTY
GOVERNMENTS

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2024



AMERICA'S COUNTIES

Counties are one of America's oldest forms of government, dating back to 1634 when the first county governments (shires) were established in Virginia. The organization and structure of today's 3,069 county governments* are chartered under state constitutions or laws and are tailored to fit the needs and characteristics of the state and local areas.

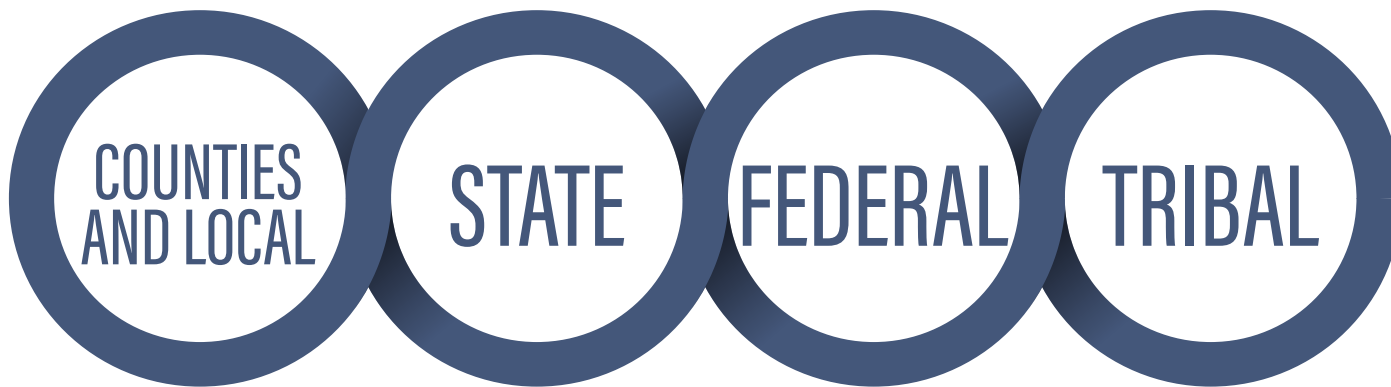
Counties are governed by locally elected officials, including more than 19,350 county elected executives and board members responsible for counties' budgets, policies and oversight. Additionally, more than 18,500 independently elected officers, often known as constitutional or row officers, provide essential leadership and management of county functions, such as auditors, assessors, clerks, coroners, district attorneys, elections, recorders, sheriffs, treasurers and others.

Though organizational structures vary, all county governments are on the front lines of building healthy, vibrant and safe communities.

COUNTIES ARE VITAL TO OUR NATION'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

County governments, led by our elected and appointed officials, are instrumental partners in our nation's **intergovernmental system**, which balances, divides and shares power and responsibilities between all levels of government.

Counties are uniquely positioned to implement and administer vital intergovernmental systems, facilitate cooperation of all levels of government, and deliver results and impact for our residents and businesses at the community level.



Annually, counties invest over

**\$600
BILLION**

in our communities

America's counties employ over

**3.6
MILLION**

public servants, representing one out of every 50 American workers

* The 3,069 county governments include all counties, parishes in Louisiana and boroughs in Alaska.

Counties are diverse
in structure and how
we deliver services
to our communities,

yet we all share the mission of achieving healthy, safe and vibrant counties for our residents.

AMERICA'S COUNTIES

Our 3,069 county, parish and borough governments are on the front lines of delivering vital public services to over 300 million residents across the nation. Our locally elected officials operate under different levels of county authority outlined under state law or local charters, which provide counties with structural, functional and fiscal powers.



COUNTY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Assess and collect taxes, including those for other public entities such as public schools, municipalities and special purpose districts

Administer elections through the funding and management of over **100,000 polling places** staffed with over **630,000 certified poll workers** each election cycle

Employ one in every 50 American workers to help provide essential community services and facilities, such as parks and recreation, public libraries, public safety, emergency management, and community and economic development



FEDERAL TO COUNTY NEXUS

Provide mandated **healthcare for low-income, uninsured or indigent residents** in a majority of states

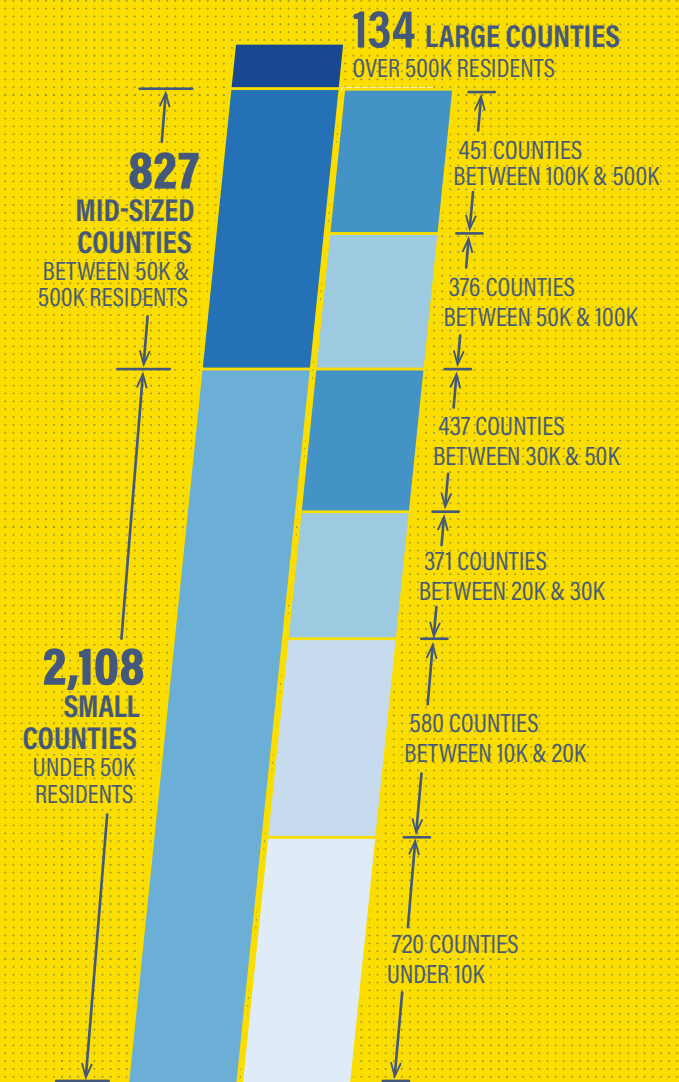
Manage more than \$562 million in federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes funds within 1,723 public lands counties, which are critical to services, such as law enforcement, fire protection, and search and rescue

Invest nearly \$269 million in federal Secure Rural Schools funding, critical to counties and schools impacted by the decline in federal revenue sharing from timber harvests on federal public lands

Oversee and implement Community Development Block Grant funding to provide affordable housing for renters and homeowners and provide critical public investments to low-income households and neighborhoods

Administer funds from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the ten states that delegate SNAP administration to county agencies, covering nearly one-third of program recipient households

COUNTY BREAKDOWN BY POPULATION SIZE





CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Own and maintain **45 percent of public road miles** and **38 percent of bridges** which help keep residents physically connected

Invest **\$134 billion** in building, maintaining and operating public facilities, such as courthouses, jails, dams and reservoirs, water purification systems, libraries, ports and sewage treatment facilities

Own or support operations of **more than one-third of public airports** and **40 percent of public transportation systems**



KEEP AMERICA HEALTHY

Manage and govern **more than 1,900 local public health departments and authorities** which support the health and safety of our residents

Employ **nearly 533,000 hospital and healthcare workers** and own or support **more than 900 public hospitals** that provide inpatient medical and specialized care critical for low income and uninsured individuals

Operate more than **700 long-term care facilities** and more than **750 behavioral health authorities**



CREATE PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

Employ **over 3.6 million public servants** who help provide essential services to over 300 million residents, collectively making county governments one of the largest employers in the nation

Invest **\$12.8 billion** annually in the construction, operation and support of housing and redevelopment projects, and are key players in community planning, land use, zoning, and enacting policies and other regulations that expand housing access and affordability

Implement local policies and intergovernmental initiatives that foster economic development, promote residential, commercial and industrial development, and support job creation and business retention



FOSTER SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Invest **\$107 billion** annually in justice and public safety, **operate 91 percent of local jails**, which processed 7.3 million admissions in 2022

Provide essential first responder services through sheriffs, police departments, constables, 911 operations, firefighters and EMT/EMS professionals

Engage in all aspects and phases of emergency management such as: planning, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. As the regularity and costs of disasters increase, counties are working hard to protect our residents, property, infrastructure systems and local economies

OUR NATION'S VETERANS



Fund and operate, almost exclusively through local tax revenues, County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) in **29 states and the District of Columbia**

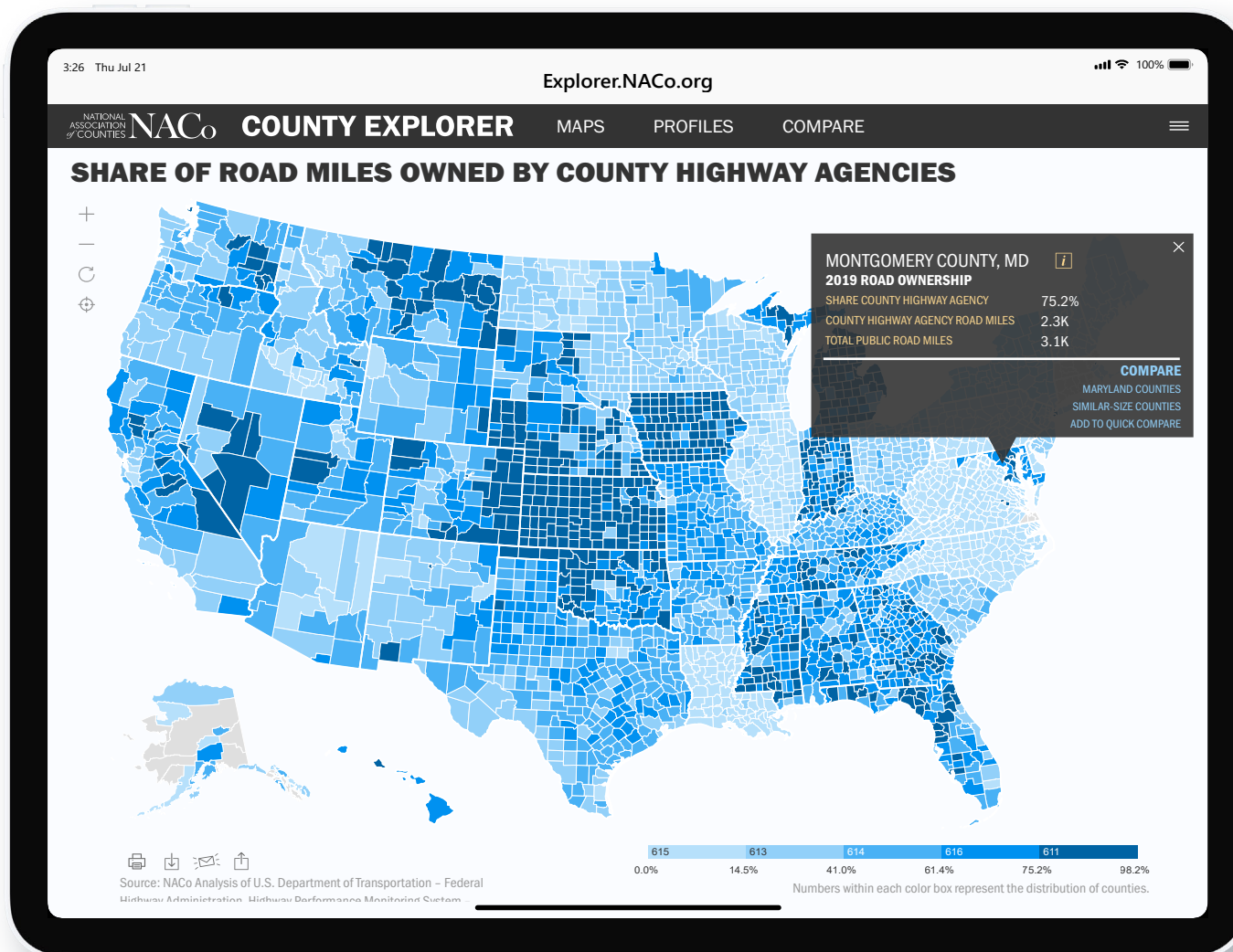
CVSOs help veterans claim **more than \$52 billion in federal VA benefits** each year

Are home to **nearly 17 million veterans**, comprising seven percent of residents living in our counties

COUNTY EXPLORER

Features:

- Compare counties across 13 categories, over 100 datasets and more than 1,000 data points across local issues, including county economies, transportation and infrastructure, health and public safety
- County and state level data summaries on various topics, including county bridge inventory, housing affordability, Payment in Lieu of Taxes, veterans.
- Interactive legend to explore different trends on data within counties
- User-friendly interface and compatible with mobile devices



MORE ABOUT COUNTY EXPLORER

NACo's County Explorer tool is the one-stop shop for accessing county-level indicators. With more than 1,000 maps, the interactive tool provides data about counties, states and the nation. Each indicator in County Explorer tells a unique story.

Each map in this report can be found at explorer.naco.org.

Email research@naco.org for more information and sign up for monthly updates at www.naco.org/CESignUp.

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COUNTY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



COUNTY GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE AND AUTHORITY



COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION

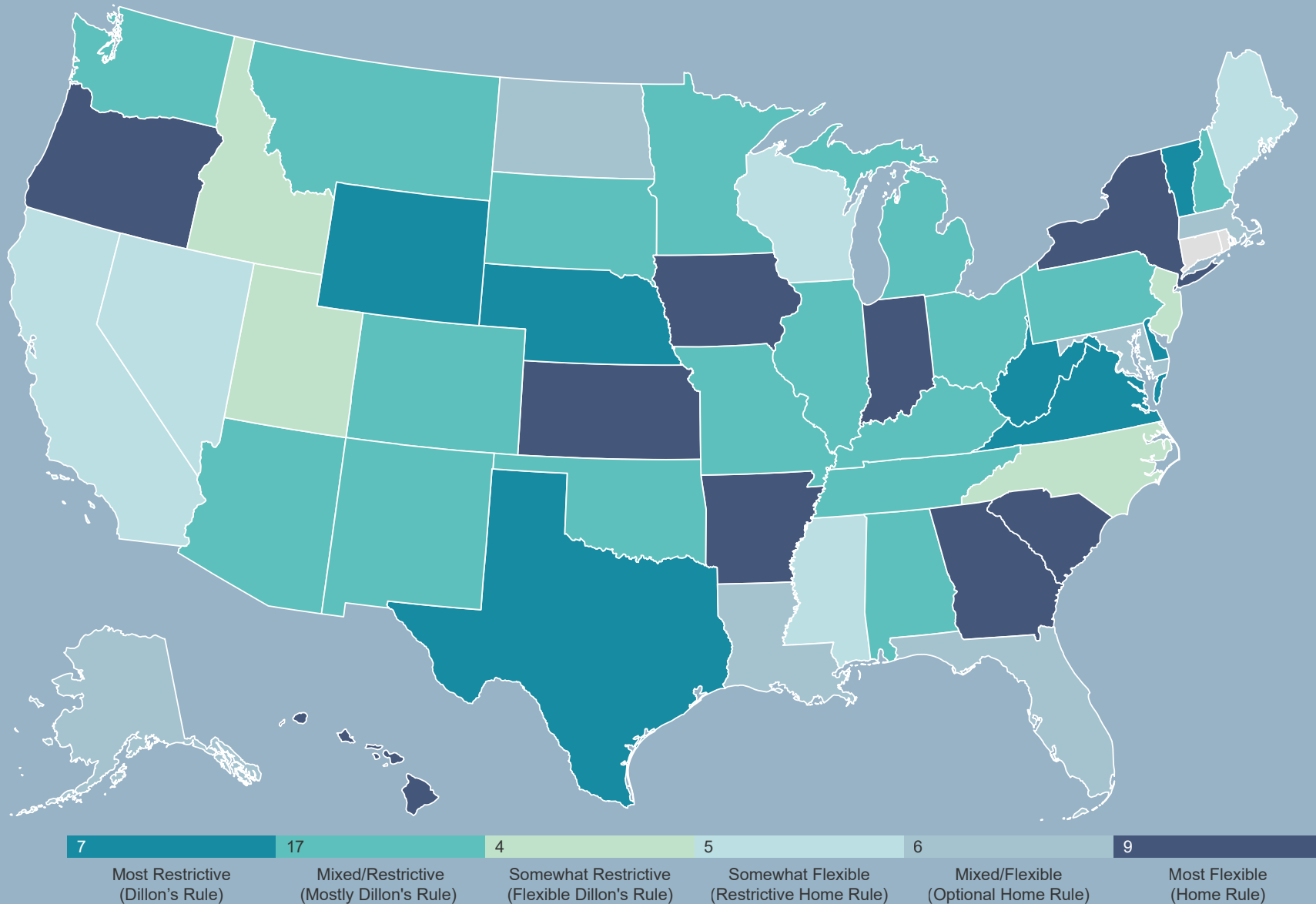


COUNTY GOVERNMENT
SERVICES



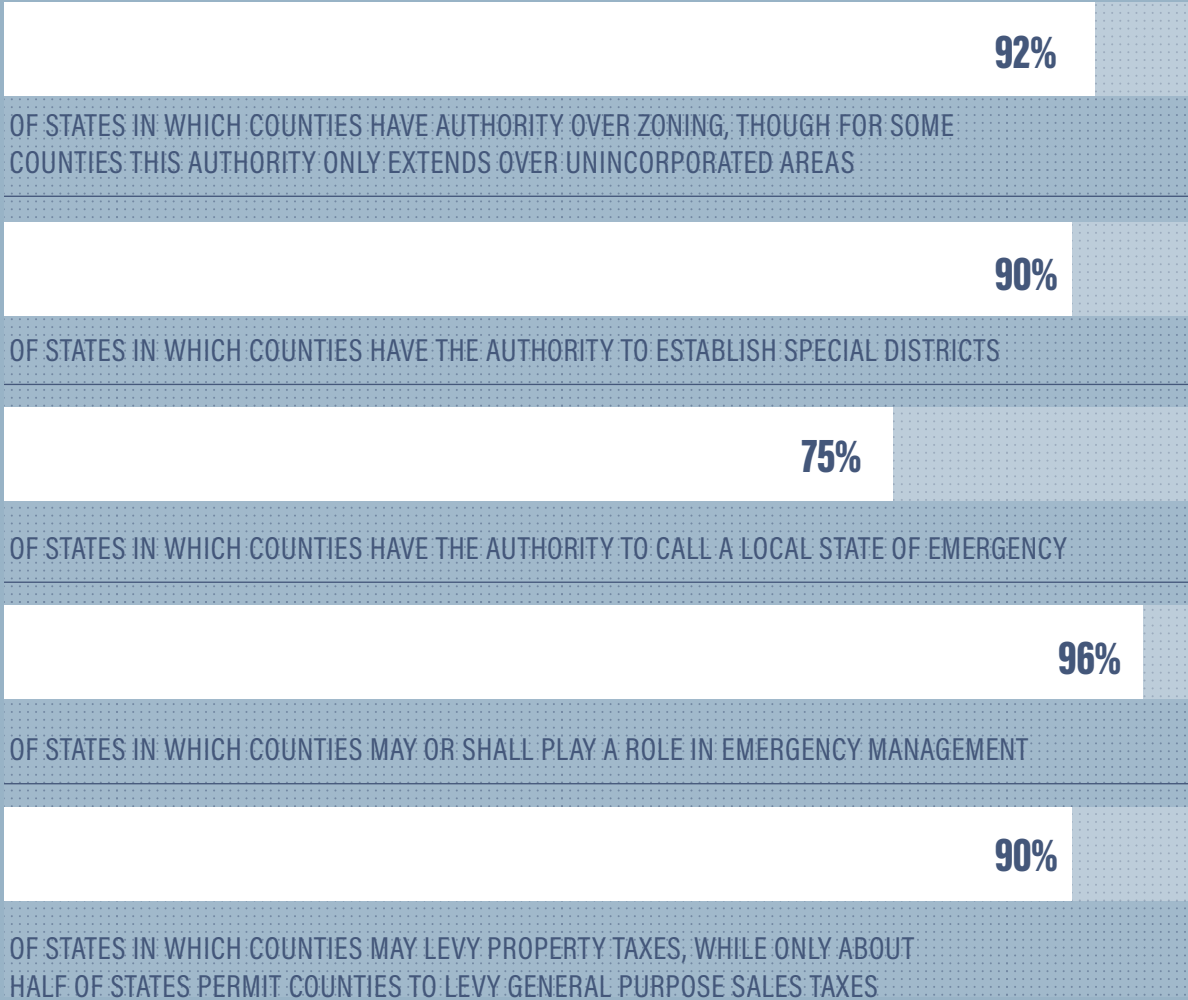
COUNTY GOVERNMENT
WORKFORCE

COUNTY AUTHORITY LEVEL



The level of authority given to counties under state law to determine local affairs and government operations. County authority levels provide the basis for how counties are structured, what services we provide, how we raise revenue and allocate finances and any flexibilities available within these categories. Under Dillon's Rule authority, counties operate only within areas defined and allowed by state constitution and statute. Under Home Rule authority, counties have the authority to legislate independently from state statute. Source: NACo Research, 2023.

Thirty-one (31) states, representing 58 percent of county governments, grant counties the option to operate under the Home Rule system of authority, allowing county governments more flexibility than the alternative Dillon’s Rule with more restrictive state control. While working within these systems, counties provide critical services to our communities, covering many areas, including public health, infrastructure, emergency response and economic development.



County government authority is essential in determining how quickly and effectively counties can respond to the needs of our residents.

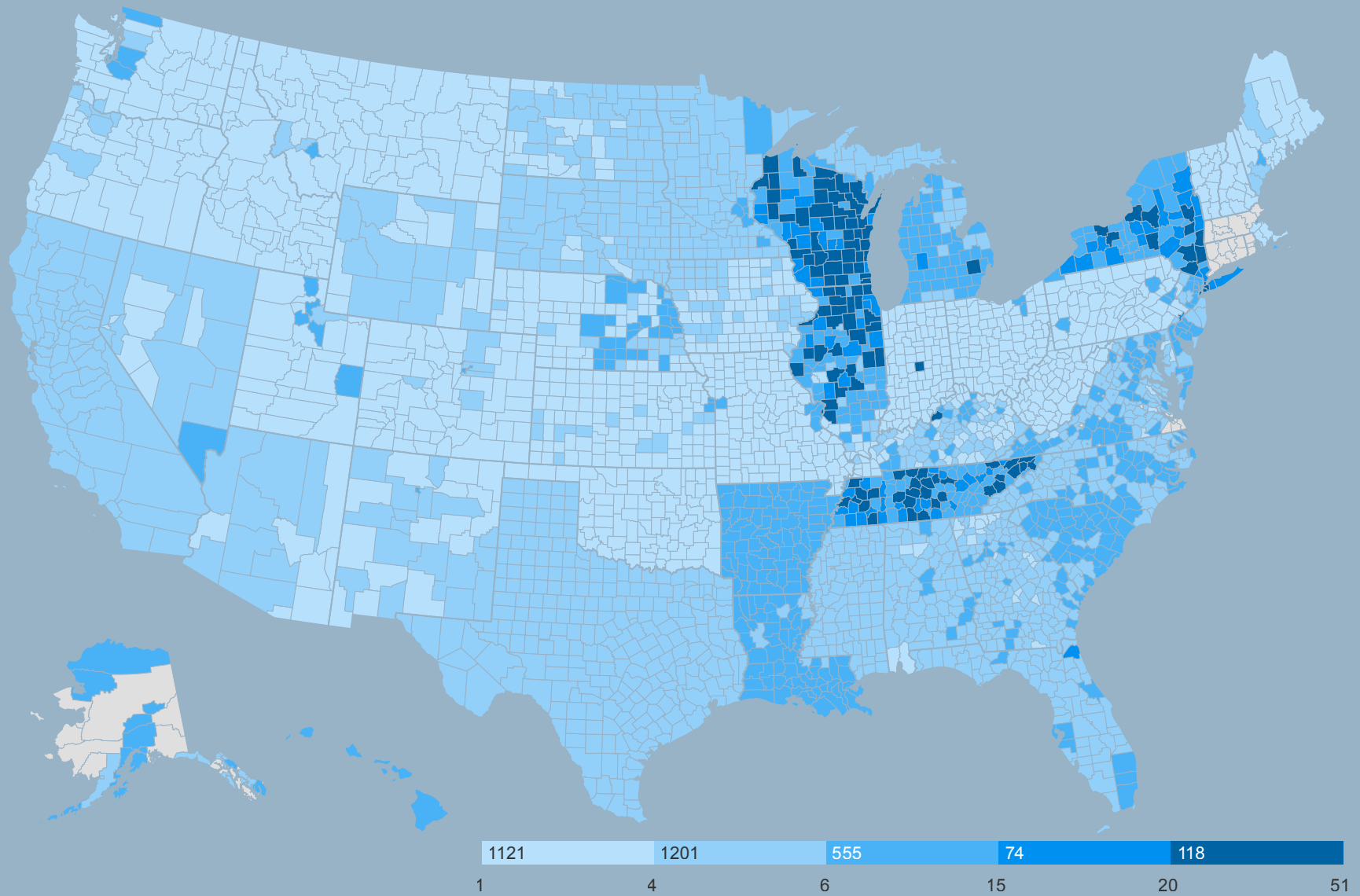
COUNTIES DERIVE AUTHORITY FROM THE STATE, typically under state constitutions and statutes.

ON THE GROUND, COUNTY AUTHORITY VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY ACROSS THE STATES. Twenty states, including Washington and North Dakota, have a mix of Dillon’s/ Home Rule counties. Other states, like Utah or North Carolina, direct the courts to rule favorably toward counties, greatly expanding county flexibility.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS WORK WITHIN STATE-DERIVED AUTHORITY TO GOVERN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Under **Home Rule** authority, counties have the authority to legislate independently from state statute. Under **Dillon’s Rule** authority, counties operate only within areas defined and allowed by state constitution and statute.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: SIZE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY

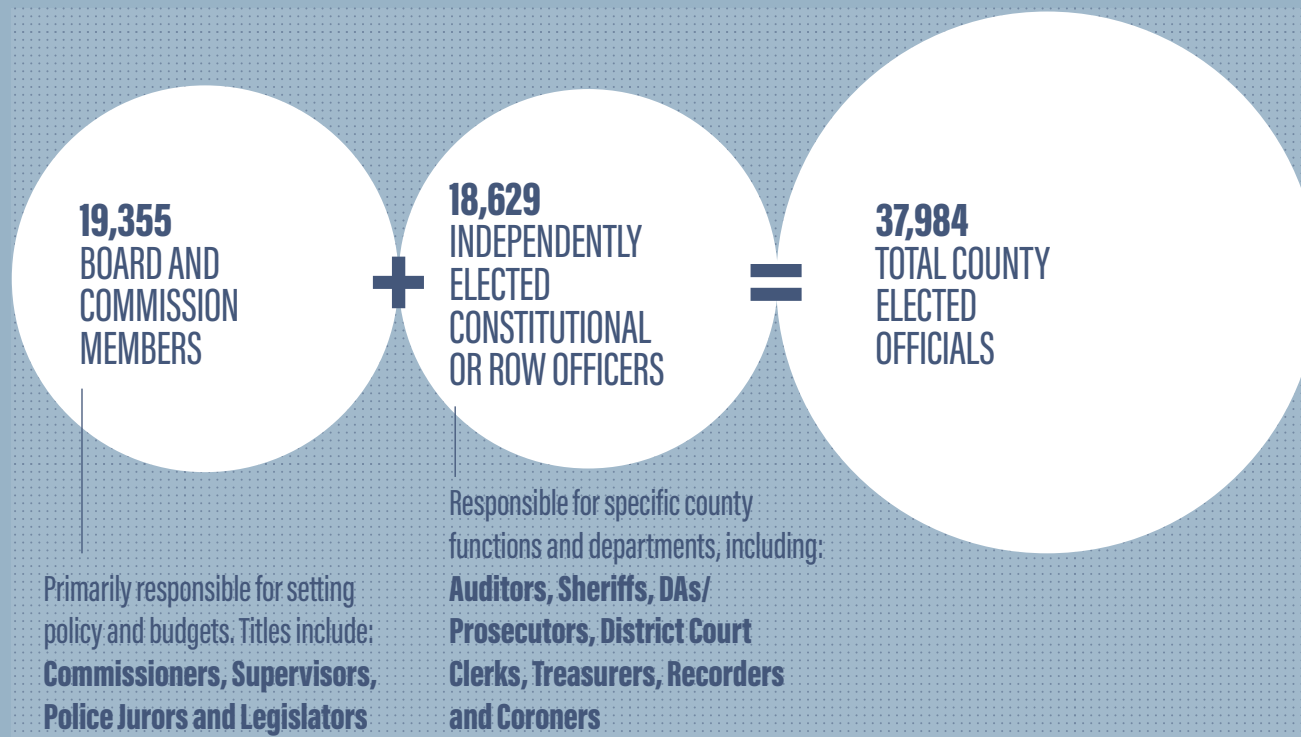


Number of representatives elected to a county governing board. Source: NACo Research, 2017.

COUNTY MANAGEMENT

Counties provide vital services across America, including those mandated by federal and state policies and those requested by our communities. Counties often build and maintain parks, community centers, libraries and cultural centers. Counties are responsible for managing elections, from presidential to local. While balancing numerous administrative responsibilities, counties deliver essential services to ensure healthy, vibrant and safe communities.

COUNTY ELECTED LEADERSHIP CONSIST OF:



FEDERAL POLICIES MATTER TO COUNTIES AND HAVE LONG-LASTING, OFTEN COSTLY IMPACTS ON GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL TAXPAYERS.



CORE SERVICES

Public administration - records, elections and permits

Justice and public safety

Transportation and infrastructure

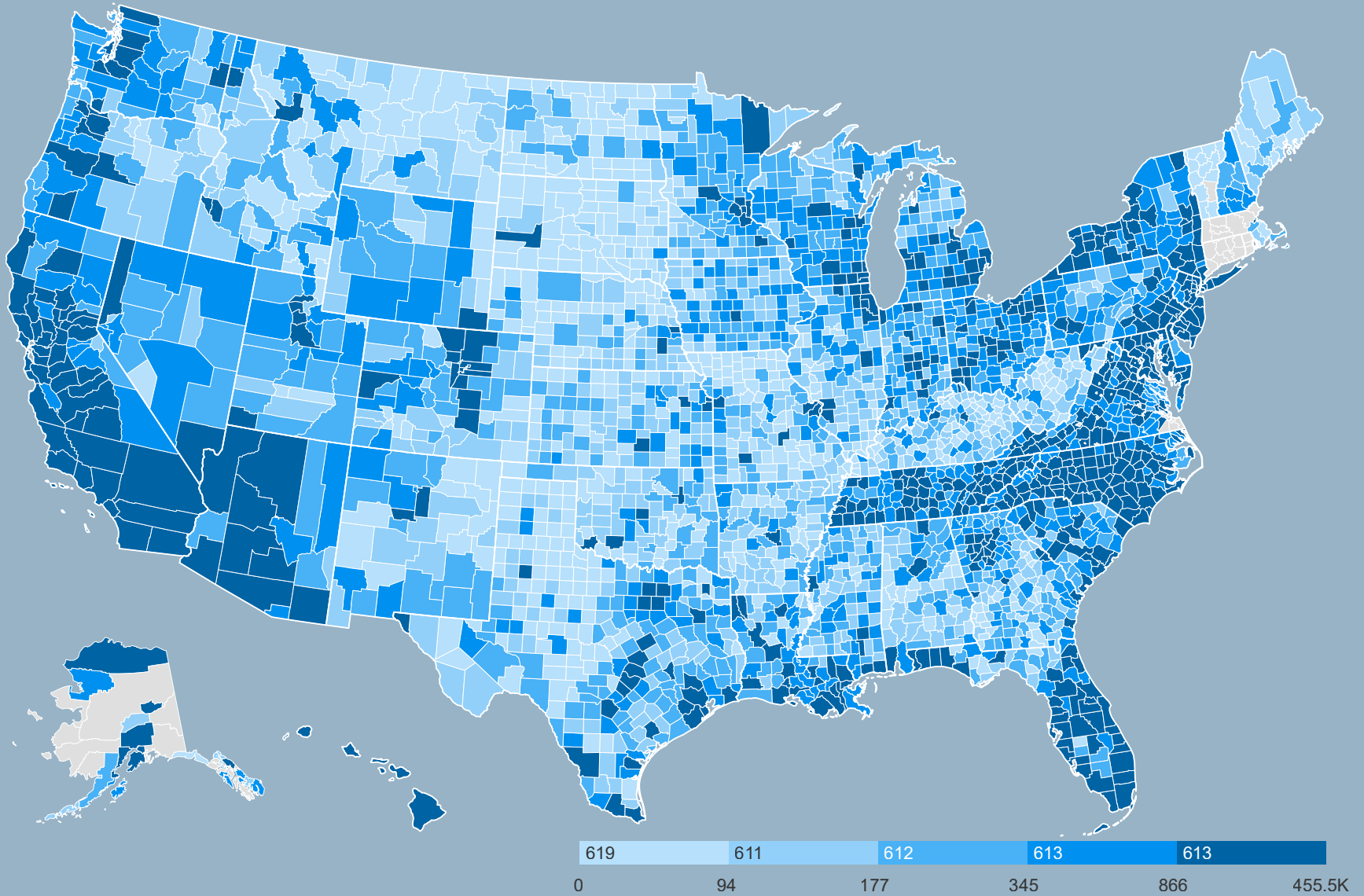
Health and human services

Community, economic and workforce readiness

Environmental planning and stewardship

COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS BY MAKING LOCAL POLICY AND BUDGET DECISIONS

TOTAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT



The number of full-time and part-time employees working for the county. Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments: Employment 2022.

COUNTIES EMPLOY OVER 3.6 MILLION PUBLIC SERVANTS, INCLUDING:

382.000

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



325.000

HOSPITAL WORKERS



248.000

HUMAN SERVICES WORKERS



207.000

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS



101.000

FIRE PROTECTION WORKERS



County governments are critical to the nation's workforce, **employing one in every 50 American workers.**




COUNTIES ARE FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING RESIDENTS' NEEDS AND LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR ECONOMIC REVIVAL.

The county workforce is indispensable to the nation as we contribute to the stability and growth of local economies, facilitate employment opportunities, shape workforce policies, and play a crucial role in crisis response, exemplified by our efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our dedicated contributions are vital for cultivating prosperous communities and safeguarding the well-being of the nation as a whole.

Counties are deeply engaged in the labor market, employing over

3.6 MILLION

public servants, representing one out of every 50 American workers

A photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The image shows the iconic dome and the large steps leading up to the entrance. An American flag is flying on a pole to the left of the dome. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text "FEDERAL TO COUNTY NEXUS" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, bold, white font with a light blue outline.

FEDERAL TO COUNTY NEXUS



COUNTIES ARE
INVESTING **\$65.1 BILLION**
IN ARPA RECOVERY FUND
DOLLARS IN LOCAL
COMMUNITIES



IN FY 2023, OVER 200
ENTITLEMENT COUNTIES
RECEIVED MORE THAN
\$931 MILLION IN DIRECT
CDBG FUNDING



IN 2021, RESIDENTS LIVING
IN THE TEN COUNTY-
ADMINISTERED SNAP STATES
RECEIVED MORE THAN **\$50
BILLION** IN FUNDING

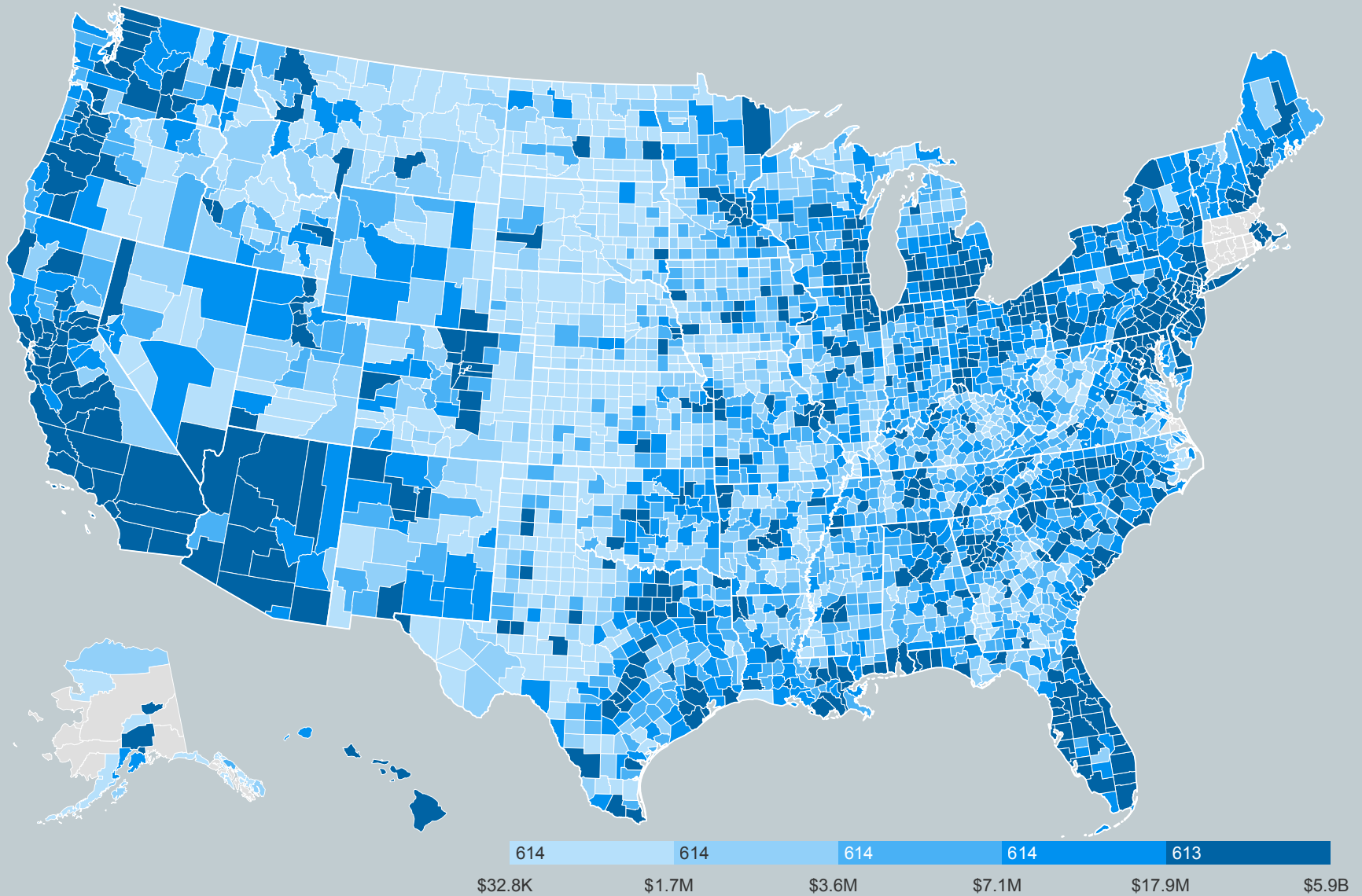


COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
RECEIVED MORE THAN **\$562
MILLION** IN FEDERAL PILT
FUNDING IN FY 2023



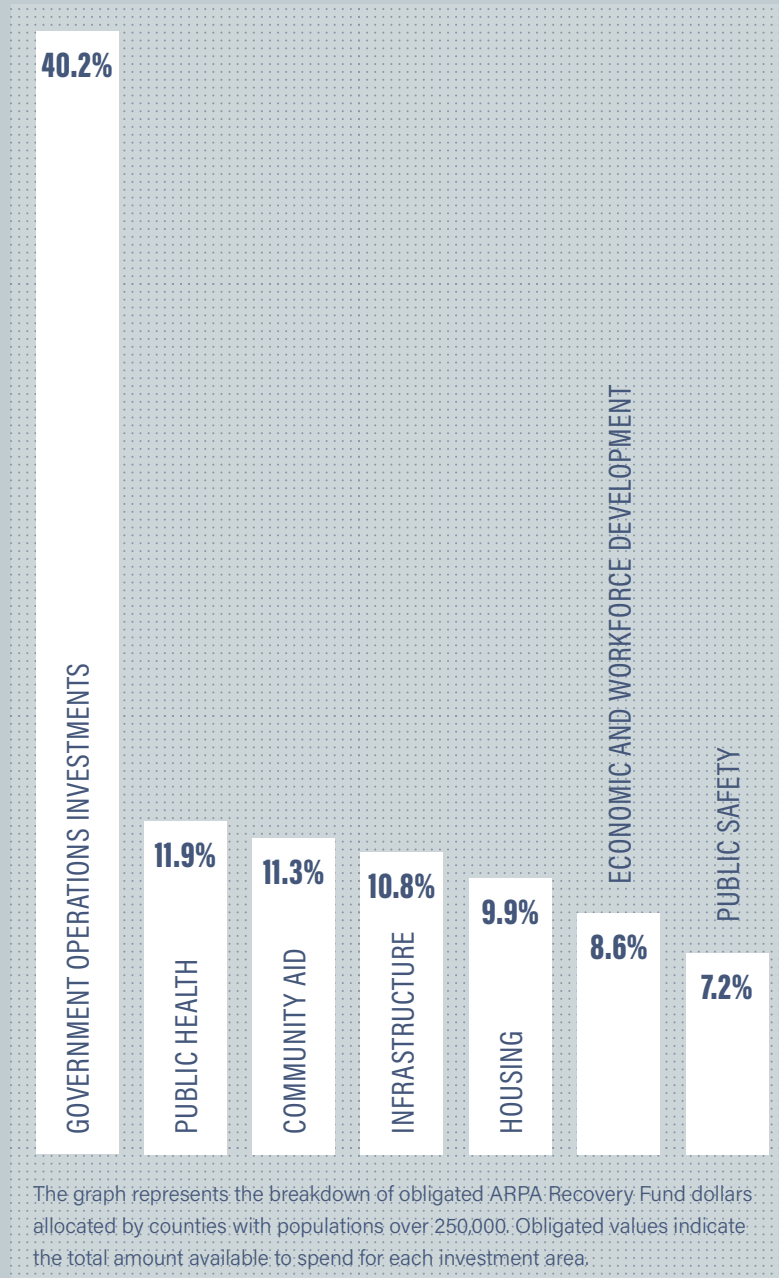
IN FY 2022, 729 COUNTIES
RECEIVED NEARLY
\$269 MILLION IN
FEDERAL SRS FUNDING

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) RECOVERY FUND — COUNTY ALLOCATION*



Allocation to be paid directly to counties by the U.S. Treasury as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). *County allocation includes consolidated funds. Source: U.S. Department of Treasury, 2022.

SHARE OF ARPA ALLOCATED DOLLARS, BY PROJECT TYPE



The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund), part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which NACo helped develop and strongly advocated to pass, allocates **\$65.1 billion** directly to every county, parish and borough in the country. Counties may allocate these critical recovery funds to a broad array of investments under four categories:



PUBLIC HEALTH
AND ECONOMIC
RESPONSE



PUBLIC
SECTOR
REVENUE



PREMIUM PAY
FOR ESSENTIAL
WORKERS



WATER, SEWER
AND BROADBAND
INFRASTRUCTURE

Three years after the historic passage of ARPA, **COUNTIES NATIONWIDE ARE DRIVING TRANSFORMATIONAL INVESTMENTS, RECOVERY EFFORTS, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH OUR RECOVERY FUND ALLOCATIONS.**

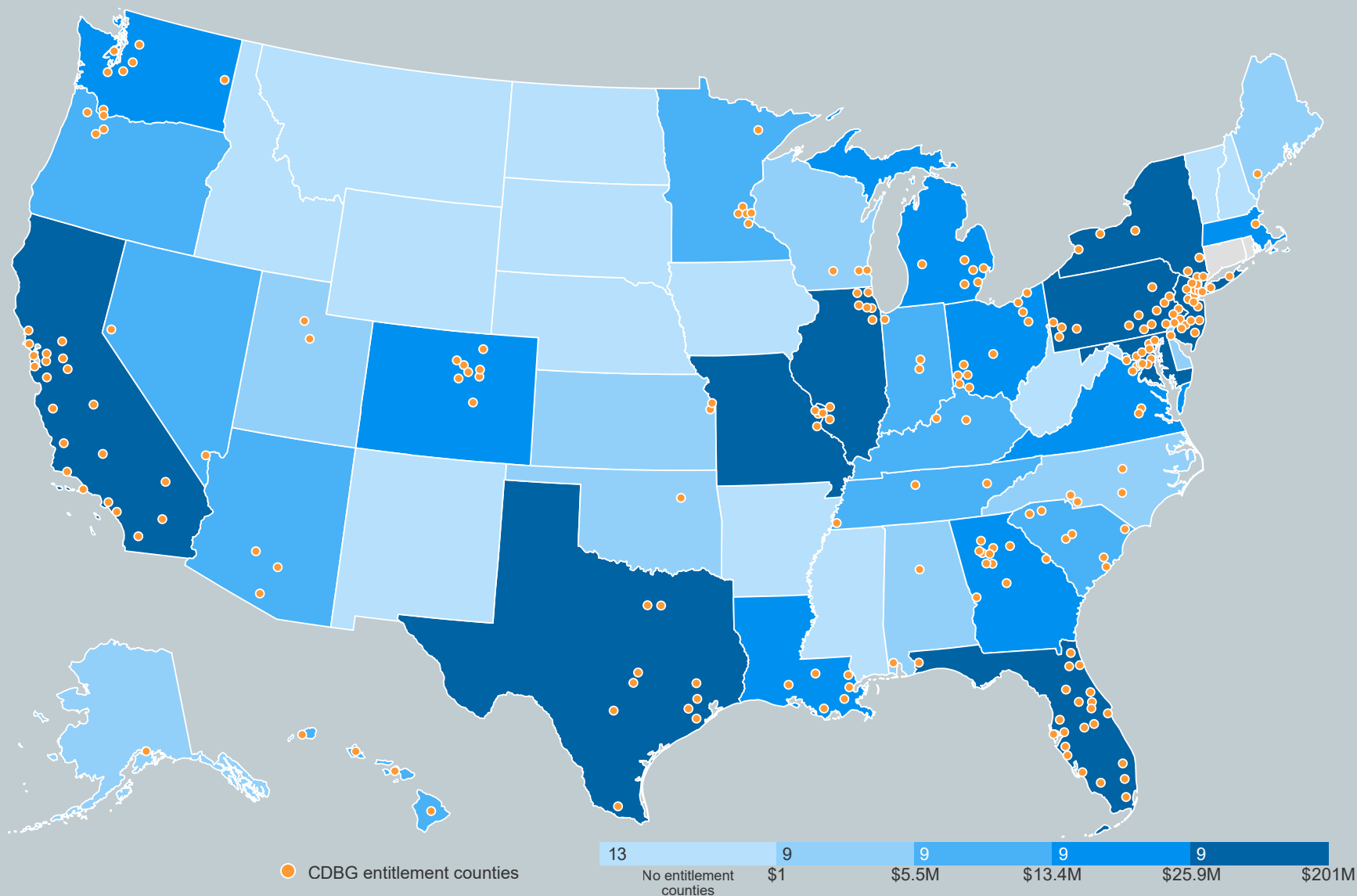
County leaders are enhancing America's workforce, improving housing, supporting struggling local businesses, and promoting equitable economic recovery.

Counties are investing

\$65.1 BILLION

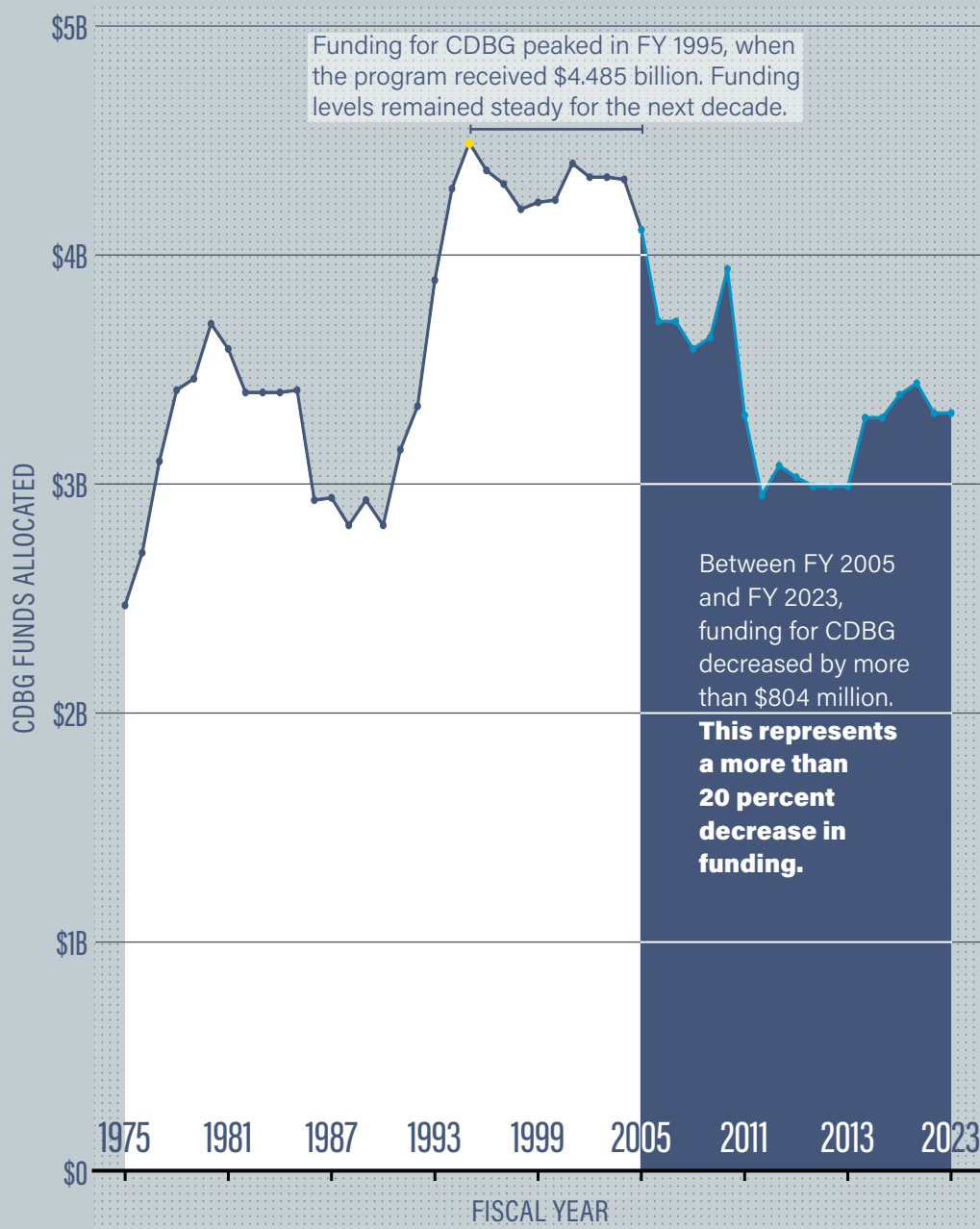
made available in the Recovery Fund to **bolster our nation's local health programs, strengthen our infrastructure system and ensure that crucial human services are available to residents most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) — DIRECT FUNDING TO ENTITLEMENT COUNTIES BY STATE



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding received directly by entitlement counties in FY 2023. Entitlement counties are urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities). Non-entitlement counties may apply for CDBG funding through the state portion of the program. Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, FY 2023 data.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR 1975-2023



There are more than **200 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** entitlement counties across the nation.



COUNTIES ADMINISTER AND IMPLEMENT CDBG FUNDING

to provide affordable housing for renters or homeowners or provide direct rental assistance to low-income households.



CDBG FUNDING IS ALSO USED TO PARTNER WITH THE PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS

to address economic development, water, infrastructure and human services, and to support job creation and retention.

COUNTIES INVEST CDBG FUNDING TO FOSTER SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

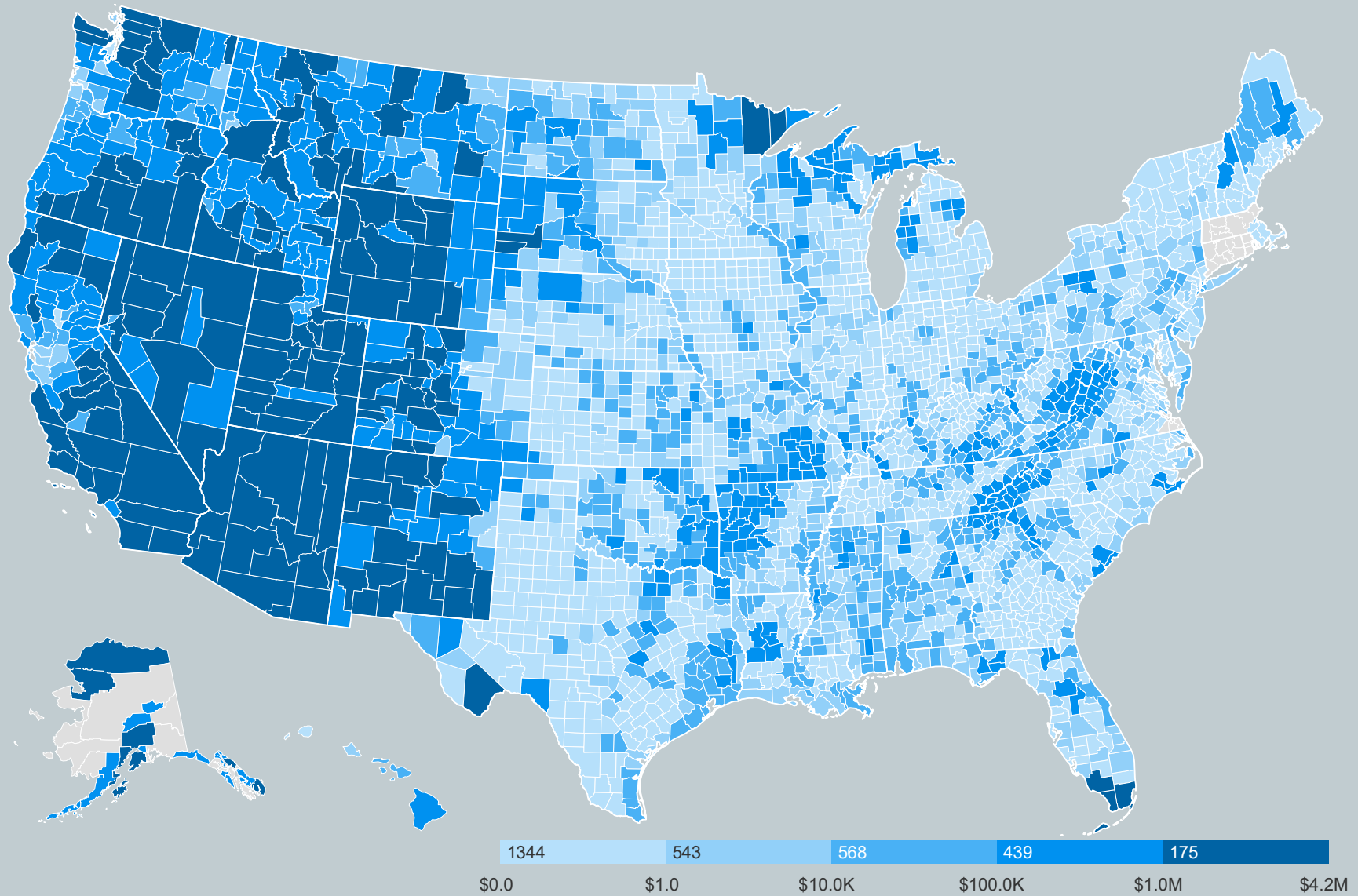
THROUGH ADDRESSING LOCAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEED

Entitlement counties received over

\$931 MILLION

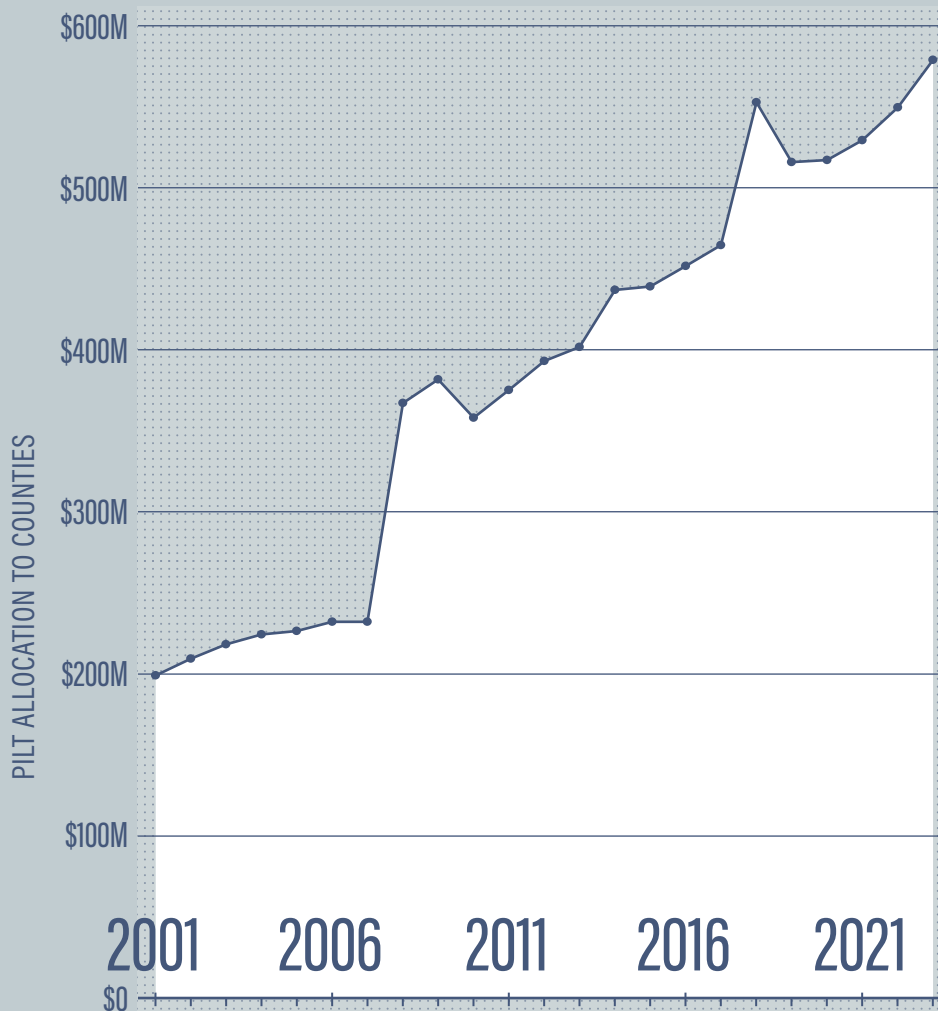
in direct CDBG funding in FY 2023.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)



Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding to county governments based on the presence of certain federal public lands within our boundaries in FY 2023. Source: U.S. Department of the Interior.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) FUNDING BY FISCAL YEAR 2001-2023



Counties collectively received more than **\$562 million** in PILT funding in FY 2023.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) PROVIDE FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO OFFSET LOSSES IN REVENUES SINCE FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS ARE EXEMPT FROM COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES

62%

percent of America's counties have federal public land within our boundaries; the federal government owns roughly 640 million acres (or 28 percent) of land in the U.S.

As federal public land is not taxable by local governments, public land counties incur substantial annual losses in property tax revenue.

Though counties cannot collect property taxes on federal public land, we still provide essential services to residents and those who visit these public lands. In 2022 alone, over 311 million people visited national parks.

The services provided by counties encompass road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical, emergency management, fire protection, solid waste disposal and environmental compliance.

PILT FUNDING IS CRITICAL FOR COUNTY SERVICES INCLUDING:



ROAD AND BRIDGE
MAINTENANCE



LAW
ENFORCEMENT



EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT



SEARCH
AND RESCUE



EMERGENCY
MEDICAL



FIRE PROTECTION

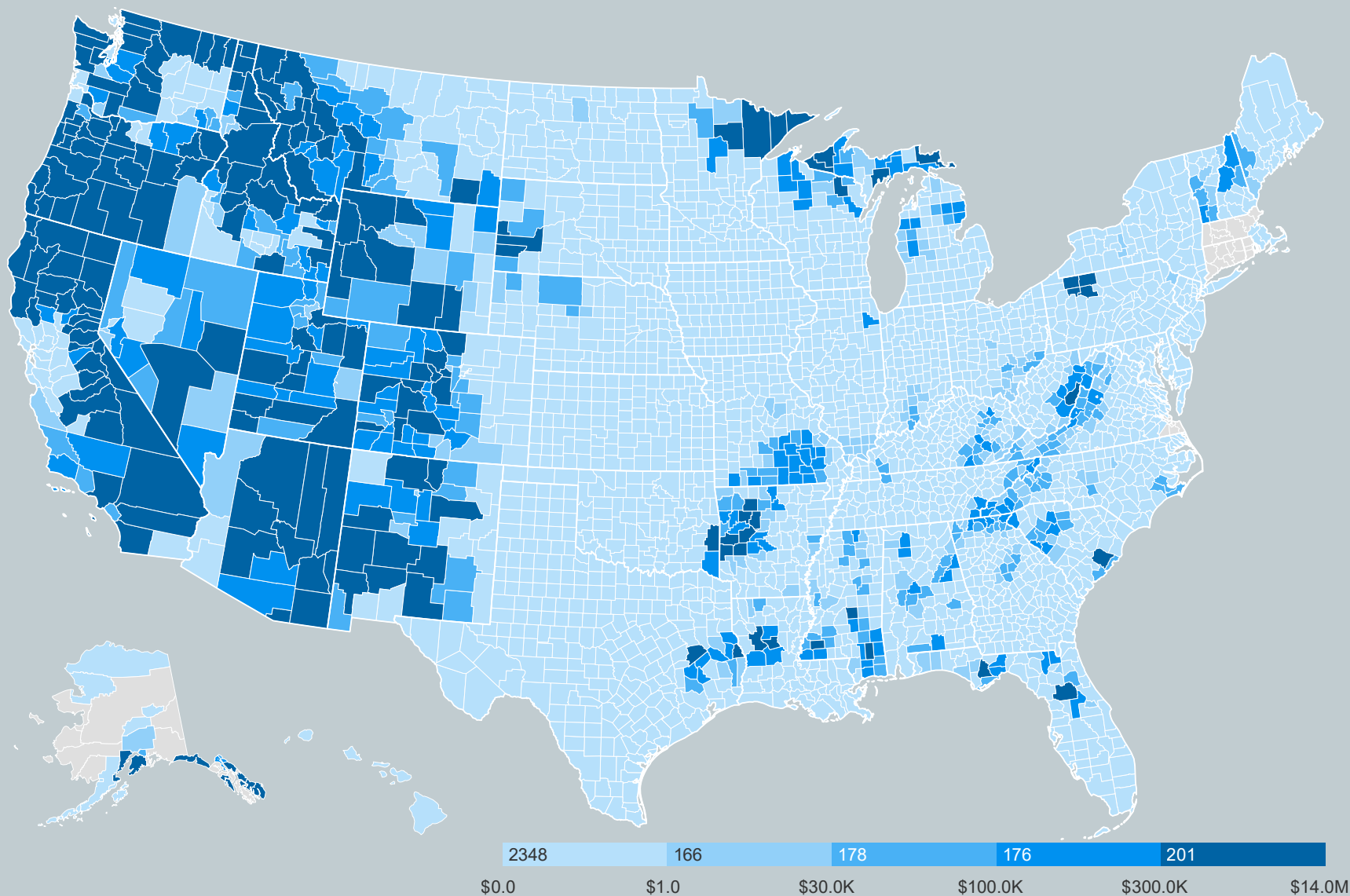


SOLID WASTE
DISPOSAL



ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)



Total funding received by counties through the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program based on receipts from timber harvests on federal lands.

Source: U.S. Forest Service data and Bureau of Land Management, FY 2022 receipts year.

U.S. COUNTIES AND SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)

SRS PAYMENT, FY 2022 RECEIPTS YEAR

\$269M

PROJECTED 25% FUND PAYMENT, FY 2017 RECEIPTS YEAR

FY 2017 numbers have been adjusted to reflect 2022 inflation rates.

\$96.5M

PROJECTED 25% PAYMENT VS SRS PAYMENT

-64%

PERCENT OF COUNTIES WITH U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND

24%

The projected 25% payments for FY 2017 have been adjusted for inflation. This was the last year when projected payments were released.

SRS is critical to local communities, providing funding to counties and schools impacted by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands.



RURAL COMMUNITIES AND

SCHOOLS rely on a share of receipts from timber harvests to supplement local funding for education services and roads.

National policies implemented in the 1980s substantially diminished the revenue-generating activity permitted in forests, resulting in a steep decline in county and school revenues from federal timber sales.

In response to this decline, SRS was enacted to stabilize payments to counties and schools and compensate for lost revenues.

Over **700 rural counties, parishes and boroughs** receive

funding from the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program.

In total, counties received nearly **\$269 million** in funding through the SRS program in FY 2022. SRS was reauthorized on November 15, 2021, for FYs 2021 through 2023.

**COUNTIES
LEVERAGE CRITICAL
SRS FUNDING FOR
SCHOOLS, ROADS
AND OTHER LOCAL
SERVICES**

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS FUNDING SUPPORTS:



TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE



SCHOOLS



FOREST
MANAGEMENT



ECOSYSTEM
PROTECTION



EMERGENCY
SERVICES

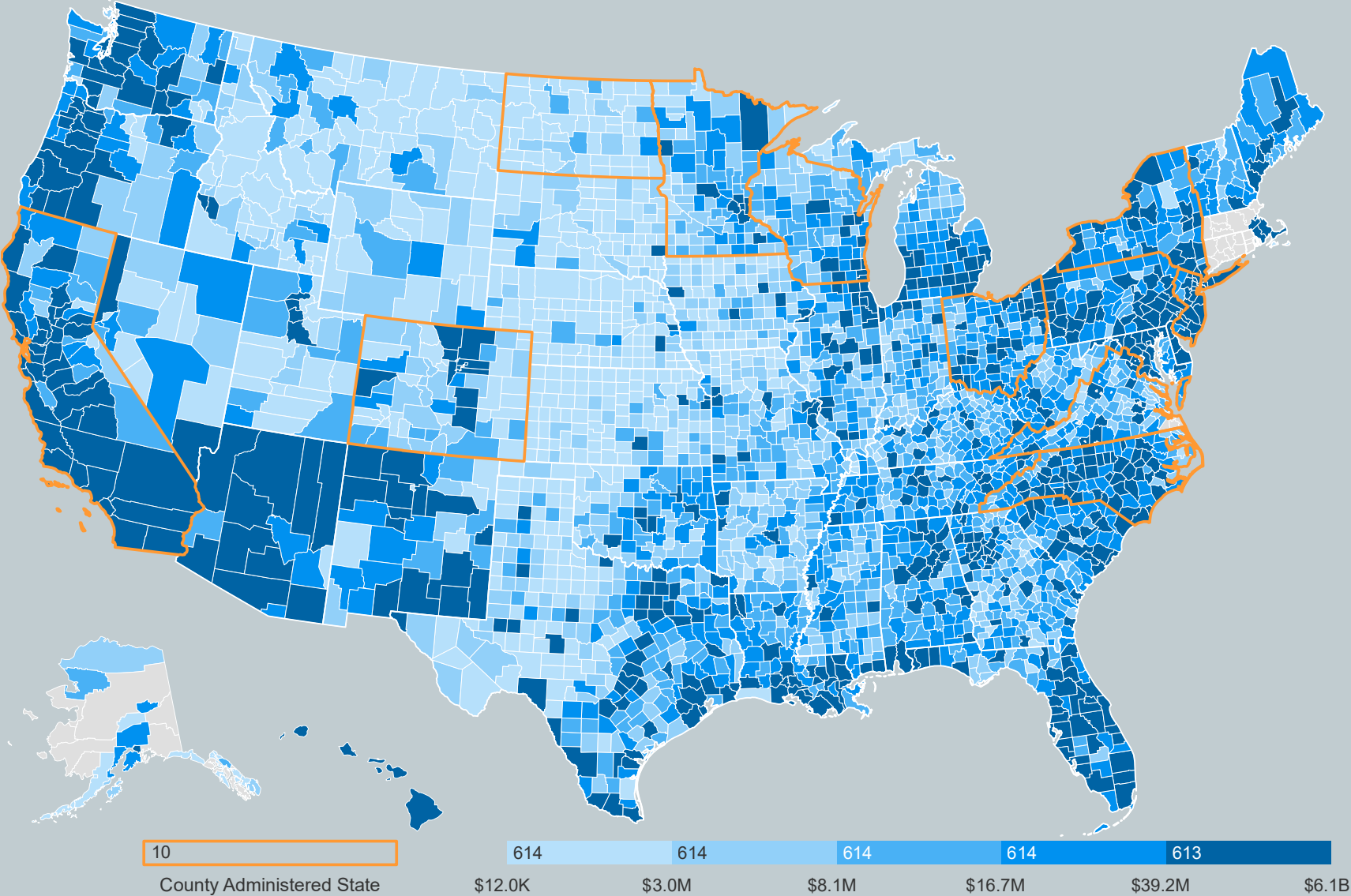


PROTECTION
FROM WILDFIRE



SEARCH
AND RESCUE

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS



Benefits issued to qualifying low-income individuals to supplement their ability to purchase food. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis Personal Current Transfer Receipts Data, 2021.

Counties are an integral part of the federal-state-local partnership in service delivery. Across the nation, counties administer federal resources and funds to combat food insecurity.

Whether a federal program is state or county-administered varies by program and state.

In the ten county-administered states covering one-third of SNAP recipients, states generally offer significant authority and much-needed flexibility to county administrative offices.

Because of the flexibility granted within SNAP, county administration varies from state to state. Ten states delegate SNAP administration to county agencies.

Although counties are granted significant authority and flexibility, we must still comply with certain federal and state mandates (such as who is eligible for SNAP and the amount of benefits and services a family can receive), which creates a complex implementation system.

More than

41 MILLION

low-income Americans received assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in FY 2021

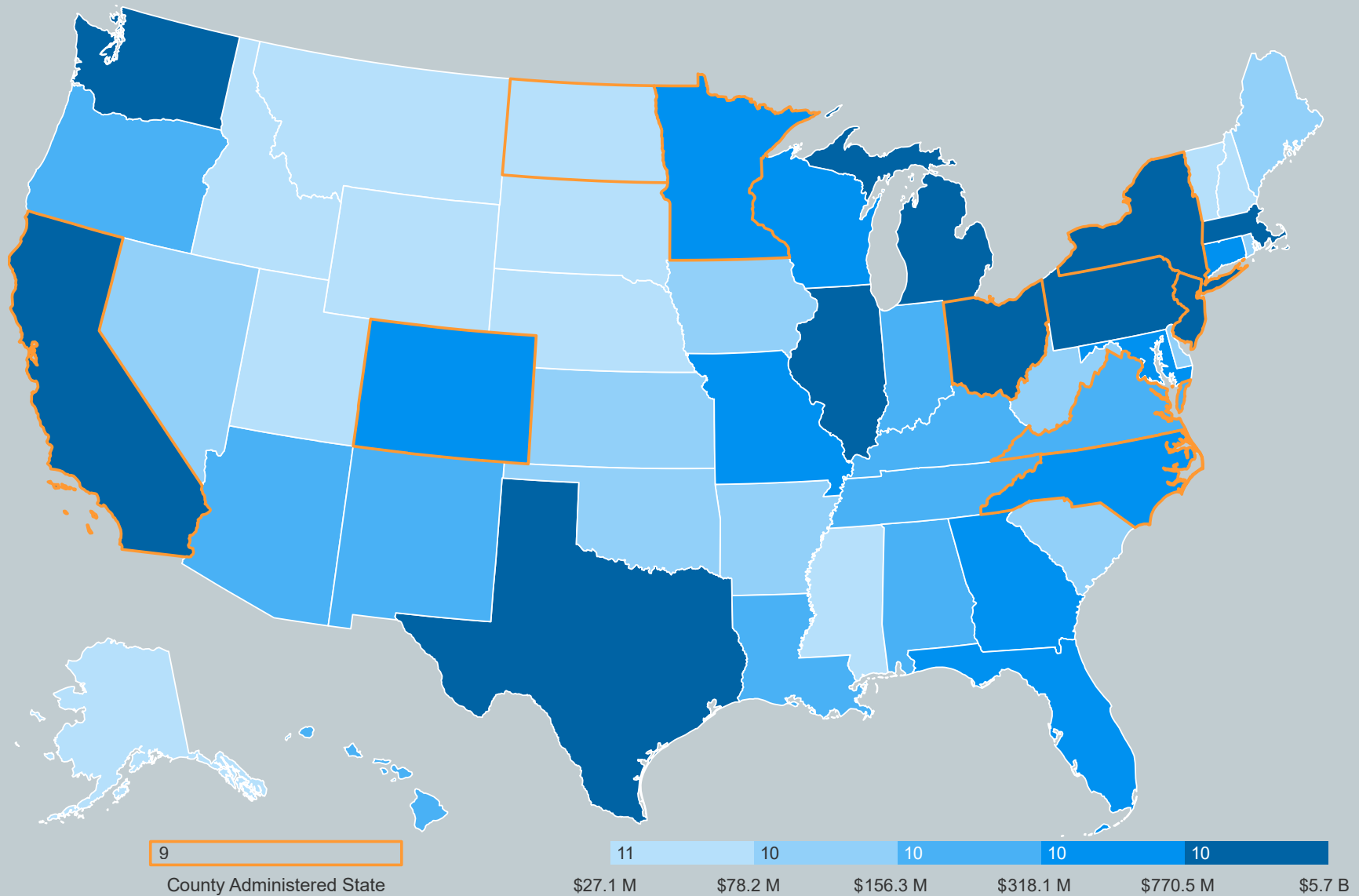
In county-administered states, county administrative offices are generally granted significant authority and much-needed flexibility over program implementation. Counties in these states contribute significant local funds for the administrative and supplemental costs and cover **32 percent** of our nation's SNAP recipients.

Each year, counties invest **\$62.8 billion** in safety net services, including SNAP, for millions of residents, providing critical support for moving individuals, children and families out of poverty and improving immediate and long-term health and wellbeing.

SNAP is a federal public assistance program offering nutrition support to eligible low-income individuals and families. Although SNAP is primarily a partnership between the federal government and states, **TEN STATES DELEGATE SNAP ADMINISTRATION TO COUNTY AGENCIES.***

*States with county-administered SNAP programs include California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) - STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL EXPENDITURES



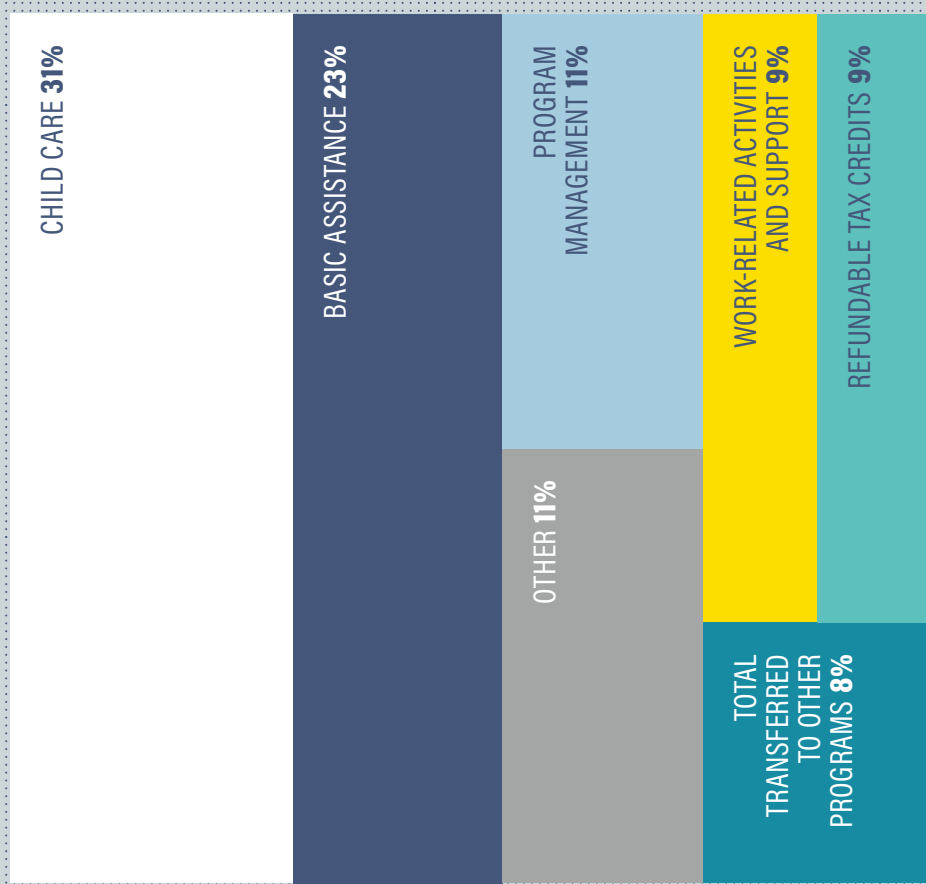
Total Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal expenditures plus state and local “maintenance of effort” (MOE) contributions.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 2021 data.

National TANF expenditures cover a range of programs, including **basic assistance, childcare, work-related support and refundable tax credits.**

BREAKDOWN OF NATIONAL TANF EXPENDITURES - 2021

NATIONAL TANF EXPENDITURES \$30 BILLION†



THE FLEXIBILITY OF TANF IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO COUNTIES AND OUR RESIDENTS

because counties may allocate the funds to critical underfunded programs and services.

THE TANF PROGRAM

is a federal entitlement program providing resources for a wide range of services that address the root causes of poverty.*

*States with county-administered TANF programs include California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio and Virginia.

† The \$30 billion national TANF expenditures include transfers to Child Care and Development Fund and Social Services Block Grant

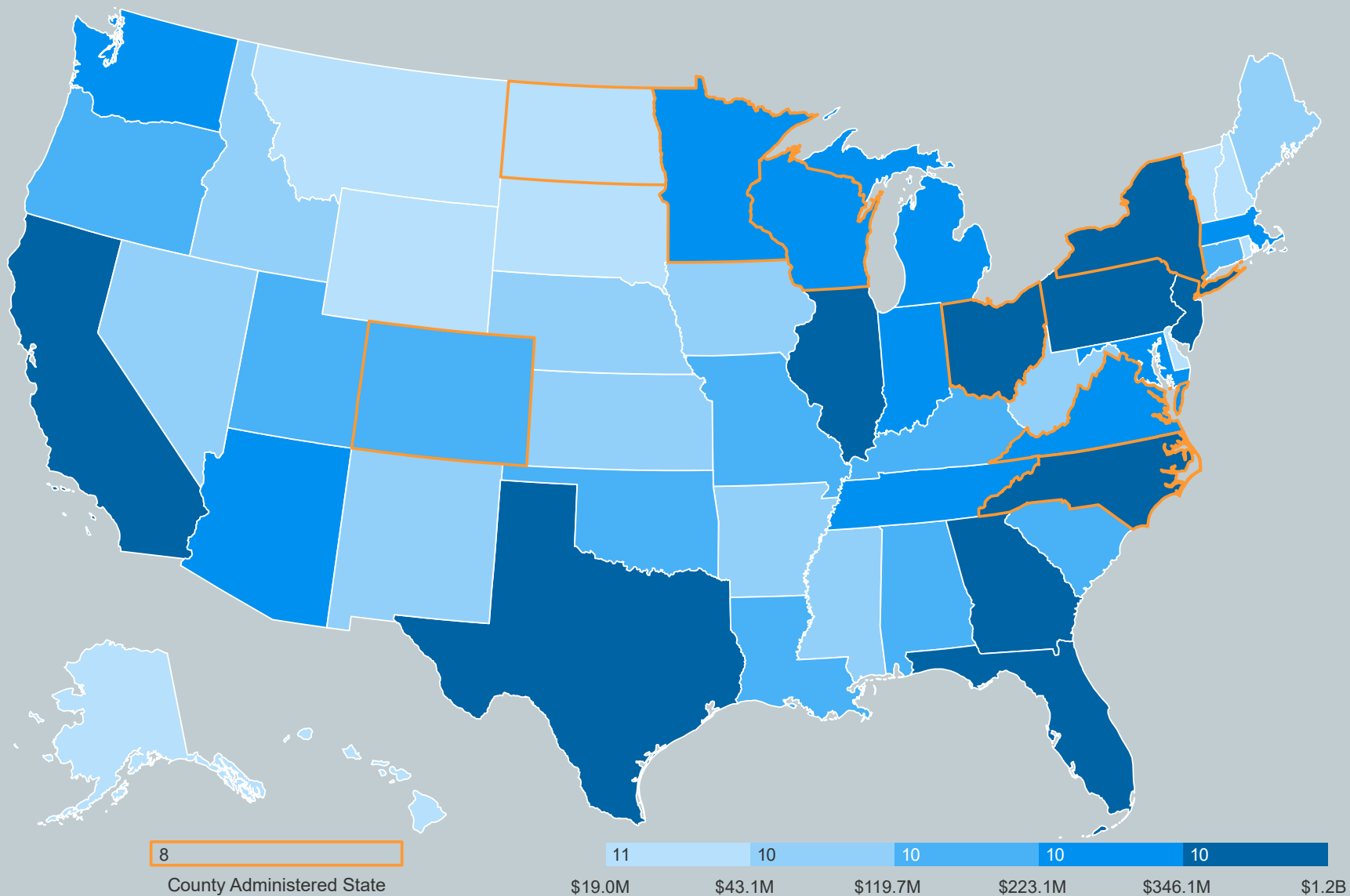


Counties' contributions and involvement in the TANF program vary from county to county.

UNDER TANF, COUNTIES MAY ALSO TRANSFER FUNDS TO OTHER PROGRAMS PROVIDING VITAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

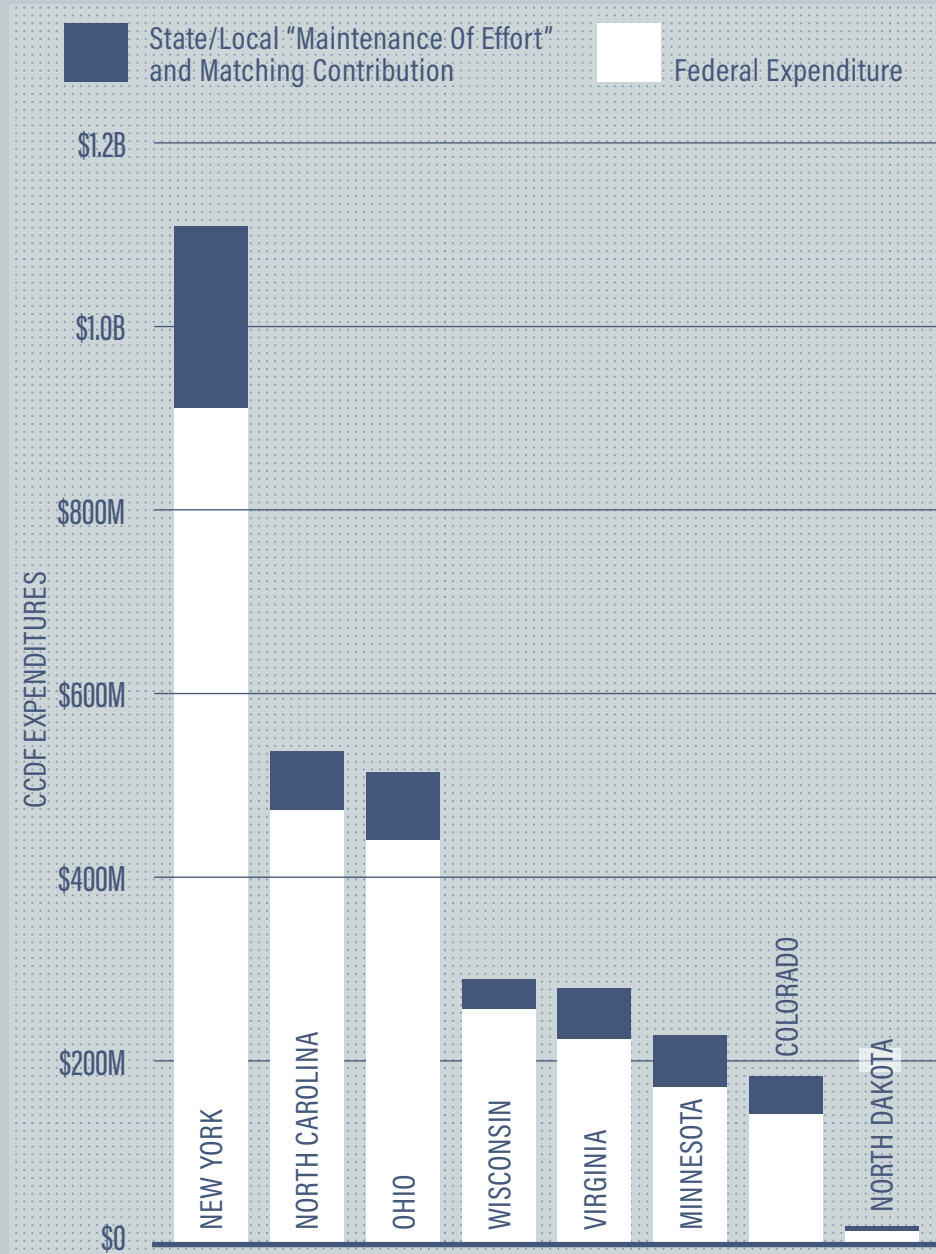
IN NINE STATES, COUNTIES ARE THE PRIMARY ADMINISTRATORS OF THE TANF PROGRAM. THESE COUNTY-ADMINISTERED STATES ACCOUNTED FOR 54 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL CASELOAD AND 53 PERCENT OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL TANF EXPENDITURES IN FY2021

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) - STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL EXPENDITURES



The combined dollar amount representing federal expenditures and state and local maintenance-of-effort contributions, as well as matching funds. Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) - Office of Child Care, FY 2020 data.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND FY 2018 EXPENDITURES IN THE EIGHT COUNTY-ADMINISTERED STATES



Eight states delegate the administration of the Child Care and Development Fund program to counties; in **FY 2020**, these **eight states together invested more than \$3 billion** in federal, state and local funds in the CCDF program, accounting for nearly one-quarter of the national total.

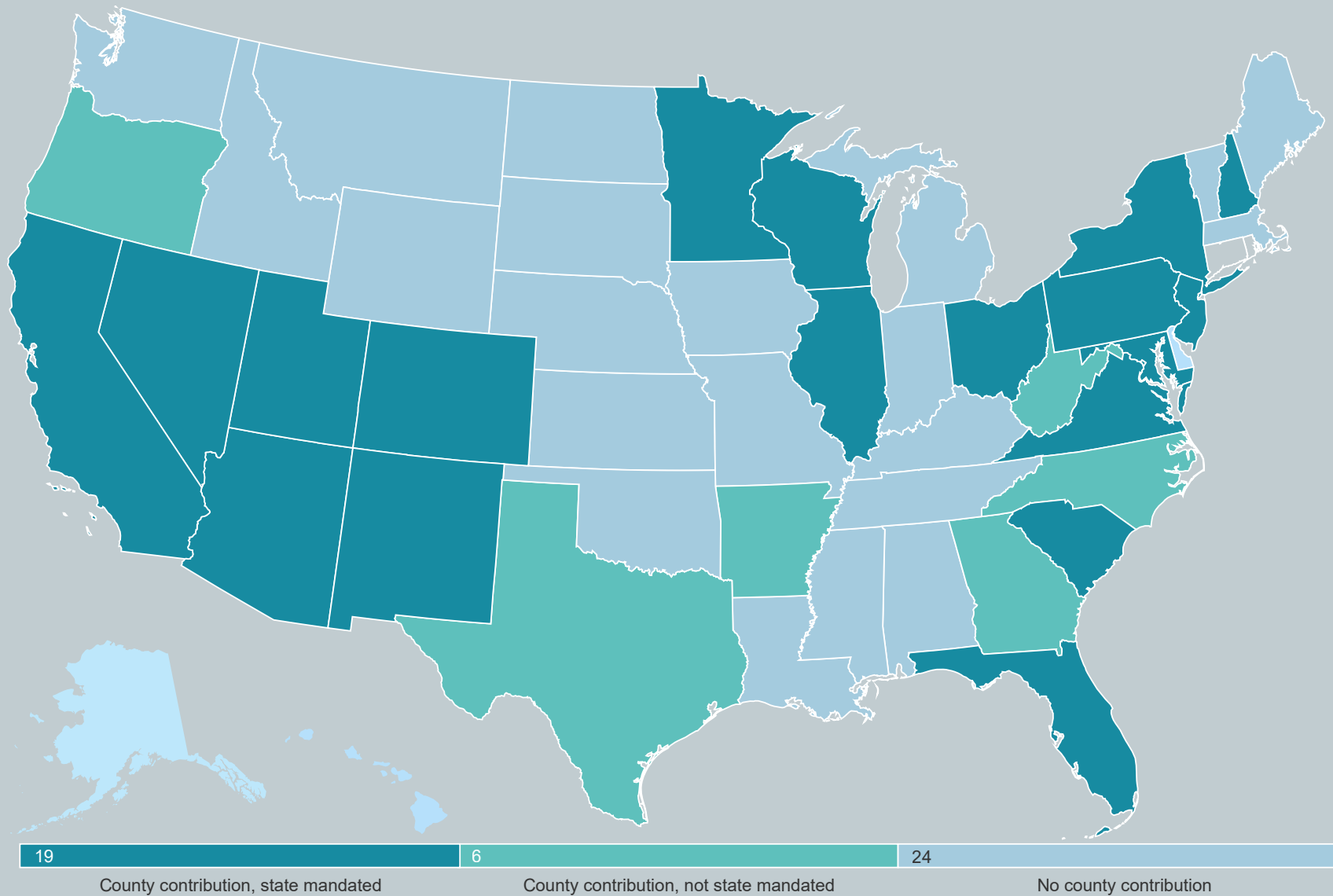
The scope of the county role in administering CCDF varies. County governments in these states may set policies related to eligibility, sliding fee scales and payment rates as well as perform eligibility determinations, issue payments, connect parents with childcare and more. Counties administering CCDF may contribute county general revenue funds to help meet the required non-federal match.

Through the **Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**, states and counties help families access safe, reliable, affordable childcare that allows parents to work and promotes children's healthy growth and development.

THROUGH THE CCDF PROGRAM, COUNTIES PLAY A ROLE IN THE TWO-GENERATION APPROACH TO SERVICE DELIVERY BY SUPPORTING PARENTS' WORK AND HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

*The eight states with county-administered CCDF programs include Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin.

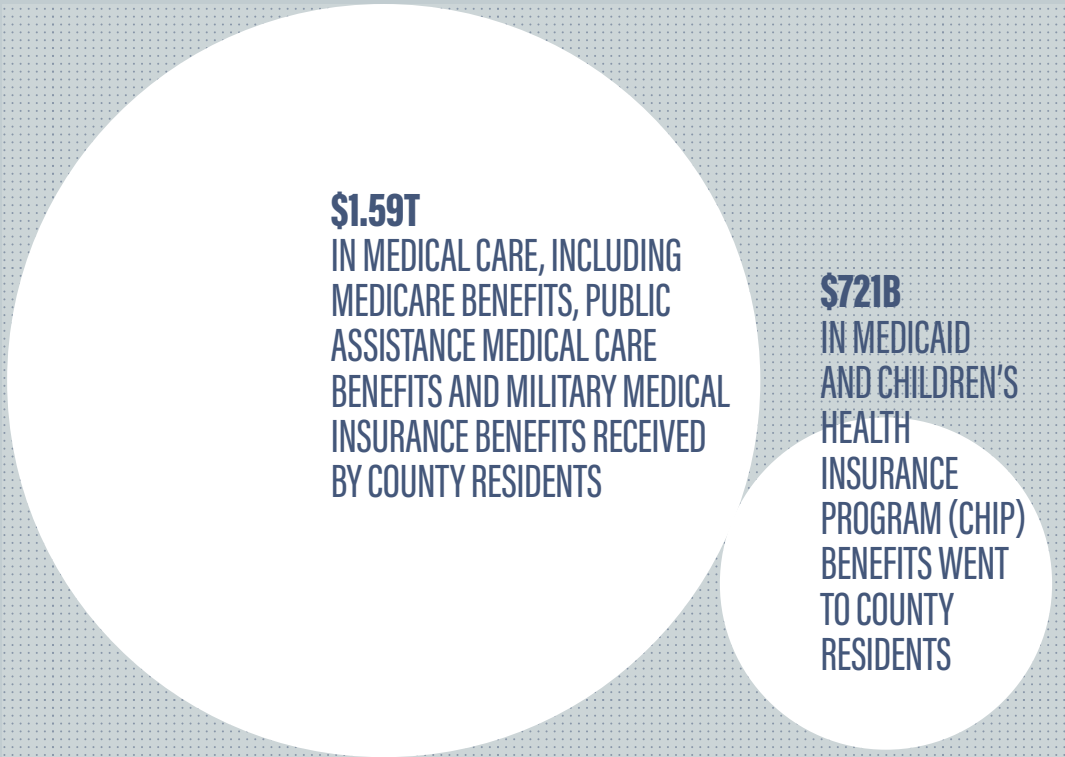
MEDICAID CONTRIBUTION MANDATES FOR COUNTIES



Identifies if counties within a state contribute to Medicaid and associated state mandates. Source: NACo Research, 2023.

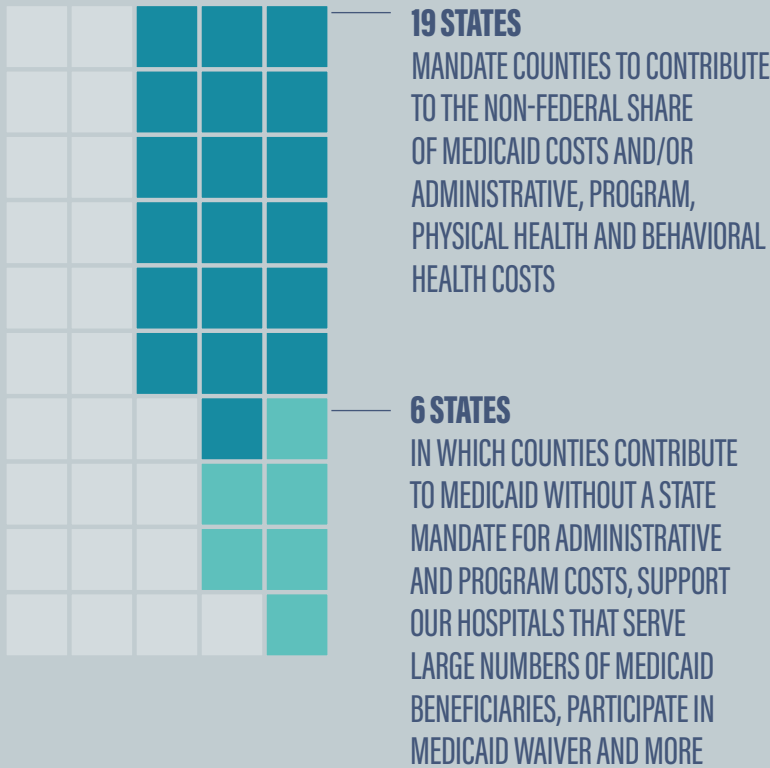
Medicaid operates and is jointly financed as a partnership between federal, state and local governments. Counties across the nation often deliver Medicaid-eligible services and, in many instances, help states finance the non-federal match and administrative costs.

FEDERAL MEDICAL BENEFITS ANALYSIS



Soruce: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Local Area Personal Income and Employment data, 2021.

COUNTIES CONTRIBUTE TO
MEDICAID IN 25 STATES



**MEDICAID IS
JOINTLY FUNDED
BY FEDERAL,
STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS,
INCLUDING COUNTIES
IN 25 STATES**

The Medicaid program is the largest source of health coverage in the United States, covering over **86 million** low-income individuals, or one in five Americans.



CONNECT
COMMUNITIES



COUNTIES OWN AND MAINTAIN
45% OF PUBLIC ROAD MILES AND
38% OF BRIDGES.



COUNTIES SUPPORT
40% OF TRANSIT AGENCIES
AND **34%** OF AIRPORTS.

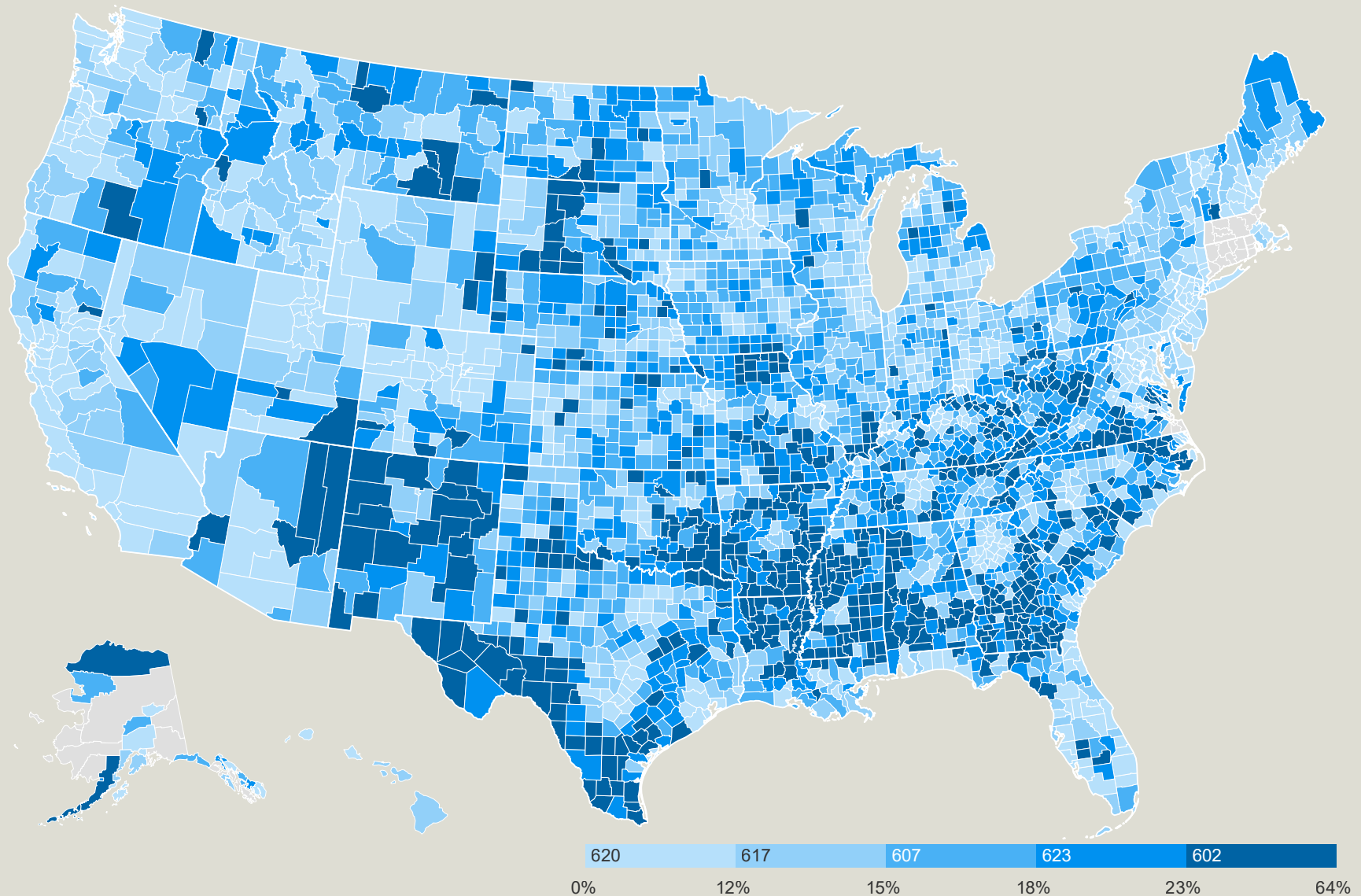


COUNTIES INVEST \$134 BILLION
IN BUILDING, MAINTAINING
AND OPERATING PHYSICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS.



11.5% OF HOUSEHOLDS LACK ACCESS
TO HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND. OFTEN,
ACCESS DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR
QUALITY OR SPEED.

SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS *WITHOUT* BROADBAND ACCESS



The share of households in the county without broadband internet access. The U.S. Census Bureau defines a broadband internet subscription as cable, fiber optic, or DSL; a cellular data plan; satellite; a fixed wireless subscription; or other non-dial up subscription types. Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 2018-2022 (Tables S2801 and S2802).

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT BROADBAND ACCESS BY REGION, 2022



Fewer than **10%** of county leaders surveyed reported full coverage of high-speed broadband across the entire county

Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 2018-2022 (Tables S2801 and S2802).

COUNTIES ARE WORKING TO **EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS AND BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

NATIONAL STATISTICS ILLUSTRATE THE VARIATION IN BROADBAND ACCESS ACROSS COUNTIES.



Approximately

17 percent of Americans in rural areas and **21 percent** of Americans in tribal lands still lack access to broadband that meets the federal definition for minimum standards.



Hennepin County, Minn., is addressing the digital divide through "Connecting Hennepin." The initiative funds the development and implementation of a digital equity plan and is supported by **\$10 million** in Recovery Funds. The program targets a variety of goals, including digital literacy and navigation, community digital adoption and coalition building.

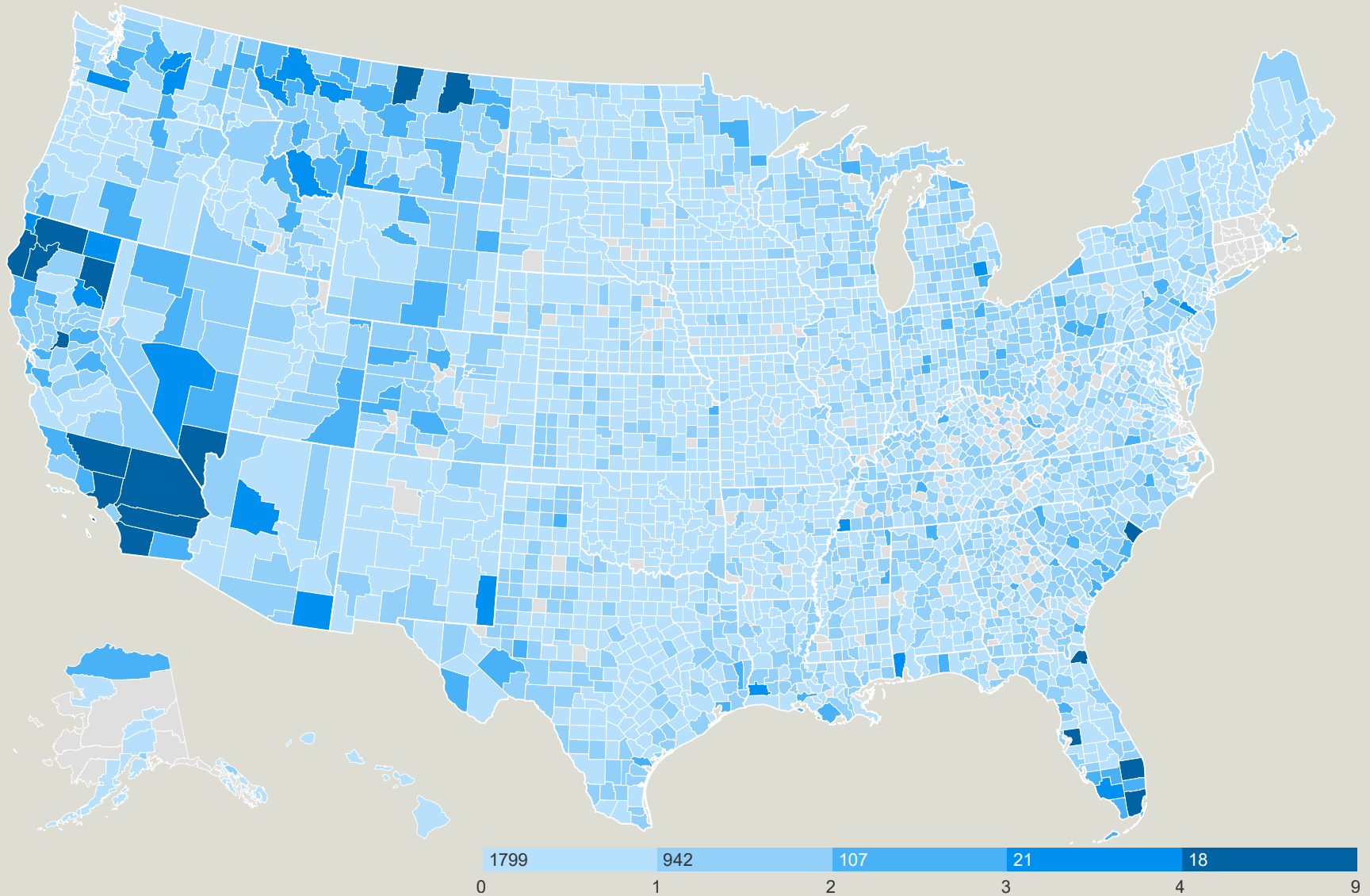


York County, Pa., is bolstering local broadband access through a **\$25 million** investment to increase new fiber-optic infrastructure. Approximately **144 miles** of construction have been planned for the deployment of urban wireless networks throughout the county.

County officials play a crucial role in pursuing sustainable broadband access, affordability and reliability solutions.

The American Rescue Plan Act provides counties the flexibility to fund a broad range of projects, from bolstering fiber-optic infrastructure to creating new public WiFi hotspots to support digital literacy.

COUNTY-OWNED AIRPORTS



Number of public airports owned by counties or regional airport authorities with county ownership or county elected officials on the board of the airport authorities. Source: Federal Aviation Administration and Office of Aviation Analysis, 2017 data.

COUNTY AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS AT A GLANCE

COUNTIES INVEST
OVER \$6B
IN AIR
TRANSPORTATION
FOR THE PROVISION,
OPERATION,
CONSTRUCTION
AND SUPPORT OF
AIRPORT FACILITIES

COUNTIES INVEST
OVER \$550M
IN THE OPERATION,
MAINTENANCE AND
SUPPORT OF SEA AND
INLAND PORT FACILITIES

Counties are involved
in the operation of

34%
of airports

EXAMPLES OF COUNTY-OWNED AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS

1.

Clark County Commission, Nev. - Harry Reid International Airport

Harry Reid International Airport (formerly known as McCarran International Airport) is a central hub of economic activity for Clark County, serving nearly **40 million** passengers in 2021. The airport is the primary commercial airport serving Las Vegas. Approximately **600,000 pounds** of cargo are transported through the airport every day. Operating revenue for the airport totaled **\$476 million** and indirectly impacted the local economy. The airport employs over **1,400 workers**.

2.

Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, Mich. - Port of Detroit.

The Port of Detroit is the largest seaport in the state of Michigan and is also connected to river commerce; the port processed **13 million** tons of cargo during 2019. In 2011, the port supported nearly 16,000 jobs, **\$500 million** in business revenue and **\$255 million** in personal income. The total volume of port trade, based on the value of exports and imports passing through the port, was over **\$130 billion** in 2020.

3.

Jackson County Port Authority, Miss. - Port of Pascagoula.

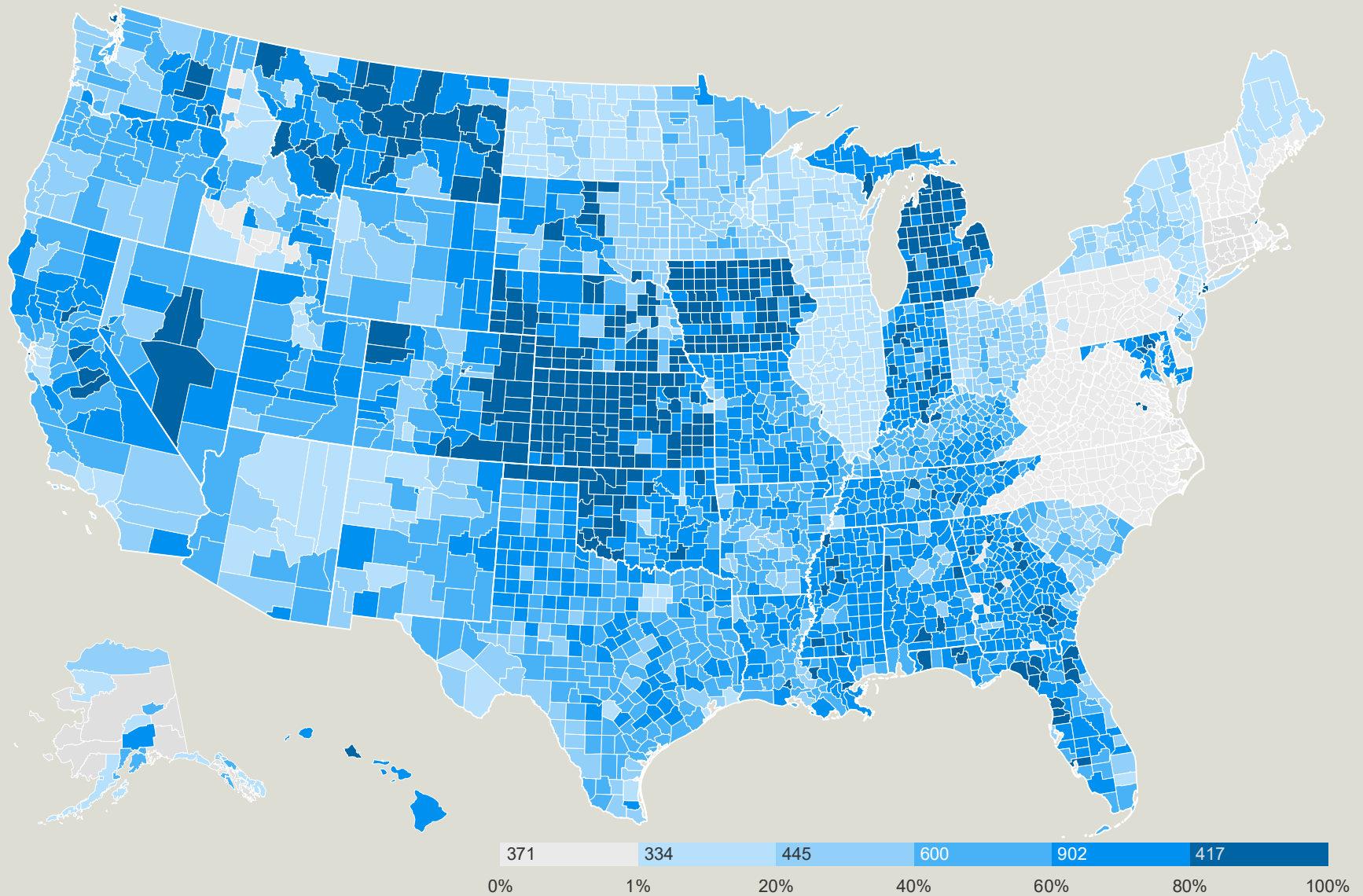
The Port of Pascagoula is the largest seaport in Mississippi and in the top 20 U.S. seaports processing foreign cargo by volume, handling 26 million tons of cargo in 2019. As of 2004, the Jackson County Port Authority supported over 19,000 jobs and port operations created **\$902 million** in personal income. The total volume of port trade, based on the value of exports and imports passing through the port, was **\$3.9 billion** in 2020.

4.

City & County of Denver Department of Aviation, Colo. - Denver International Airport.

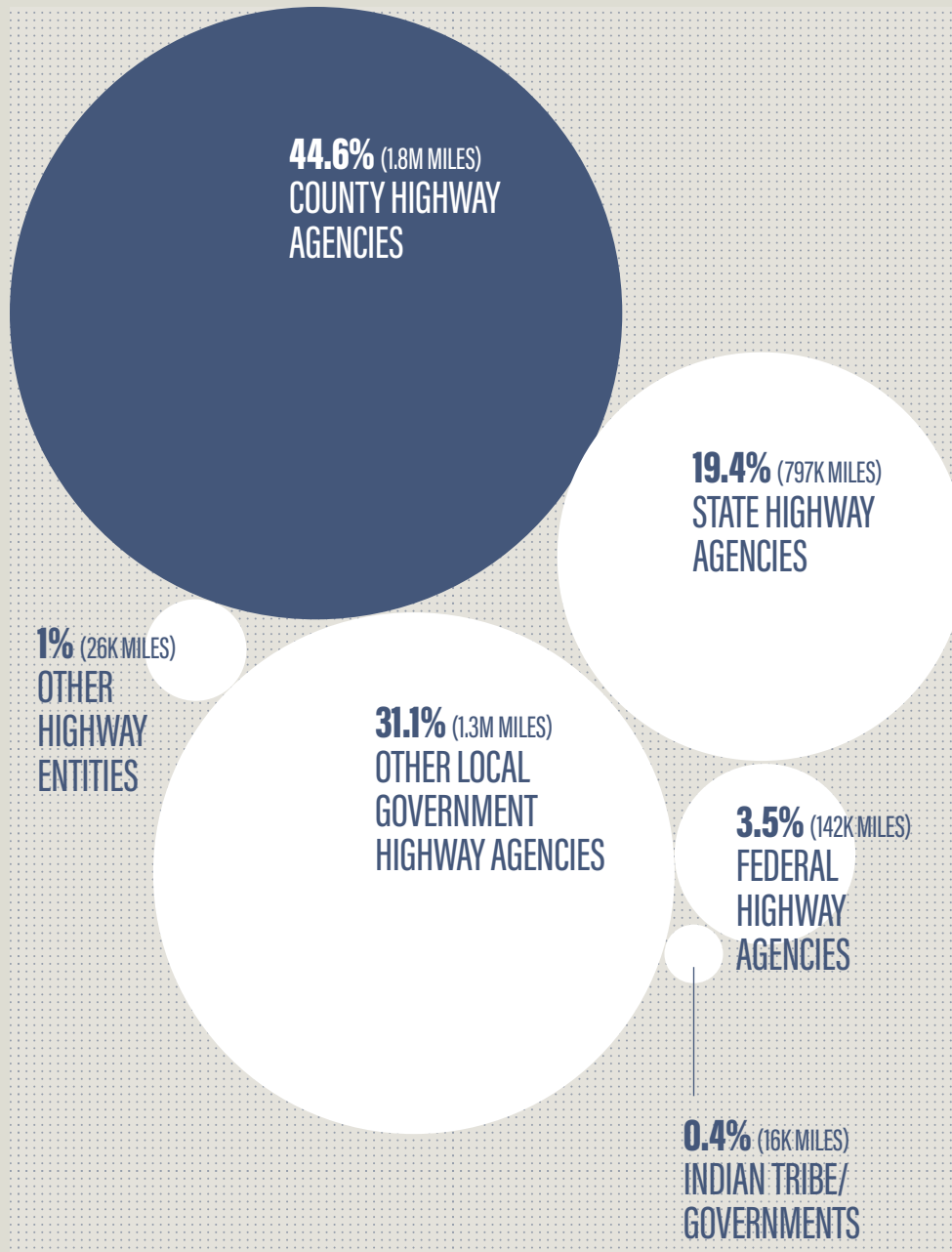
Denver International Airport is a primary transportation service provider for Denver County. In 2019, Denver International had **33.5 million** enplanements and saw **1.6 billion** pounds of cargo land. Total operating revenue for the airport was **\$591 million**. In 2020, Denver International Airport directly employed **1,068 workers**.

SHARE OF ROAD MILES OWNED BY COUNTY HIGHWAY AGENCIES



Share of public road miles under the control of county governments. Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2020.

BREAKDOWN OF OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC ROADS BY HIGHWAY AGENCY, 2020



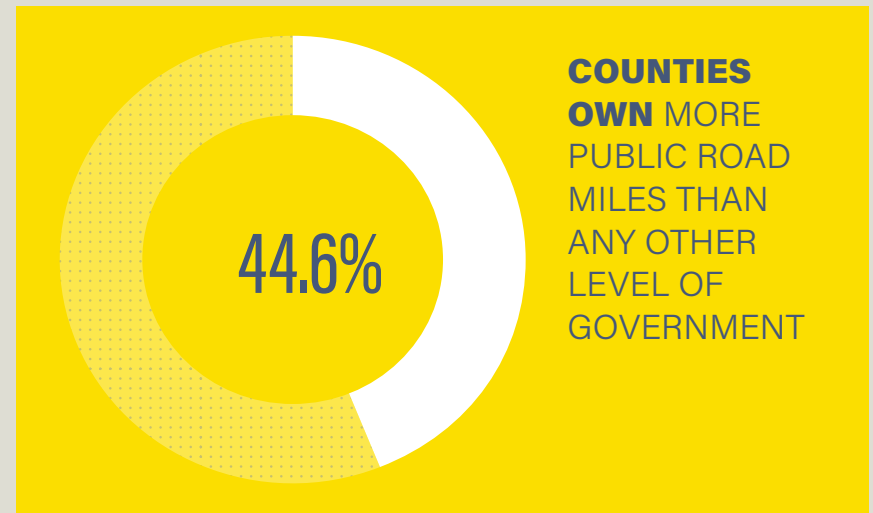
There are 4.1 million public road miles within county boundaries across the nation where most trips both start and end.



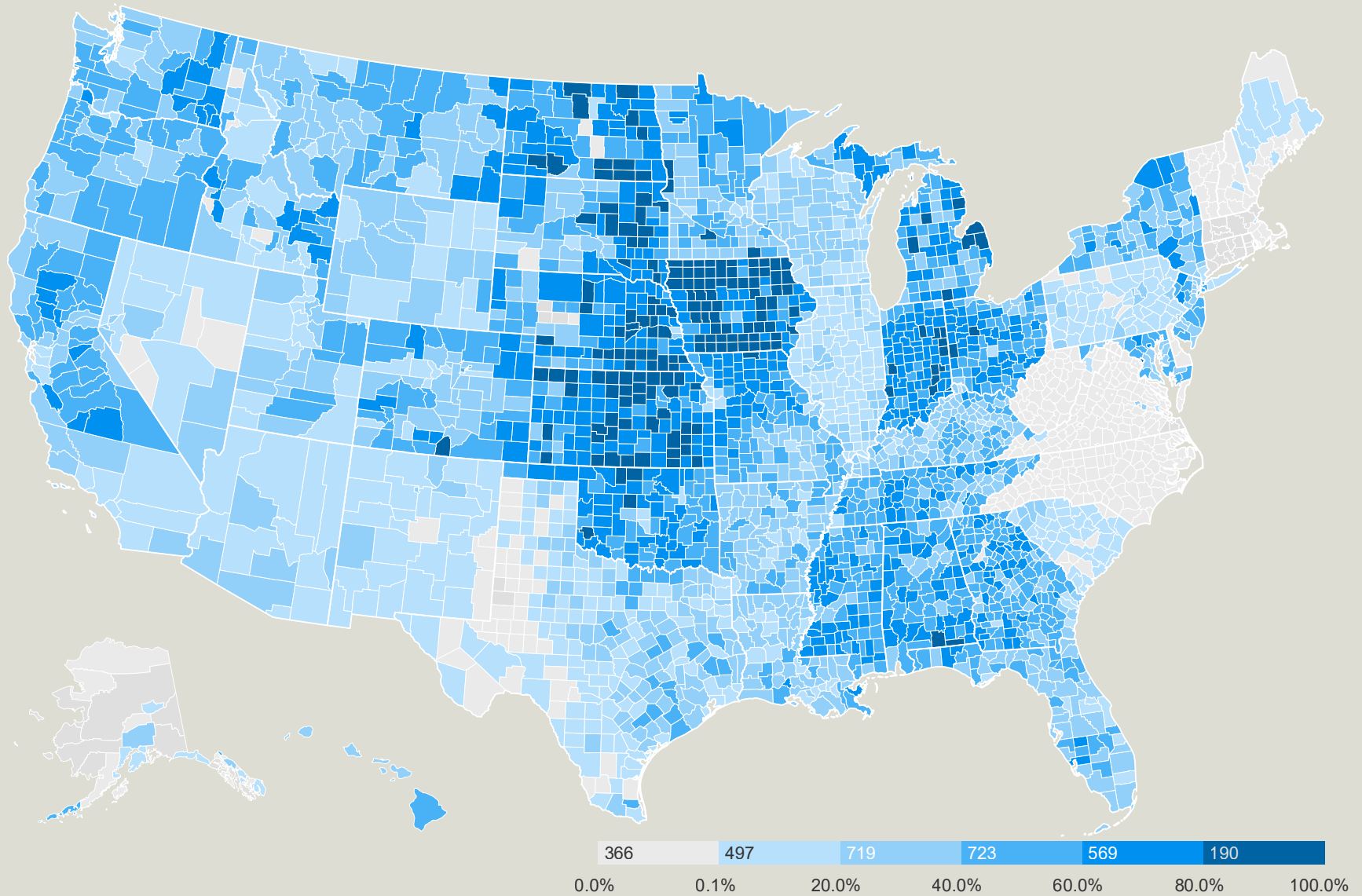
In total, county highway agencies, own and maintain **1.8 million** road miles.



County governments invest **\$30 billion** annually towards the maintenance, operation, repair and construction of toll and non-toll highways.



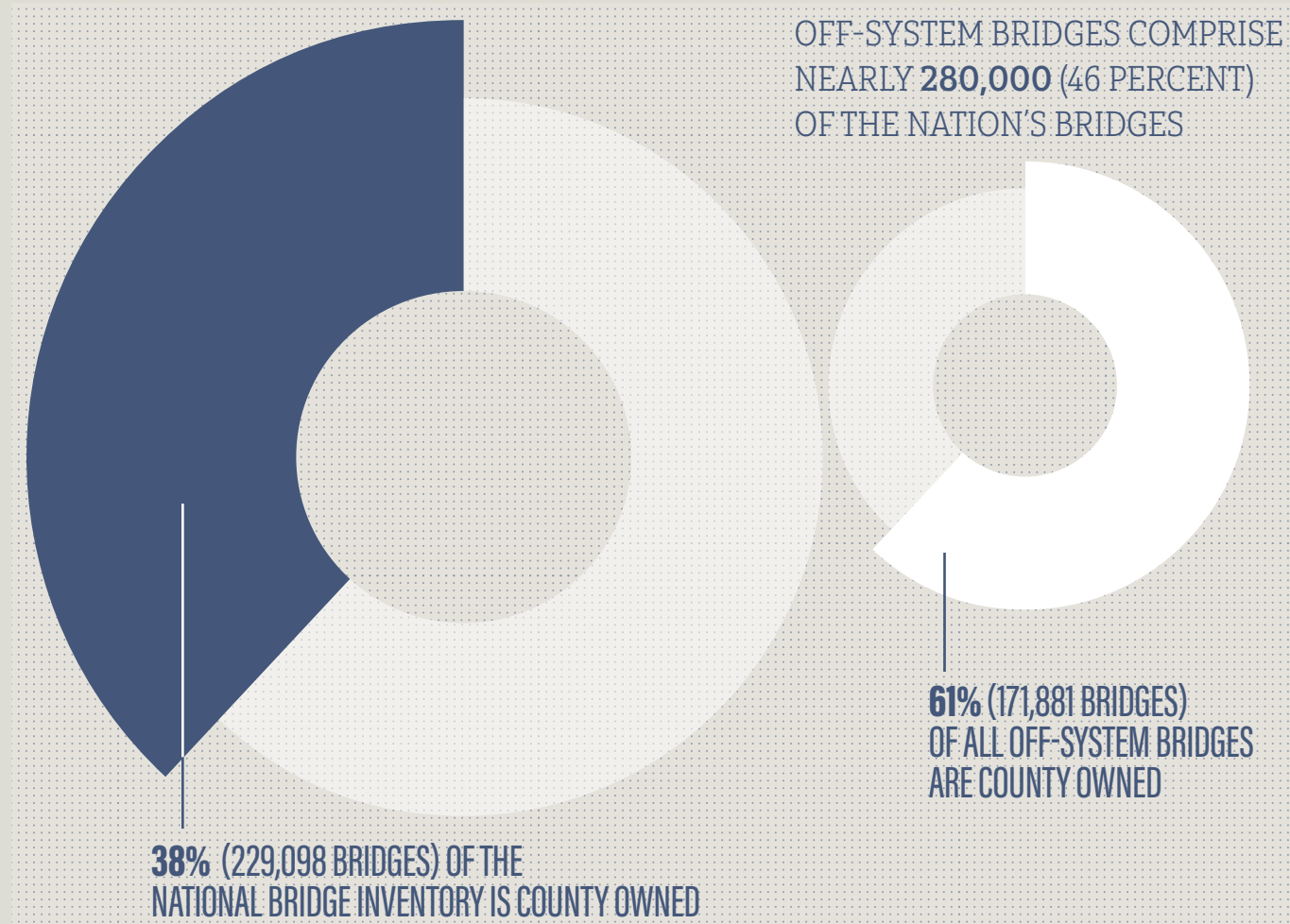
COUNTY-OWNED BRIDGES



Share of bridges owned by a county highway agency. Source: National Bridge Inventory Data - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), 2023.

Counties own and maintain **38 percent** of the **607,000 bridges** that compose the National Bridge Inventory.

NATIONAL BRIDGE INVENTORY AND OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGES SHARE COUNTY OWNED, 2023



According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, **7.5 percent** of the nation's bridges are considered structurally deficient. With the bipartisan infrastructure law, counties will invest funds to improve bridge conditions.

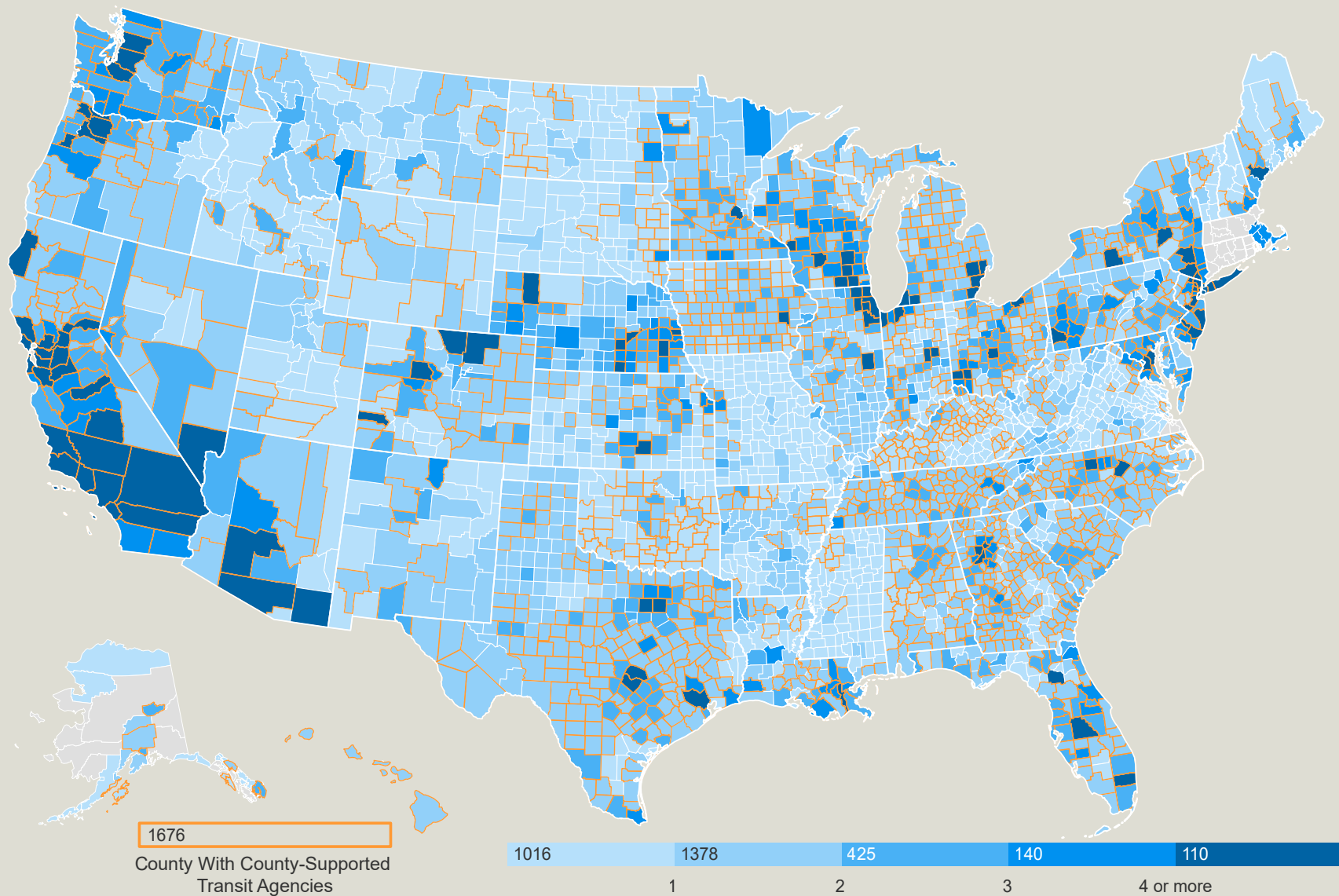


COUNTIES WITH THE MOST COUNTY-OWNED BRIDGES, BY POPULATION SIZE

Sumner County (a small county) and Butler County (a mid-sized county), both in Kansas, own 534 and 429 bridges, respectively. Harris County in Texas (a large county) owns 811 bridges.

Counties own and maintain
38%
of the National Bridge Inventory

COUNTY-SUPPORTED TRANSIT AGENCIES



The number of public transit agencies owned or operated by counties or regional transit authorities — those with county ownership, county officials on the board of the transit authorities or county-funded. Note: Counties outlined in orange are those with county-supported transit agencies. Sources: NACo Analysis of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) National Transit Database (NTD) data, 2015-2019.

COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS AT A GLANCE

1.

County of Miami-Dade Transportation and Public Works, Miami-Dade County, Fla.

The Miami-Dade County transit system is the 14th largest in the U.S. and consists of three main modes: metrobus, metrorail and metromover (4.4-mile electrically powered, fully automated people mover system). In 2020, the department provided **314 MILLION** annual passenger miles, operated 1,452 vehicles in maximum service and expended **\$687 MILLION** in operating funds (58.5 percent of which were provided by local government). The department operates commuter bus, demand response, heavy rail, bus, monorail/automated and vanpool services.

2.

RideOn - Montgomery County Transit, Montgomery County, Md.

The Montgomery County Division of Transit Services plans, schedules and manages the county's RideOn bus system, consisting of 375 county-owned and operated buses. In 2020, the agency provided **71 MILLION** annual passenger miles, operated 314 vehicles in maximum service and expended **\$129 MILLION** in operating funds (55 percent of which were provided by local government). The agency operates bus and demand response services.

3.

King County Department of Metro Transit, King County, Wash.

King County Metro is the Puget Sound region's largest public transportation agency. In 2020, the department provided **260 MILLION** annual passenger miles, operated 3,371 vehicles in maximum service and expended **\$929 MILLION** in operating funds (21.9 percent of which were provided by local government). The department operates commuter bus, demand response, heavy rail, bus, monorail/automated and vanpool services.



Counties annually invest more than

\$23 BILLION

IN THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS, including subways, surface rails, ferries and buses.

Counties are involved in

40%

of public transit systems across the nation

4.

Milwaukee County Transit System, Milwaukee County, Wis.

The Milwaukee County Transit System provides nearly 29 million rides each year and generates a massive economic impact for the region. In 2020, the agency provided **58 MILLION** annual passenger miles, operated 371 vehicles in maximum service and expended **\$145 MILLION** in operating funds (16.3 percent of which were provided by local government). The agency operates bus, commuter bus and demand response services.



KEEP
AMERICA
HEALTHY

COUNTIES PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN PROTECTING, PROMOTING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE NATION.



Counties employ nearly

533,000

hospital and health care workers.

Counties support
more than

900

hospitals that provide
inpatient medical care
and specialized care.



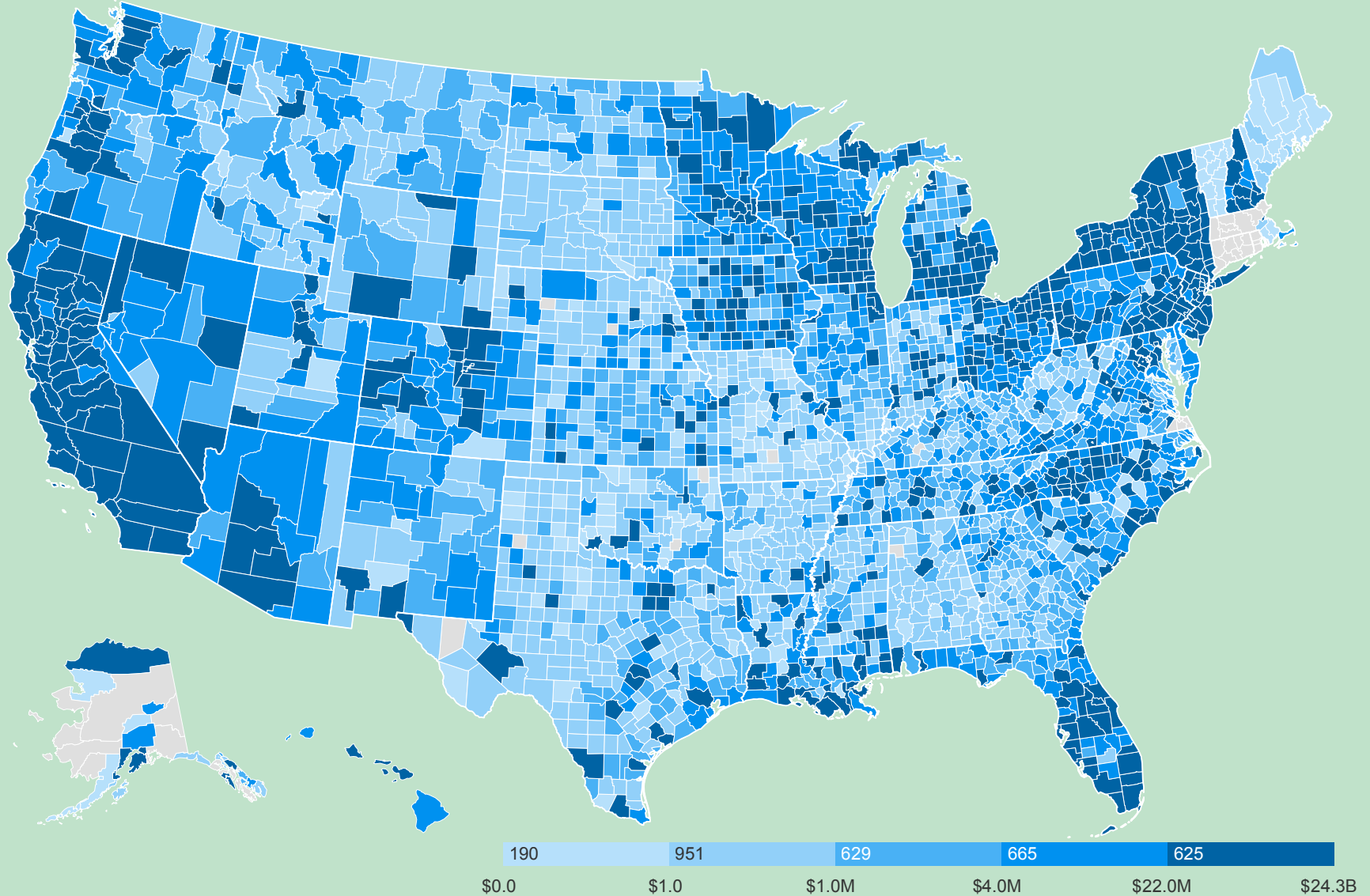
Counties also own and
support more than

700

long-term care facilities.



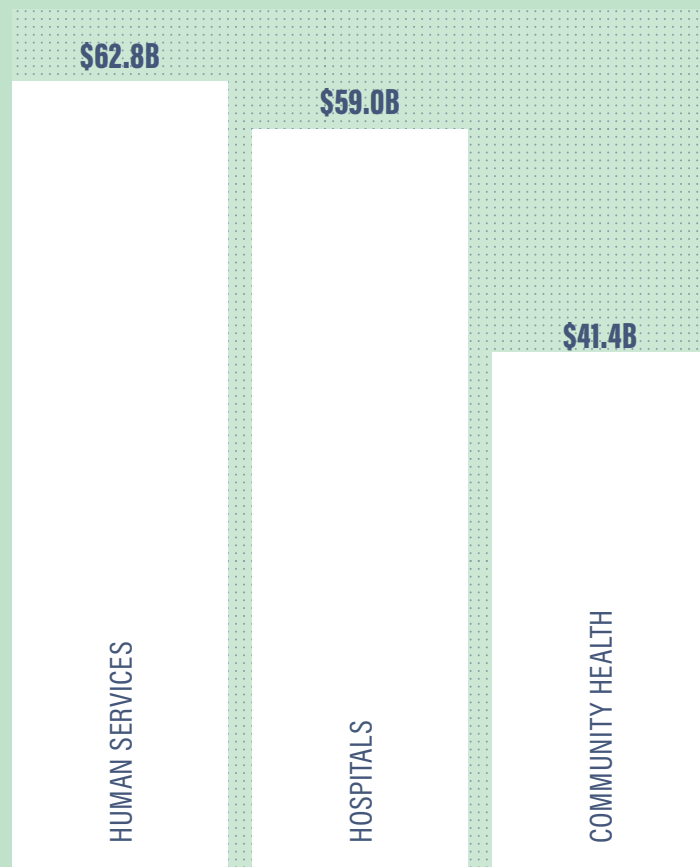
COUNTY INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Amount of health and human services expenditures, including health, hospitals, cash assistance, vendor payments, other human services, and current operations, construction, other capital outlays, assistance and subsidies, and intergovernmental transfers. Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments, Finance 2017.

Each year, counties invest **\$62.8 billion** to serve as a safety net for millions of residents and deliver vital services to our nation's most vulnerable populations.

COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SPENDING BY CATEGORY - 2017



Counties play a direct role in the health and well-being of residents, investing more than

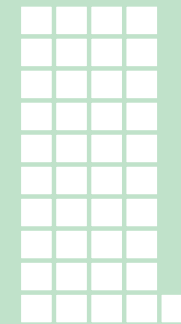
\$163 BILLION

in community health, hospitals and human services annually

In total, counties invest over

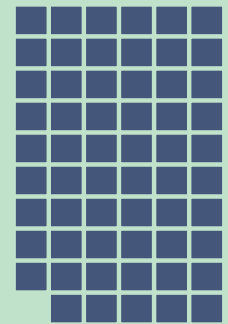
\$100 BILLION

in community health and hospitals annually, including:



More than
\$41 billion

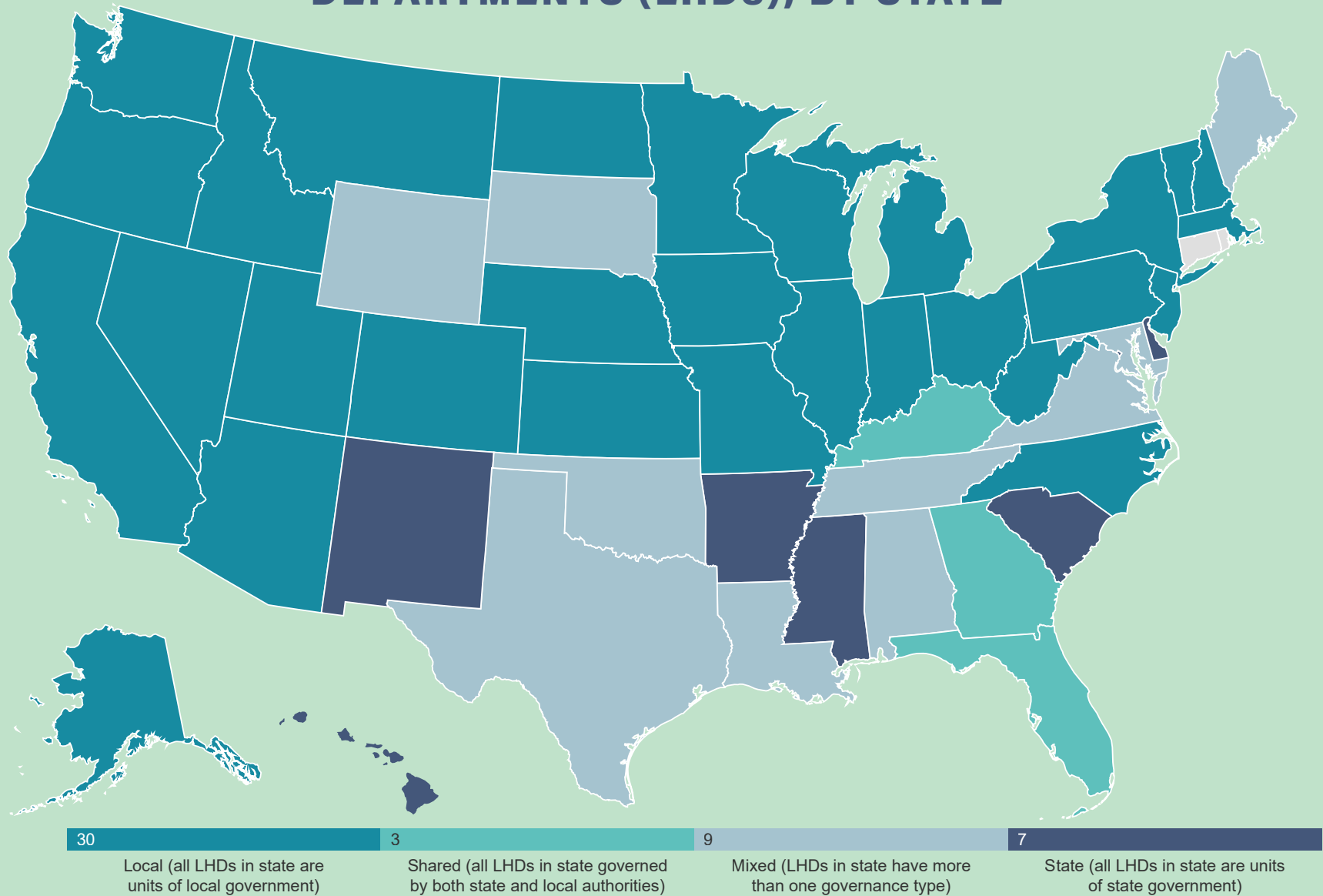
for the provision of community and public health services (other than hospital care) such as mental health and substance abuse programs, county health department inspections, water and air quality regulation and health inspections.



More than
\$59 billion

in operating county-owned hospital facilities, including those operated by public universities and for the provision of inpatient medical care and specialized care.

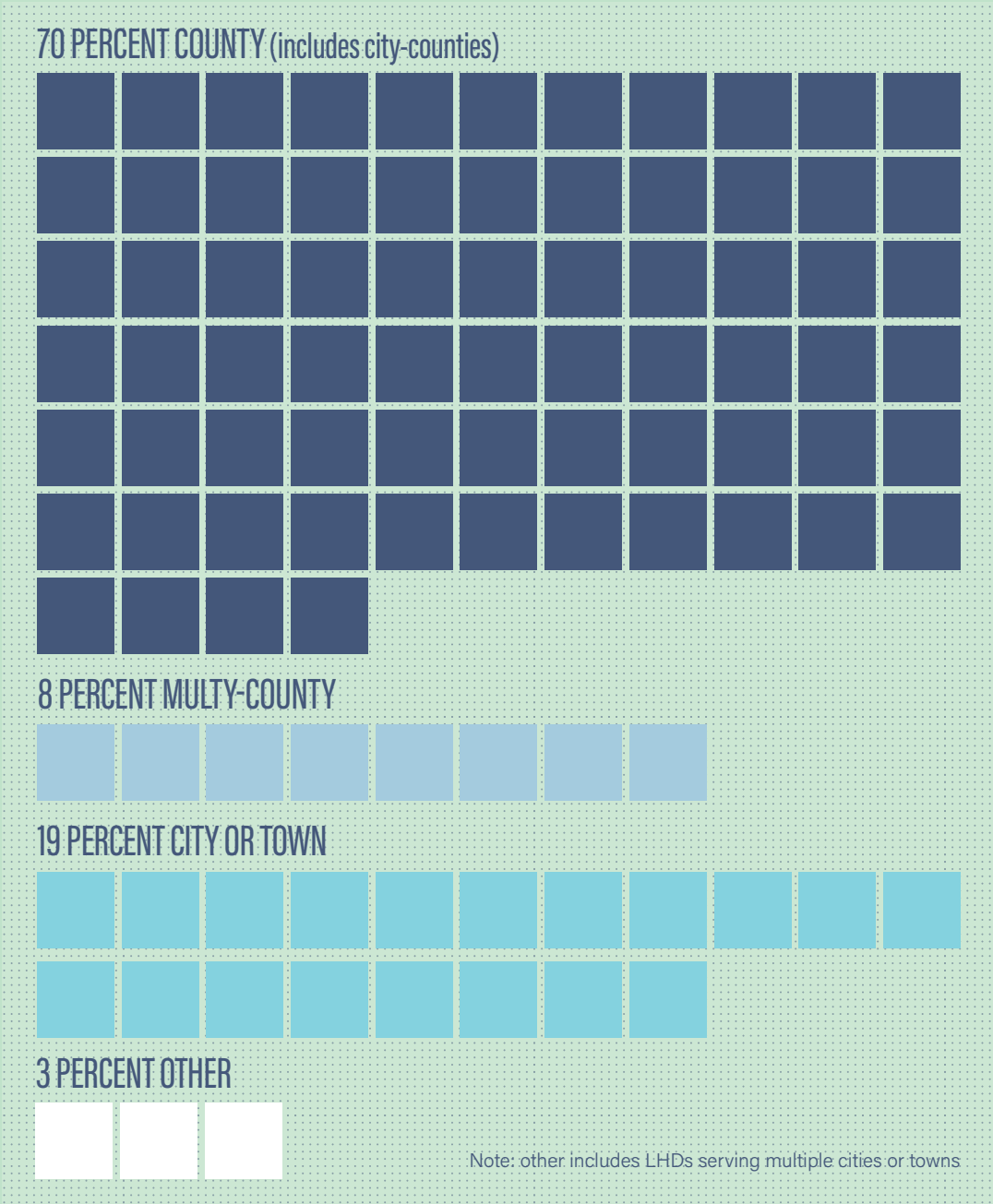
GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (LHDs), BY STATE



The jurisdiction and governance of local health departments (LHDs) by state.

Source: The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) - National Profile of Local Health Departments (Profile) Study, 2019.

GEOGRAPHIC JURISDICTIONS SERVED BY
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (LHDS)



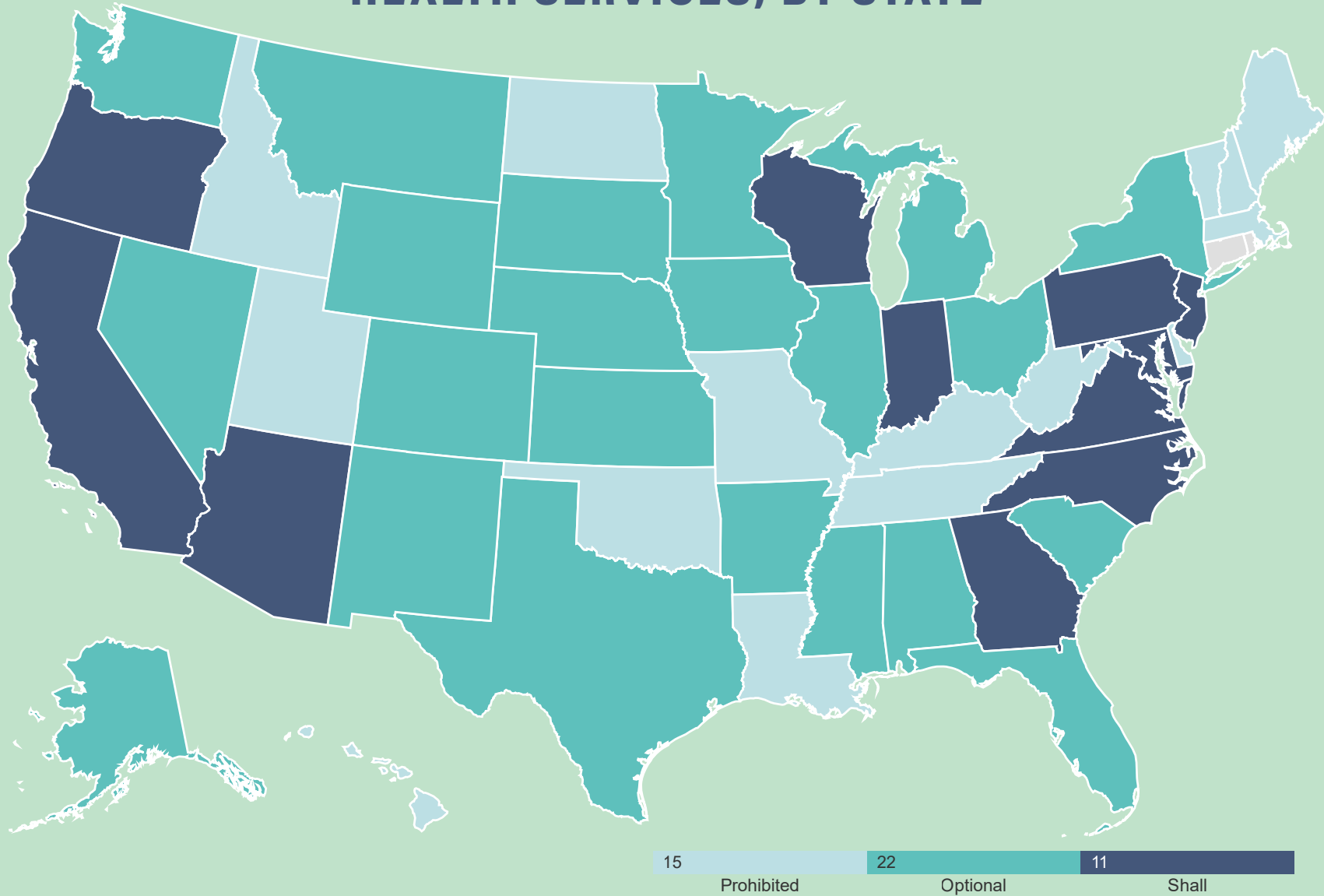
Counties play a critical role in protecting public health through overseeing **more than 1,900** local public health departments.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTION SERVICES TO RESIDENTS, such as conducting screenings and administering immunizations to ensure the community's well-being.

Additionally, **COUNTY LHDS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS TO DETECT AND MONITOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES** and safeguard the food and water supply. They also take proactive measures to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other public health emergencies.

APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (LHDS) ARE COUNTY-BASED, AND AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT PERCENT SERVE MULTIPLE COUNTIES.

COUNTY ROLE IN PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, BY STATE



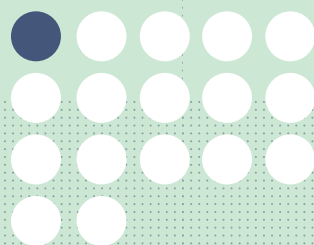
The responsibilities and contributions of counties within a state in delivering mental health services. Mental health services encompass a range of healthcare interventions aimed at promoting and enhancing individuals' mental and emotional well-being, encompassing the diagnosis, treatment, and support for mental illnesses. Source: NACo Research 2023.

AMERICA'S 3,069 COUNTIES ARE INTEGRAL
TO THE NATION'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM.



1 IN 4 ADULTS IN THE U.S.
EXPERIENCE A **MENTAL
ILLNESS.**

**NEARLY ONE
HALF DID
NOT RECEIVE
TREATMENT IN
2022.**



1 IN 17 ADULTS IN THE U.S.
EXPERIENCE A **SERIOUS
MENTAL ILLNESS.**

**OVER ONE THIRD
DID NOT RECEIVE
TREATMENT IN
2022.**



NEARLY 1 IN 8 ADULTS
IN THE U.S. EXPERIENCE
A **SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER.**

**APPROXIMATELY 95
PERCENT DID NOT
FEEL THEY NEEDED
TREATMENT AND
FIVE PERCENT FELT
THAT THEY NEEDED
TREATMENT.**

Adults = individuals aged 18 or older



In 2022,

**21.5
MILLION**

adults had **A
SUBSTANCE
USE DISORDER
WITH ANY
MENTAL
ILLNESS.**

**IN 40 STATES PLUS THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,**

there is at least one mental health
facility operated by a regional/
district authority or county, local or
municipal government.

**ACROSS 48 STATES PLUS
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,**

there is at least one mental health
facility that accepts county or local
government funds as a source
of payment for mental health
treatment services.

**EIGHTY-NINE
(89) PERCENT** OF
COUNTIES ARE
DESIGNATED AS
WHOLLY WITHIN A
MENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL
SHORTAGE AREA
ACCORDING TO
THE RURAL
HEALTH
INFORMATION HUB

Counties plan and operate
community-based services
for persons with mental
illnesses and substance
use conditions through **750
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
AUTHORITIES** and
community providers.



America's **3,069
counties**

are integral to the
nation's behavioral
health system.



In 33 states, counties are actively engaged
in delivering traditional mental health services to
residents. In more than half of these states (18),
counties have significant involvement in health and
human services.



**CREATE
PROSPEROUS
COMMUNITIES**



County governments are collectively one of the largest employers in the nation, employing

3.6
MILLION

Americans



Nationally, the unemployment rate is

3.7
PERCENT

as of January, 2024



Counties collectively invest

\$103
BILLION

annually to support the public education system



IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES, COUNTIES ARE PRIORITIZING THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS AND CONSTRUCTING A FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINED RESILIENCY

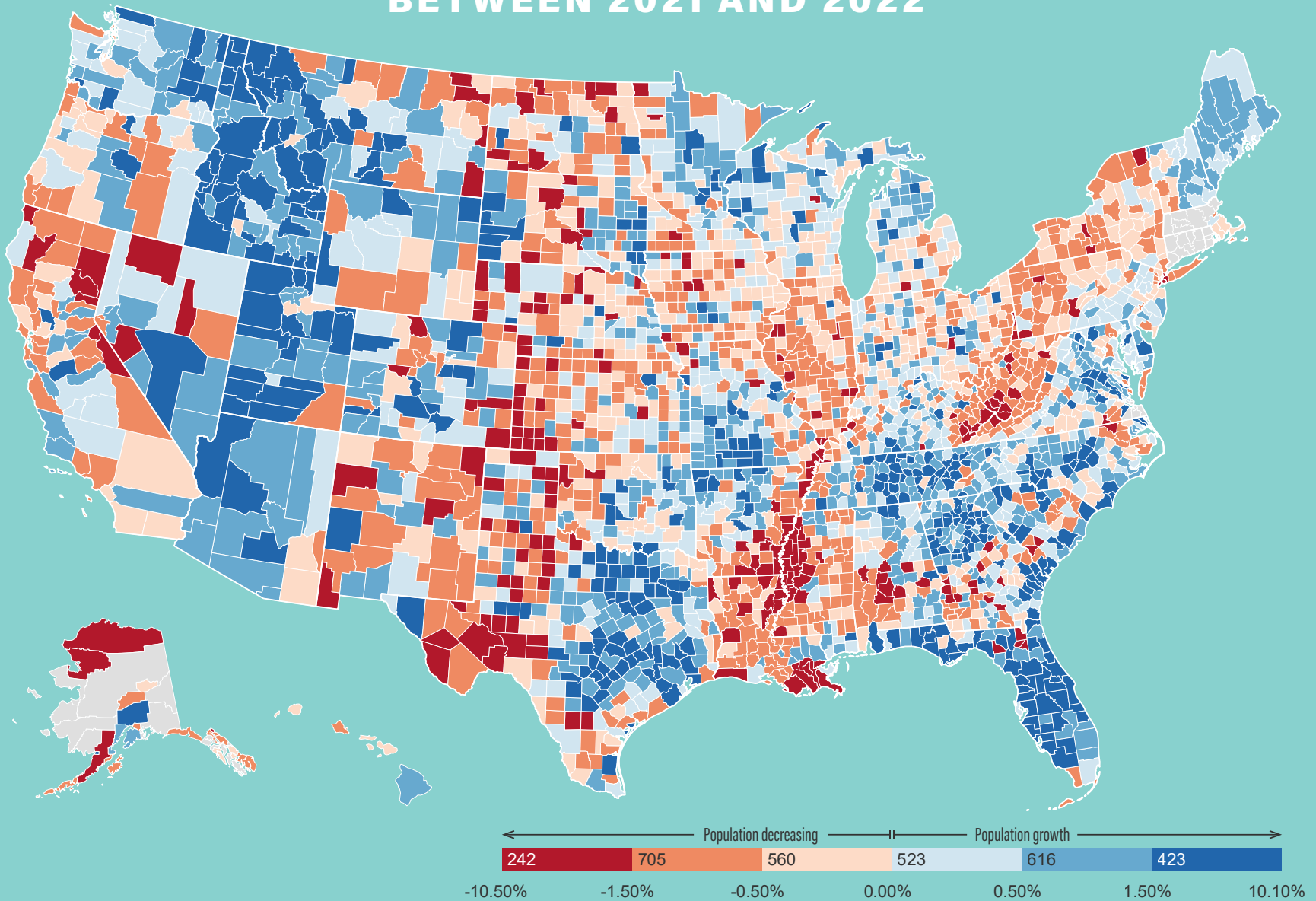


COUNTY LEADERS ARE LEVERAGING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT'S (ARPA) STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND TO BOLSTER THE LOCAL WORKFORCE



COUNTY LEADERS DIRECTLY FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICY AND SERVICES WHICH HAVE TANGIBLE RAMIFICATIONS IN THE LIVES OF RESIDENTS

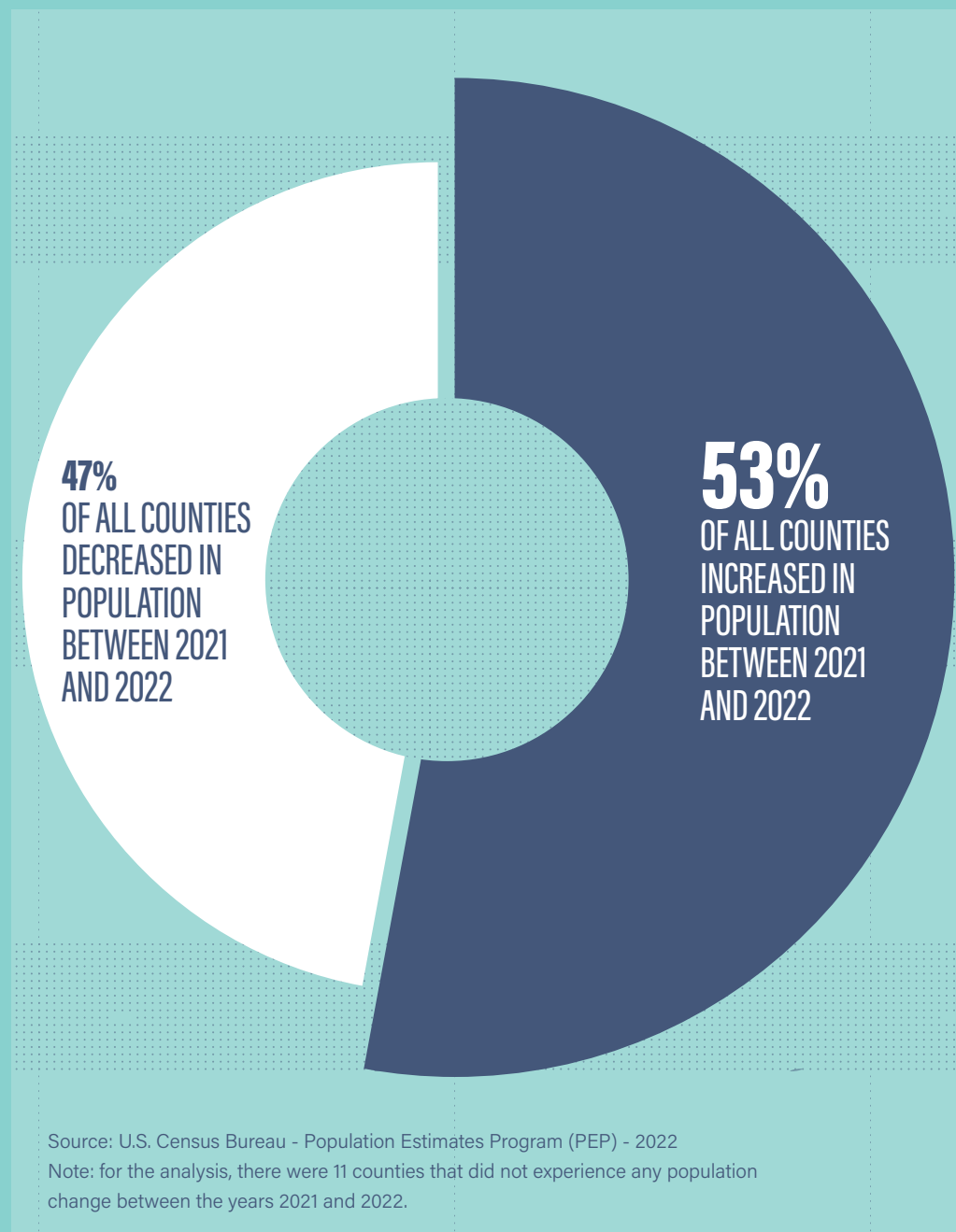
PERCENT CHANGE IN COUNTY POPULATION BETWEEN 2021 AND 2022



The relative change in the size of the county's population between 2021 and 2022 expressed as a percentage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Population Estimates Program (PEP) - 2022.

COUNTY POPULATIONS CHANGED BETWEEN 2021 AND 2022



THE FASTEST-GROWING COUNTIES

Between 2021 and 2022, Southern and Western counties experienced the most substantial gains.

10.1%
WHITMAN COUNTY,
WASH.

8.9%
KAUFMAN
COUNTY,
TEXAS

8.5%
SAN JUAN
COUNTY,
COLO.

America's

3,069
counties are diversifying and
evolving

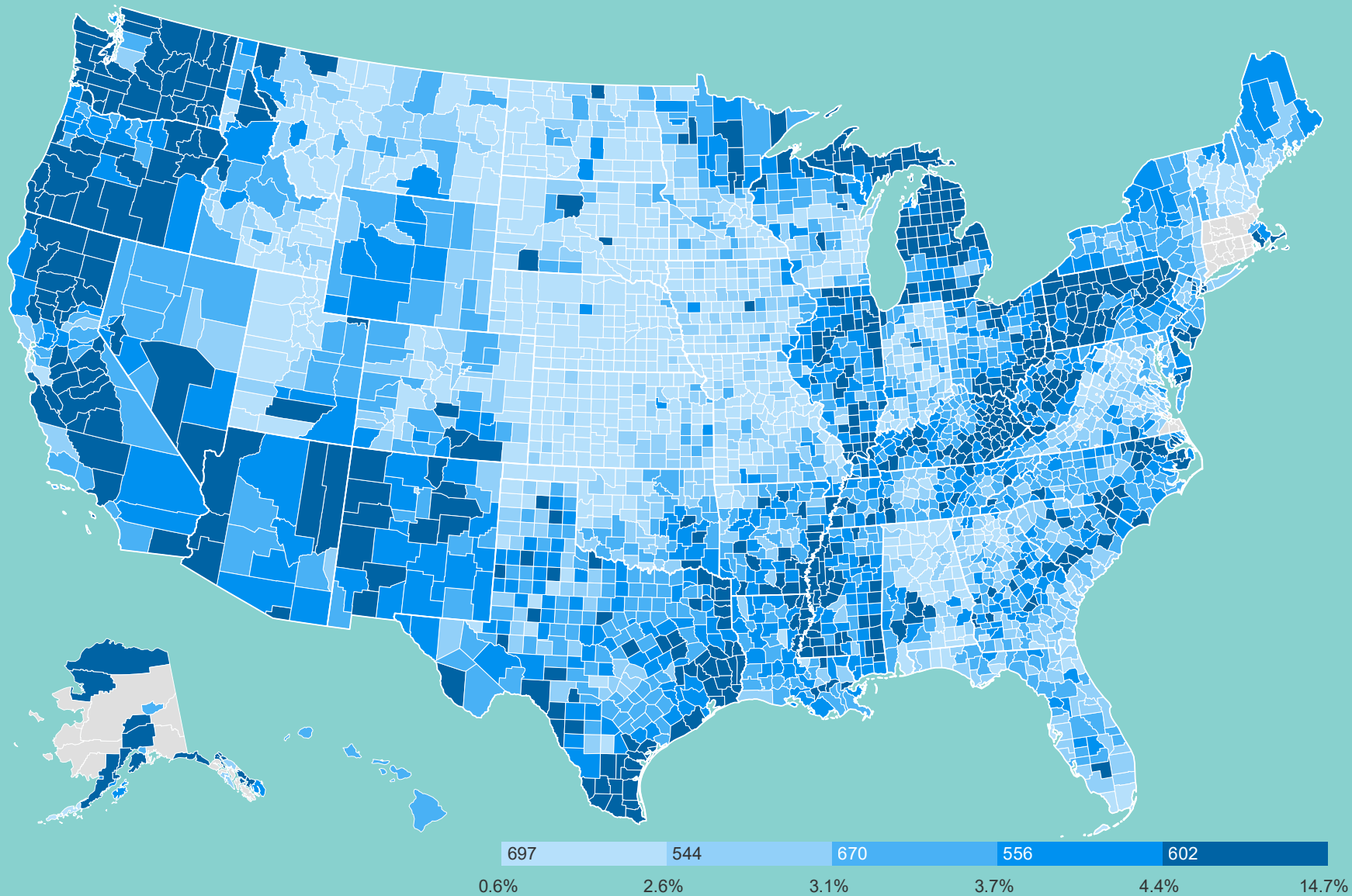


Racial and ethnic demographic makeups of counties are shifting.

In 2020, **375 counties** were majority people of color — an increase from the 2010 baseline of **317 counties**.

People of color encompasses those identifying as Hispanic, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

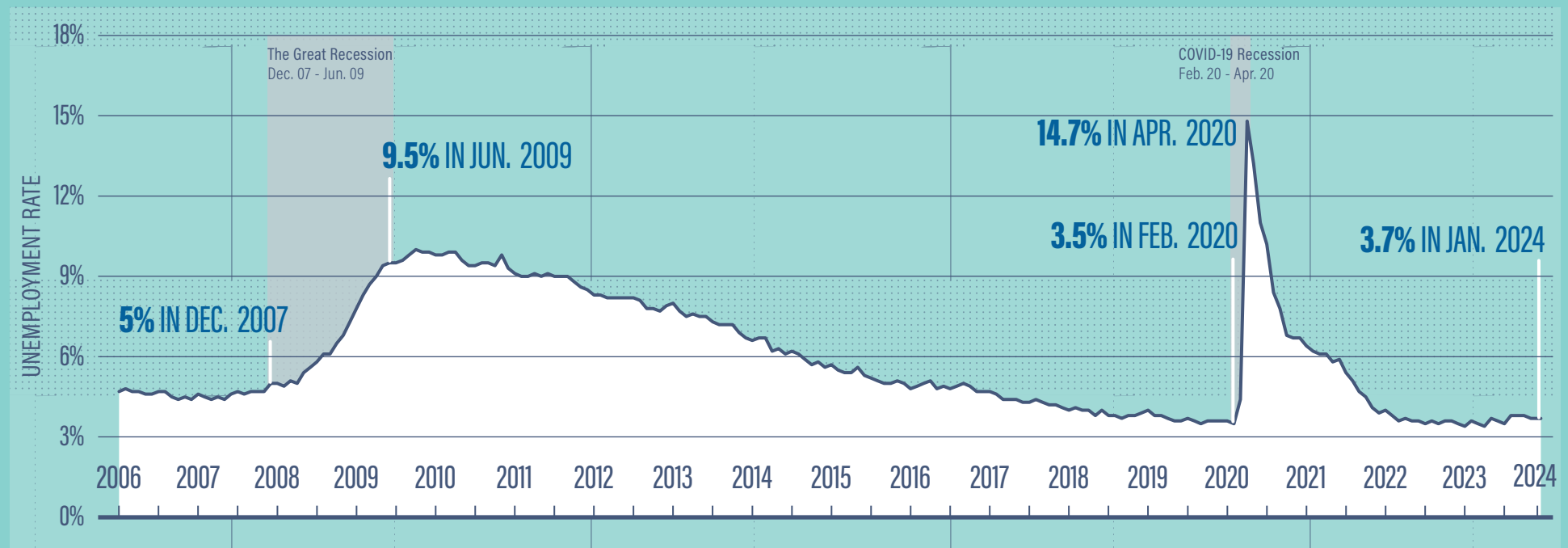
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY



Number of persons unemployed as a percent of the labor force. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), 2022.

During the Great Recession, local communities faced rising unemployment, **but the COVID-19 pandemic hit even harder, with the rate peaking at 14.7 percent.** It underscored the urgent need for recovery and the profound impact on local economies.

NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FROM JANUARY 2006 TO JANUARY 2024



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS are part of the state and local structure that oversees the implementation of workforce programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. County governments play an essential role in determining the membership of the WDBs, which include representatives of local businesses (who must be the majority of the board), representatives of the workforce community and representatives of education and training.

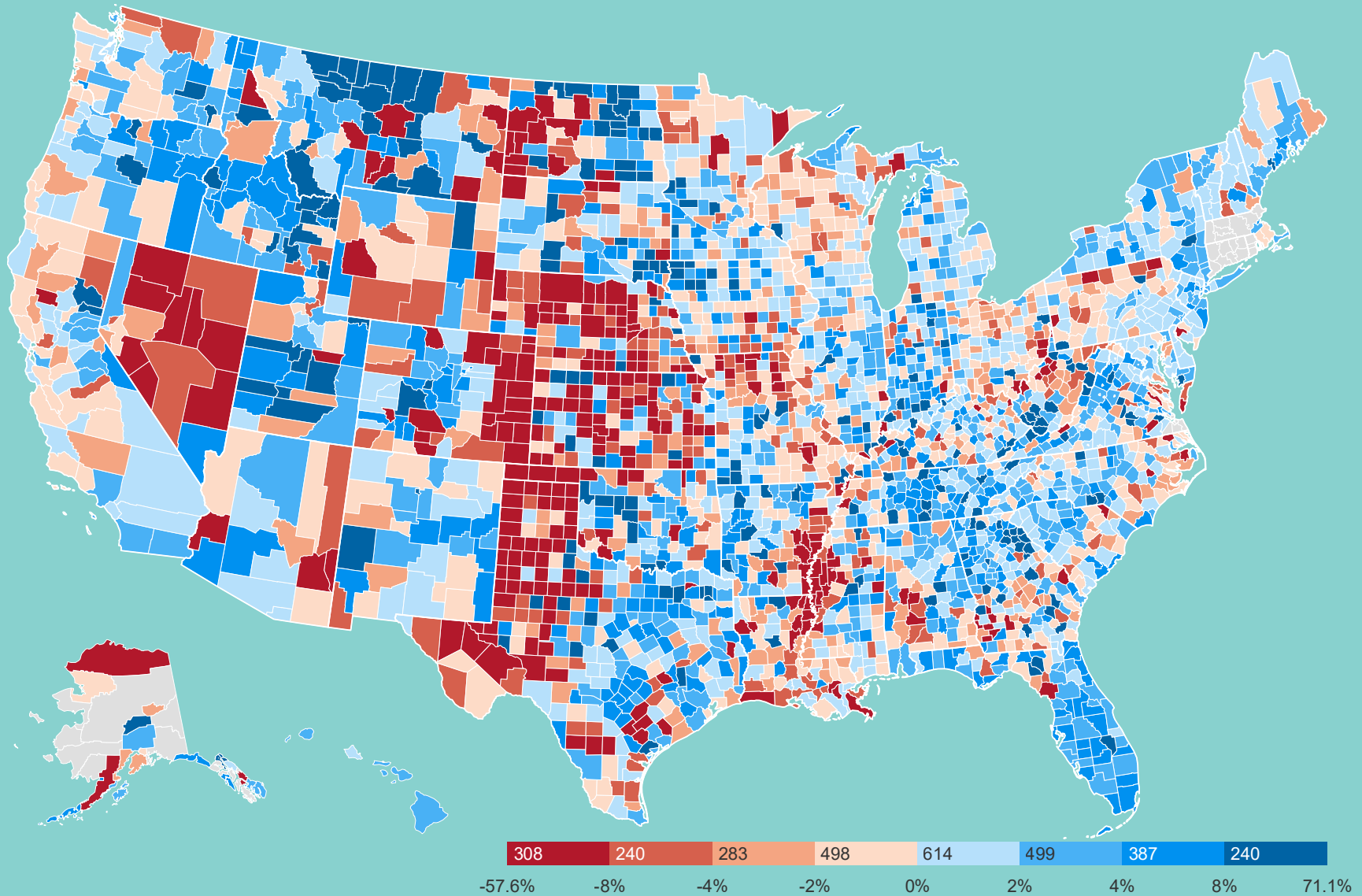


COUNTIES ACT AS CRITICAL CONVENERS, forging meaningful connections between workers, employers, community colleges, workforce organizations and other local stakeholders to thread the needle on workforce concerns unique to each community.

COUNTY LEADERS IMPLEMENT LOCAL POLICIES THAT ELEVATE RECOVERY EFFORTS AND ESTABLISH LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS FOR RESIDENTS.

COUNTIES ARE VITAL IN SUPPORTING LABOR MARKET RECOVERY AND PREPAREDNESS

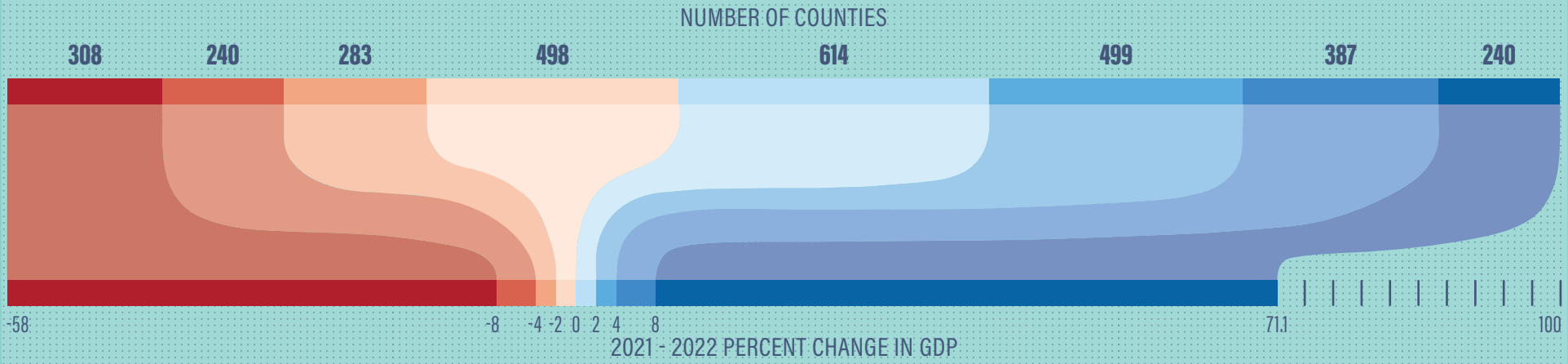
CHANGE IN COUNTY GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) BETWEEN 2021 AND 2022



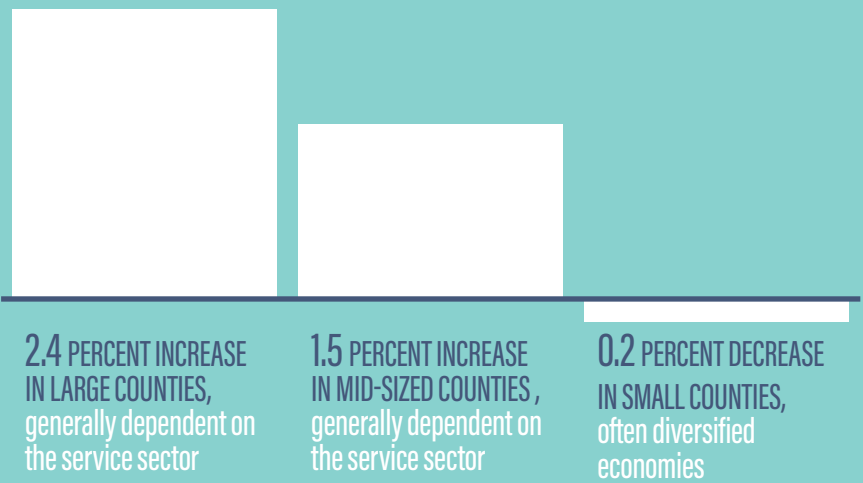
The percentage change in real GDP between 2021 and 2022. Source: Department of Commerce / Bureau of Economic Analysis / Regional Economic Accounts / Gross Domestic Product Data by County, 2022.

Economic output increased in 57 percent of counties between 2021 and 2022, showing a decrease from the 79 percent of counties observed in the previous year (2020 - 2021). A vital indicator, economic output (also known as GDP), is often used to measure productivity in the local economy, estimating the total value of goods and services produced.

COUNTY-LEVEL CHANGE IN GDP



GDP PERCENT CHANGE BY COUNTY SIZE, 2021-2022

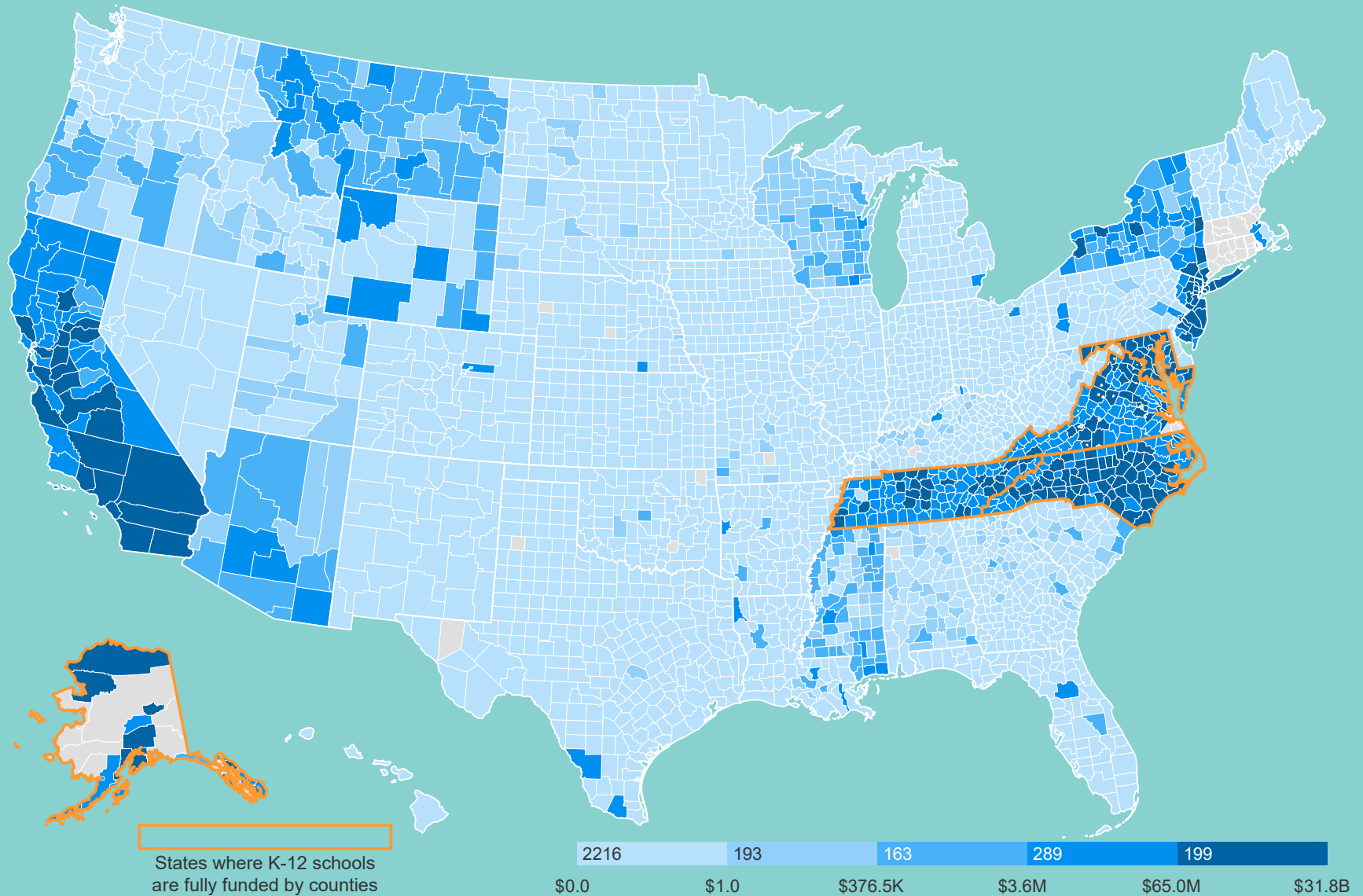


Between 2021 and 2022, economic output across all counties increased by **1.9 percent**, with the service-producing sector driving the growth.

COUNTY OFFICIALS ACTIVELY PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH by attracting and retaining businesses, providing assistance to businesses for recovery, fostering entrepreneurship within the community and engaging in partnerships that drive economic growth.

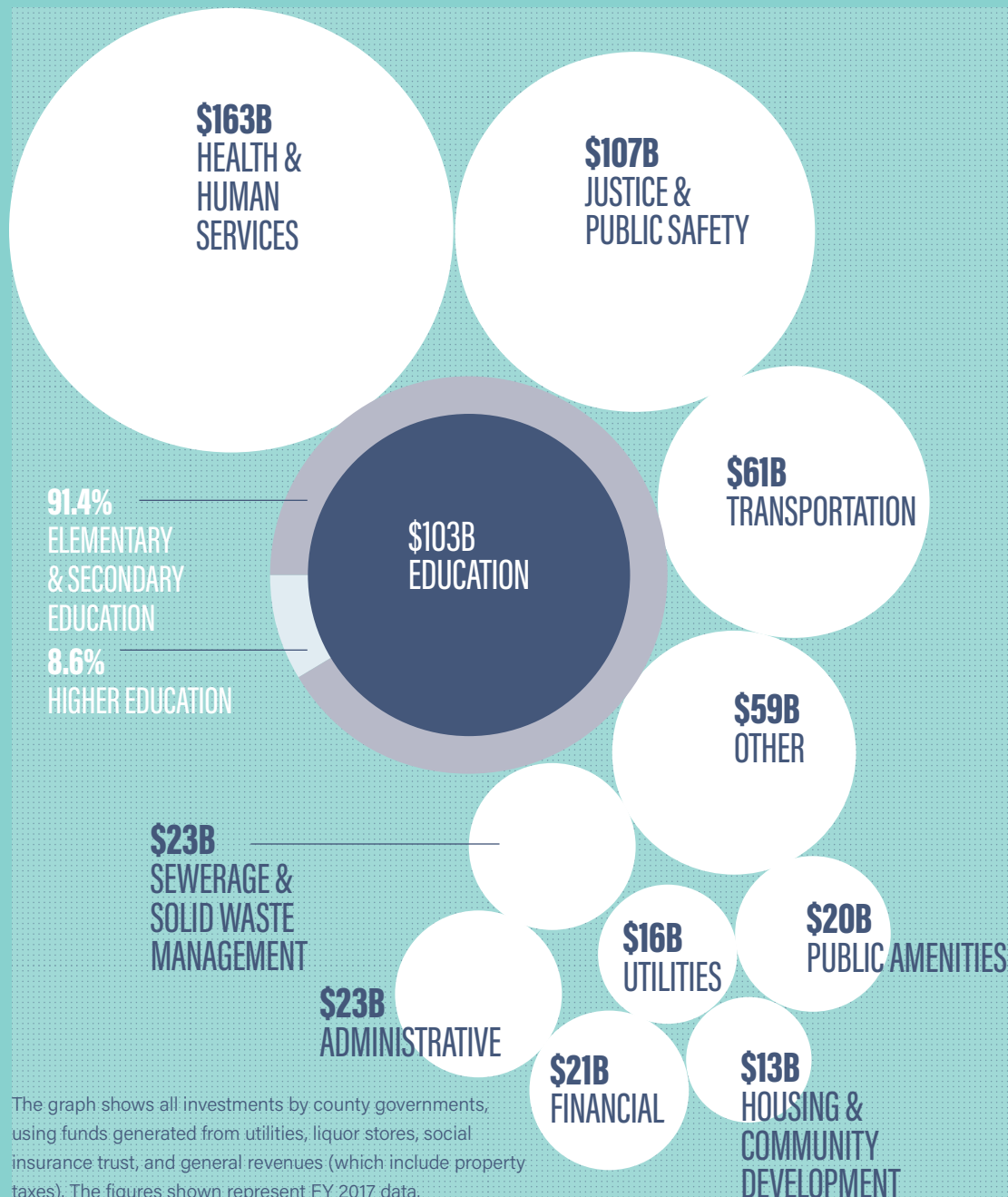
LOCAL COMMUNITIES RELY ON COUNTIES TO CREATE ECONOMIES THAT THRIVE AND GROW

COUNTY EDUCATION INVESTMENTS



Total county education investments, including elementary and secondary education, higher education, current operations, construction, other capital outlay and intergovernmental transfers. Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments: Finance, 2017.

ANNUAL COUNTY INVESTMENTS USING ALL REVENUE SOURCES



County property taxes provide the primary source of funding for public schools.

Counties levy and collect property taxes while most often the states distribute the education funds to school districts. In five states, counties directly administer education funds.* Even in states where counties are not responsible for overseeing school districts, county governments share a tax base with those school districts and often provide complementary services to participating children.

*States where K-12 schools are directly funded by counties include: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Alaska.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted education systems across the nation. Through the ARPA Recovery Fund, counties are supporting programs for children in disproportionately impacted communities.

Counties are also creating opportunities through partnerships with Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools, as well as administering continuing

education and workforce development programs.

CTE programs provide students with academic and technical skills, and knowledge and training to be competitors in the job market. Similarly, county-administered continuing education and workforce development programs enhance knowledge and skills in a particular area leading to a license or credential.

Counties support the public education system through various mechanisms, including an annual investment of

\$103 BILLION



**FOSTER
SAFE AND
VIBRANT
COMMUNITIES**



COUNTIES INVEST \$12 BILLION ANNUALLY
IN LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES



**COUNTIES INVEST \$107
BILLION** ANNUALLY IN
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

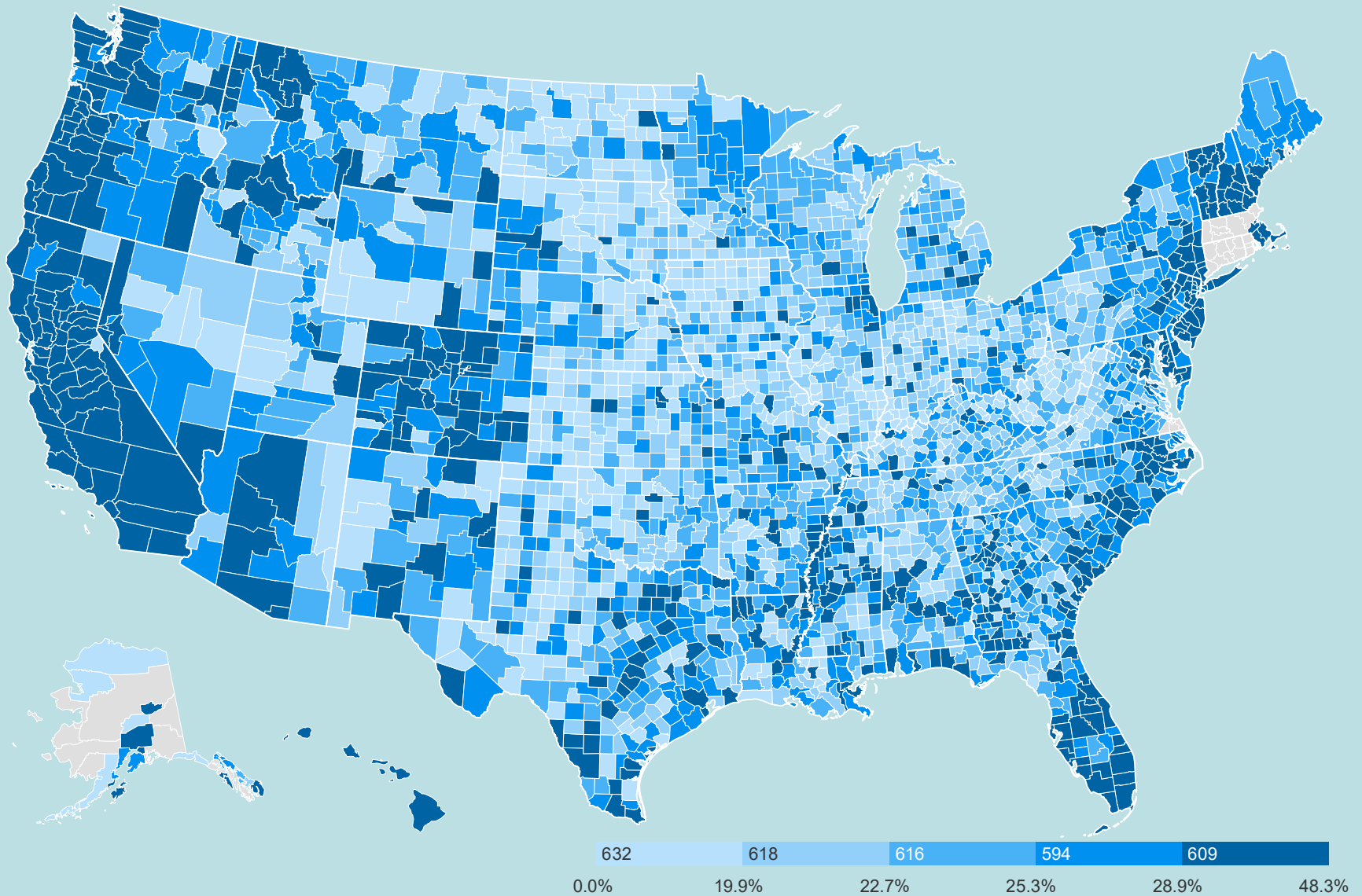


COUNTIES IN ALL 48 STATES WITH COUNTY
GOVERNMENTS AND THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA OPERATE, MANAGE AND FUND
OUR OWN **PUBLIC-SAFETY ANSWERING
POINTS**, OFTEN MANDATED BY THE STATE



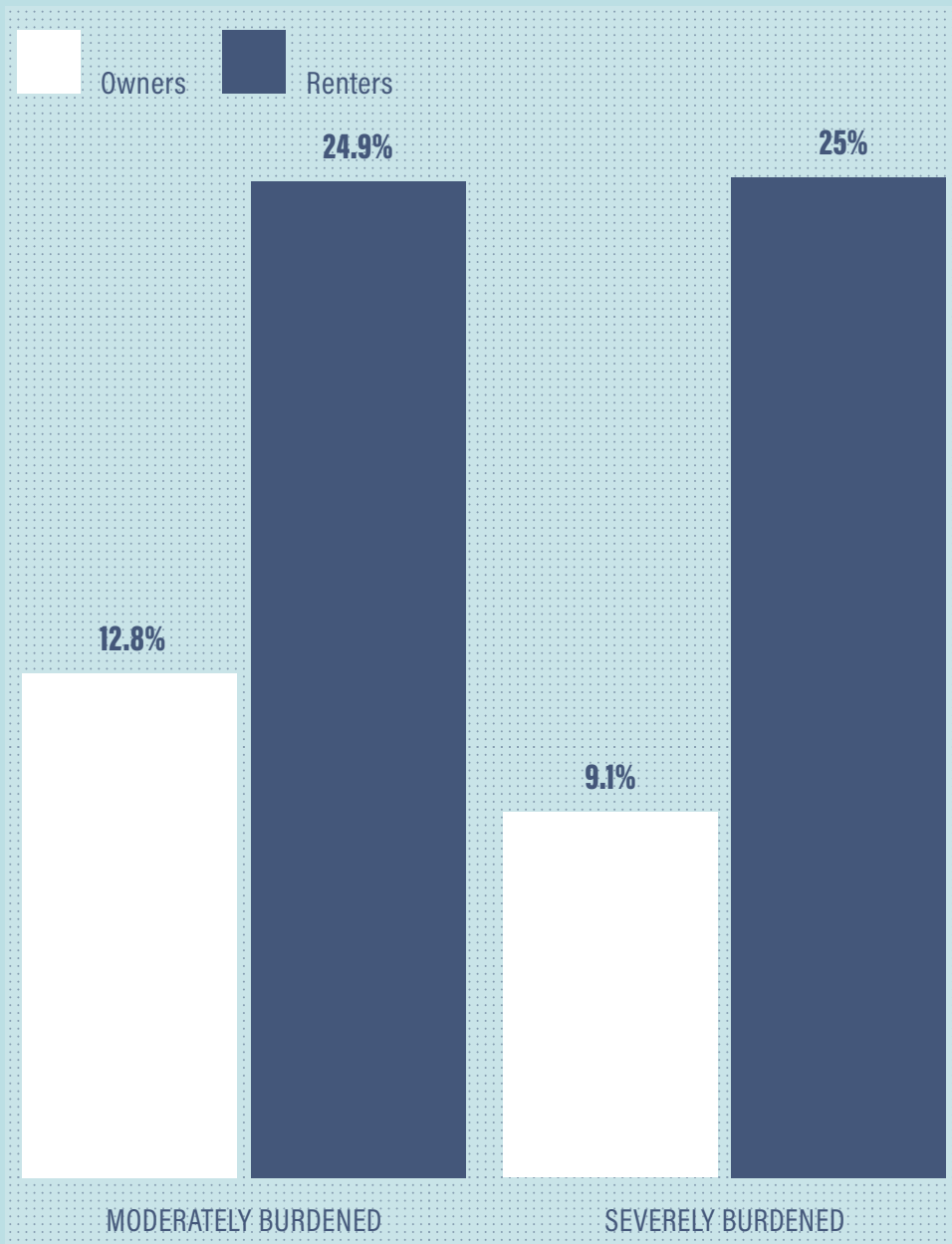
**COUNTIES INVEST \$12.8
BILLION** ANNUALLY IN
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS COUNTIES

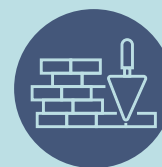


The share of households (owners and renters) that spent 30 percent or more of their household income on housing costs. Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 2018-2022 (Tables DP04, B25091 and B25070).

SHARE OF COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS COUNTIES, 2021



As of the fourth quarter of 2020, **THE U.S. HAD A HOUSING SUPPLY DEFICIT OF 3.8 MILLION UNITS.** These 3.8 million units are needed to not only meet the demand from the growing number of households but also to maintain a target vacancy rate of 13 percent.



Counties are housing stakeholders, investing **\$12.8 billion** annually in the construction, operation and support of housing and redevelopment projects.

HOUSING COST BURDENS AFFECT BOTH RENTER AND OWNER HOUSEHOLDS AS WELL AS HOUSEHOLDS OF ALL INCOME LEVELS



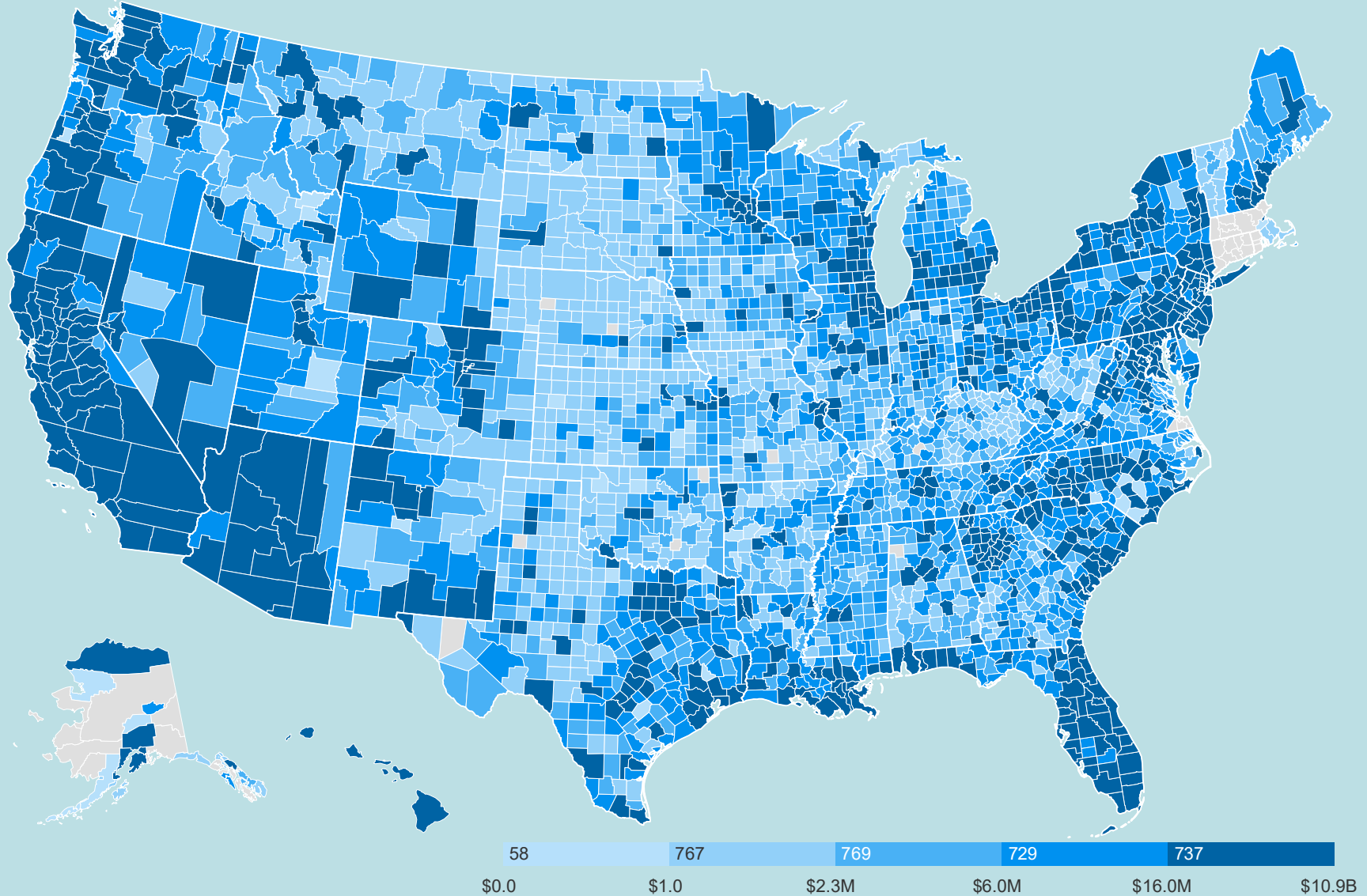
In 2022, **HALF OF RENTERS (19.7 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS) AND OVER ONE FIFTH OF HOMEOWNERS (17.1 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS)** in counties were cost-burdened – spending more than **30 percent** of their incomes on housing.

Counties are key players in community planning, land use, zoning and enacting policies and other regulations that affect housing.

Housing challenges are a longstanding issue. High housing costs are placing great financial stress on individuals and families.

The pandemic highlighted and amplified the existing gaps and challenges in the housing system and counties are investing in solutions to help residents across the nation.

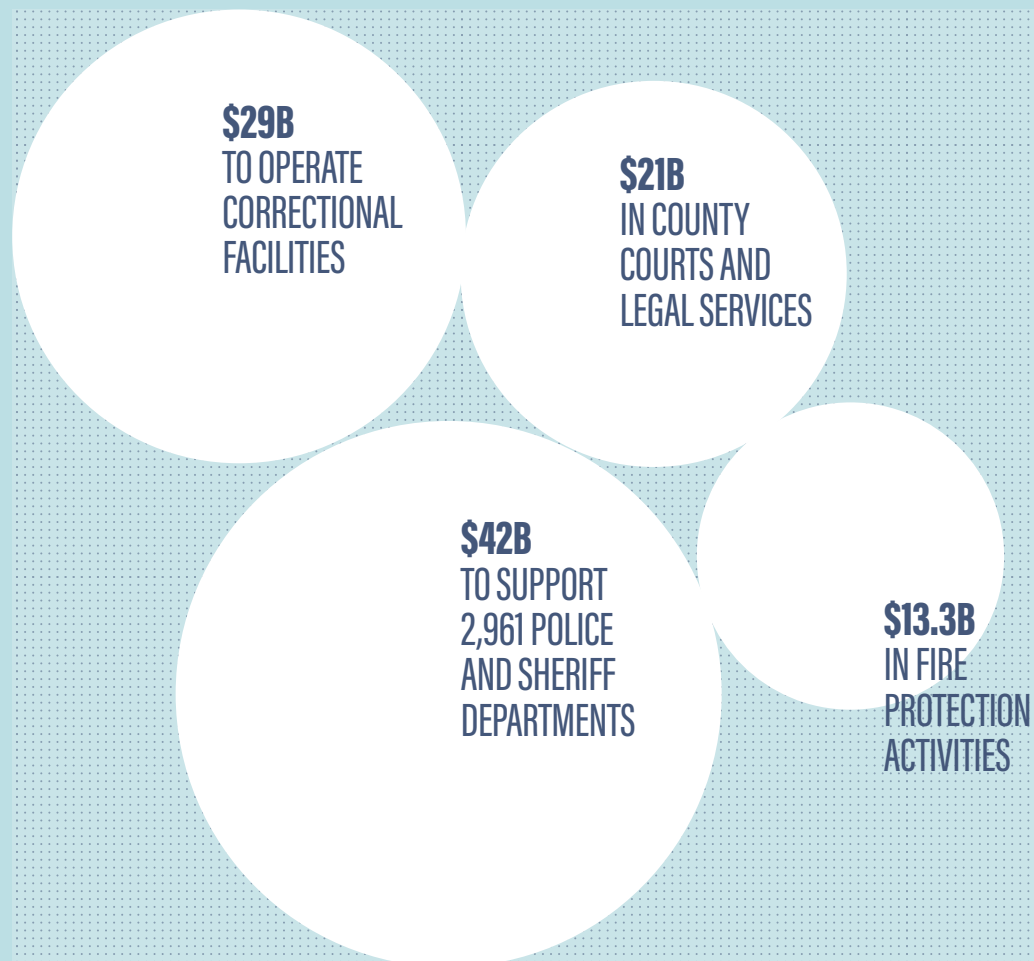
COUNTY JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTMENTS



Justice and public safety expenditures by county. These include correctional facilities, judicial and legal services, police and fire protection, protective inspection, current operations, construction, other capital outlay and intergovernmental transfers. Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments: Finance, 2017.

Counties play a major role in two distinct areas of justice and public safety: **emergency response and preparedness, and the criminal justice system.**

COUNTIES ANNUALLY INVEST:



Counties operate

91%
of local jails.



Counties are the backbone of the public safety system, operating **91 percent** of local jails, which processed **7.3 million** admissions in 2022.

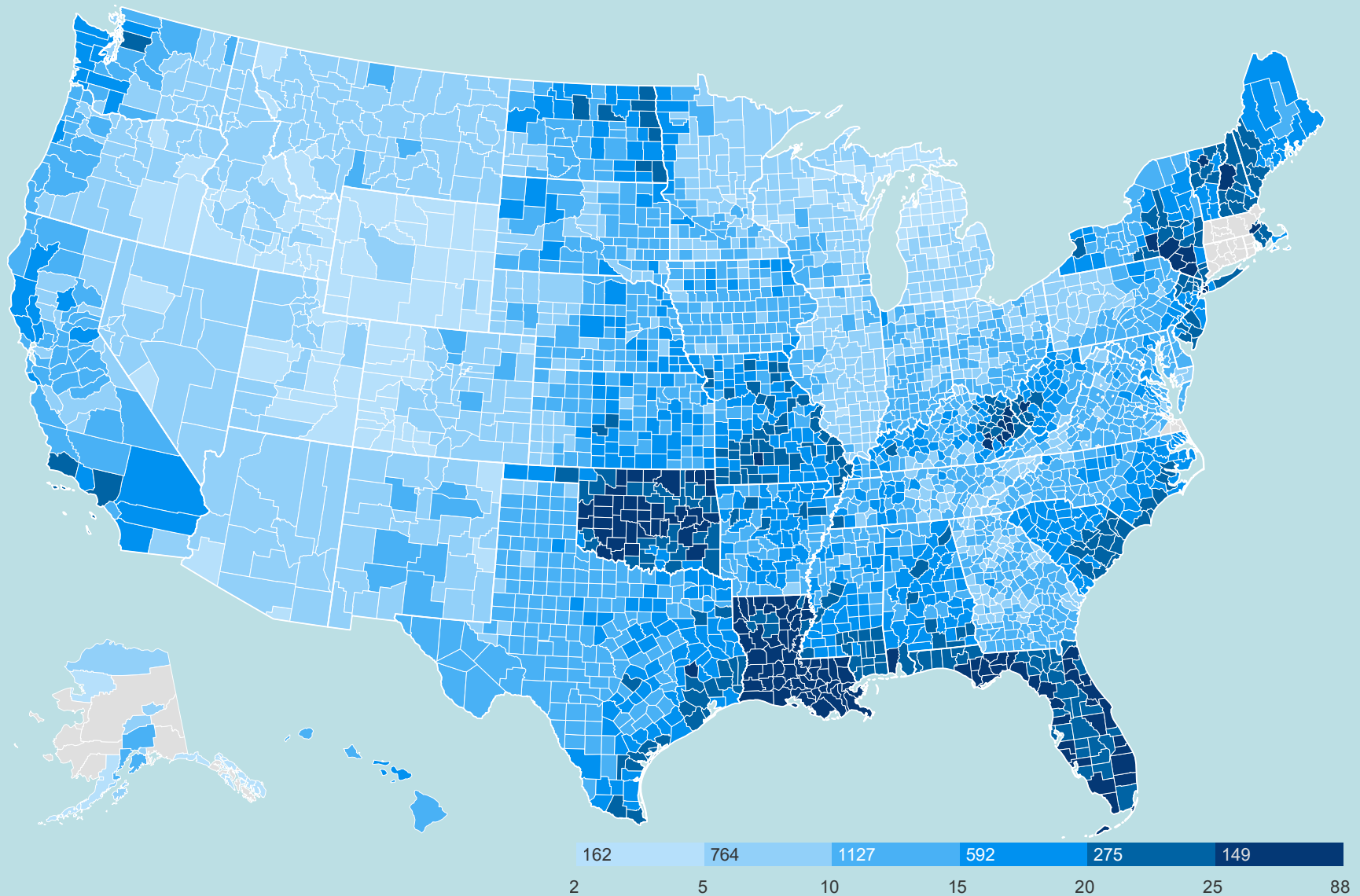
Public safety is a top priority for county residents. County elected officials influence the criminal justice system by passing ordinances, establishing policies, selecting program administrators and staff and making crucial funding decisions that directly and indirectly impact the system.

COUNTIES ARE THE FIRST LINE OF RESPONSE IN AN EMERGENCY. All county governments operate, manage and fund our own PSAPs, often referred to as 911 centers.

These answering points function as the vital link between the community and public safety personnel.

COUNTY, STATE, FEDERAL AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MANAGE, FUND AND OPERATE 7,050 PUBLIC-SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS (PSAPS) THROUGHOUT THE NATION

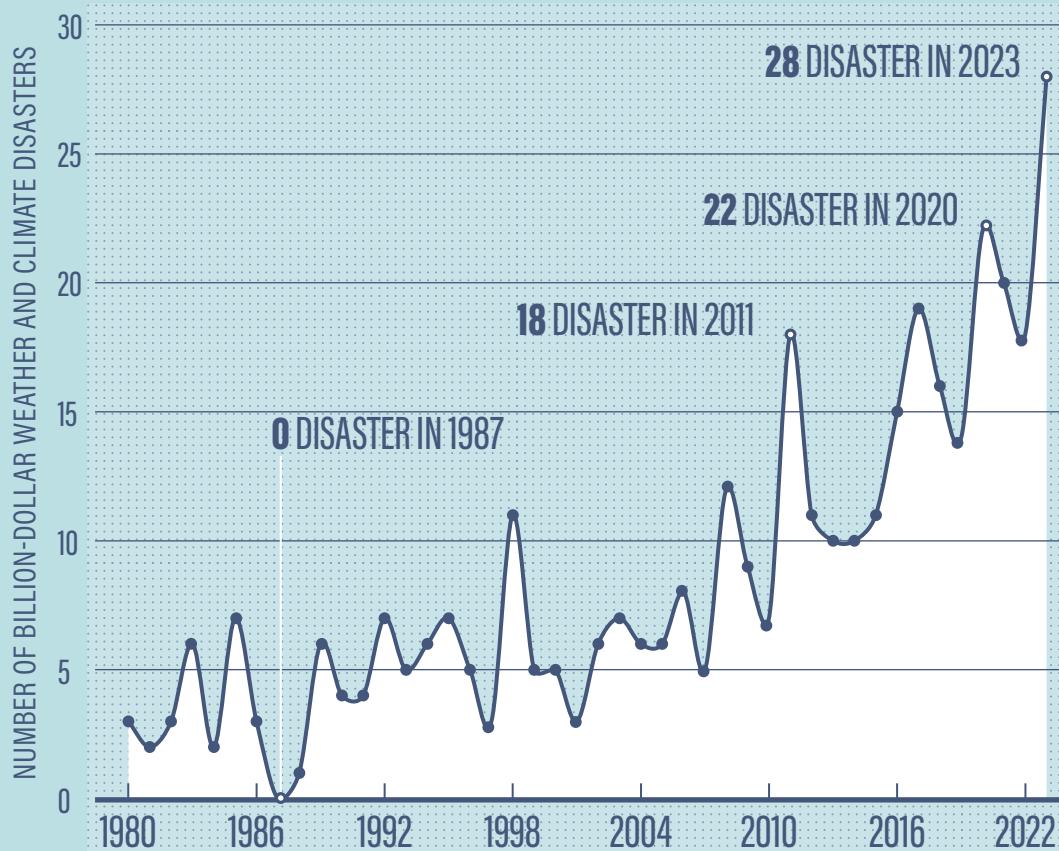
NUMBER OF FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTERS BY COUNTY BETWEEN 2000 AND 2023



The number of disaster declarations authorized by the President, both major disaster declarations and emergency declarations, for incidents affecting a county in 2000-2023. Source: U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency 2000-2023 Disasters data, 2024.

Over the past two decades, natural and man-made disasters have increased in frequency, severity and cost. In 2023, the nation experienced **28 separate billion-dollar disasters**, totaling approximately **\$92.9 billion** in damages.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTERS IN THE U.S. FROM 1980-2023 - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) ADJUSTED



In 2023,

849 counties

experienced at least one federally declared major disaster,

312 counties

had at least one Emergency Declaration and

720 counties

had at least one Disaster Declaration.

AMERICA'S COUNTIES ENGAGE IN ALL ASPECTS AND PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

planning, preparation, mitigation, response and recovery. As the regularity and costs of disasters increase, counties are working hard to protect our residents, property, infrastructure systems and local economies.

Disasters have profound impacts on communities across the United States, highlighting the need for county government leadership and intergovernmental partnerships to ensure local communities are ready to respond when a disaster strikes.



Counties often designate housing stock to support temporary housing for residents, non-local volunteers and federal employees.

77%

OF COUNTIES HAVE PRE-DESIGNATED SHELTERS FOR DISASTER EVACUEES, AS OF 2018

A soldier in camouflage gear is shown from the back, saluting with their right hand. The soldier is wearing a helmet and a tactical vest. The background is a bright sunset or sunrise over a horizon. The text "OUR NATION'S VETERANS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Nearly

17
MILLION

veterans live in U.S. counties,
comprising **7 PERCENT OF
COUNTY RESIDENTS**

\$256
BILLION

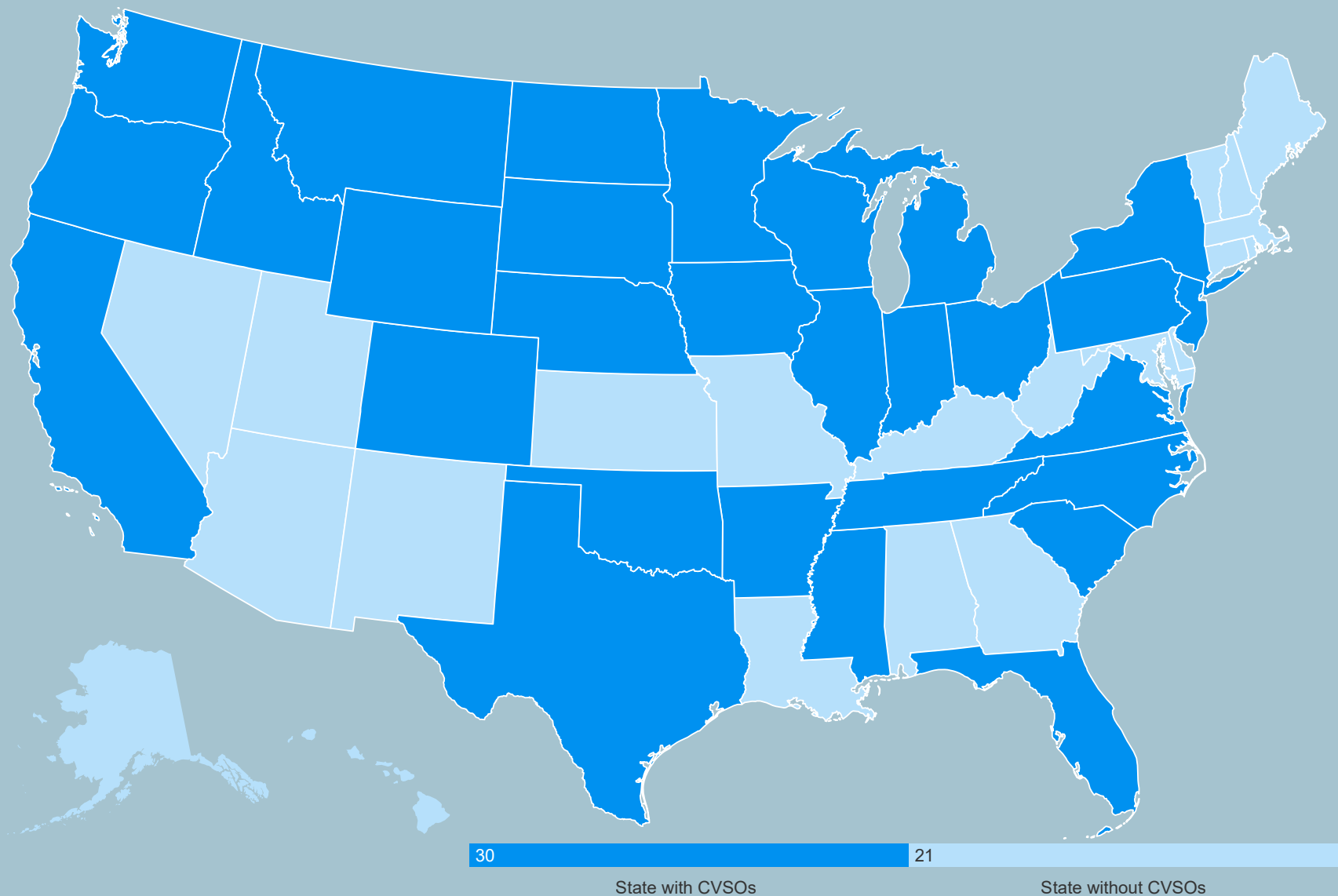
in federal dollars distributed
to veterans in counties across
the nation in FY 2022

County Veteran Service
Officers (CVSOs) operate in

29
STATES

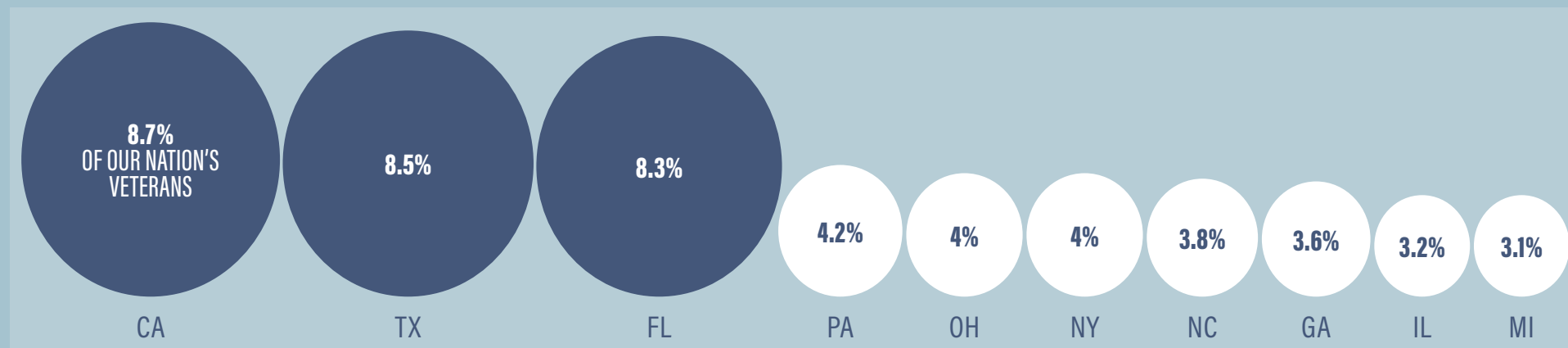
and the District of
Columbia, and are
responsible for helping
veterans access federal
benefits

COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (CVSOS) BY STATE



Indicates whether a state (including the District of Columbia) has or does not have at least one county which funds or employs Veteran Service Officers (VSOs). Source: National Association of Counties research, 2023.

THE 10 STATES WITH THE HIGHEST SHARE OF THE VETERAN POPULATION, 2021



Over half of the 16.8 million veterans reside in the ten states shown above. **The three states with over one million veterans each — California, Texas and Florida — have CVSOs to help veterans access services.**



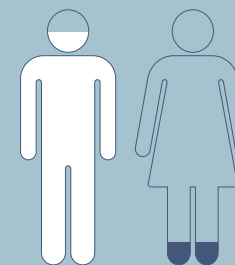
COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (CVSOS) HELP VETERANS ACCESS A RANGE OF SERVICE-CONNECTED FEDERAL BENEFITS. These federal benefits include health care, disability, pension, compensation and transition assistance programs.



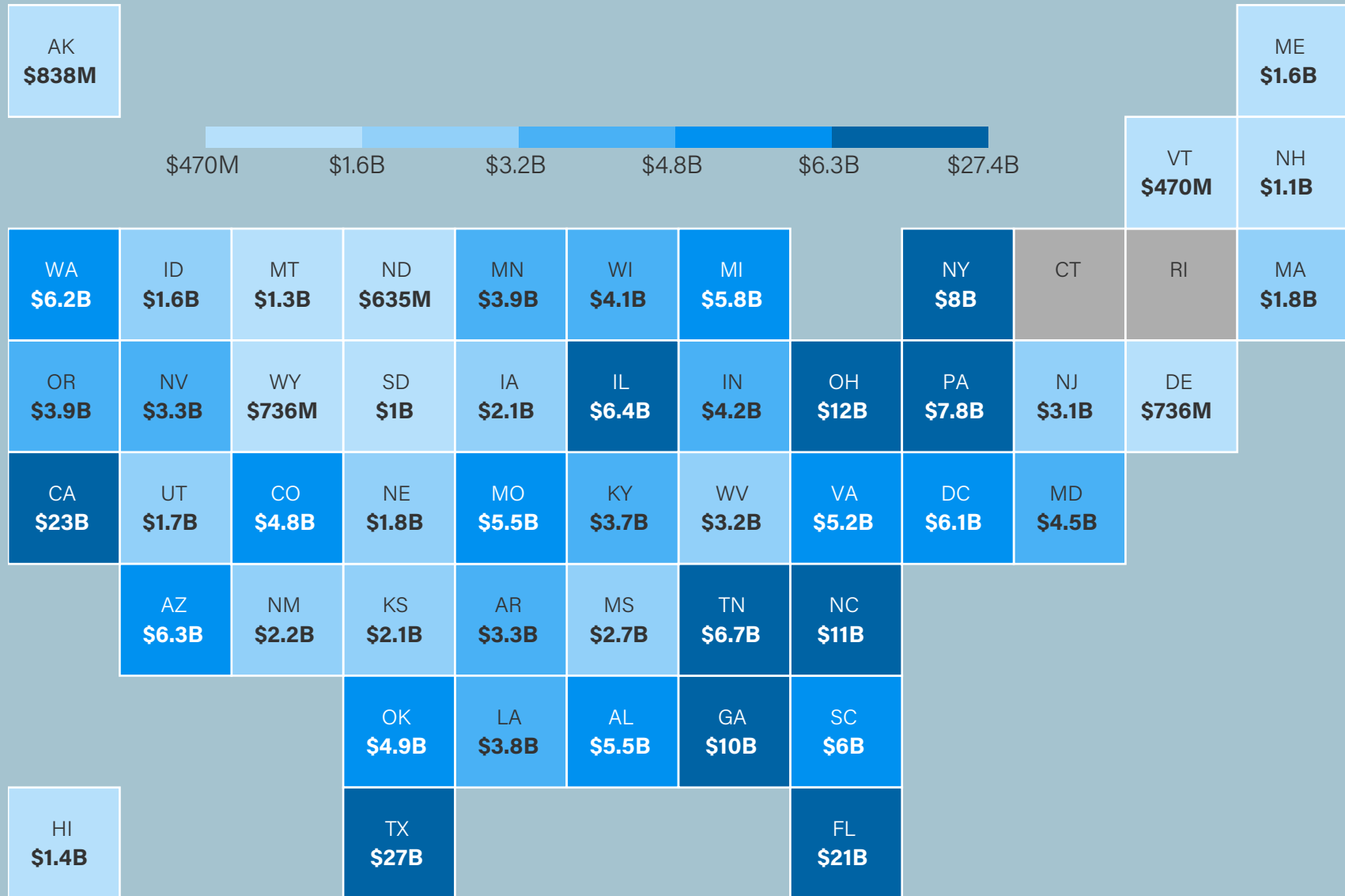
Veterans have attained high levels of schooling. Among veterans 25 years and older, over two-thirds completed at least some post-secondary education, and nearly **30 percent** completed a bachelor's degree.

THOUGH CVSOS' PRIMARY FOCUS IS HELPING VETERANS NAVIGATE THE FEDERAL BENEFITS SYSTEM, THESE OFFICES ARE CURRENTLY FUNDED ALMOST ENTIRELY BY COUNTIES

Though the veteran population is predominantly male (91 percent), women make up a growing share, about 9 percent. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the percentage of female veterans will increase to 17 percent by 2040.

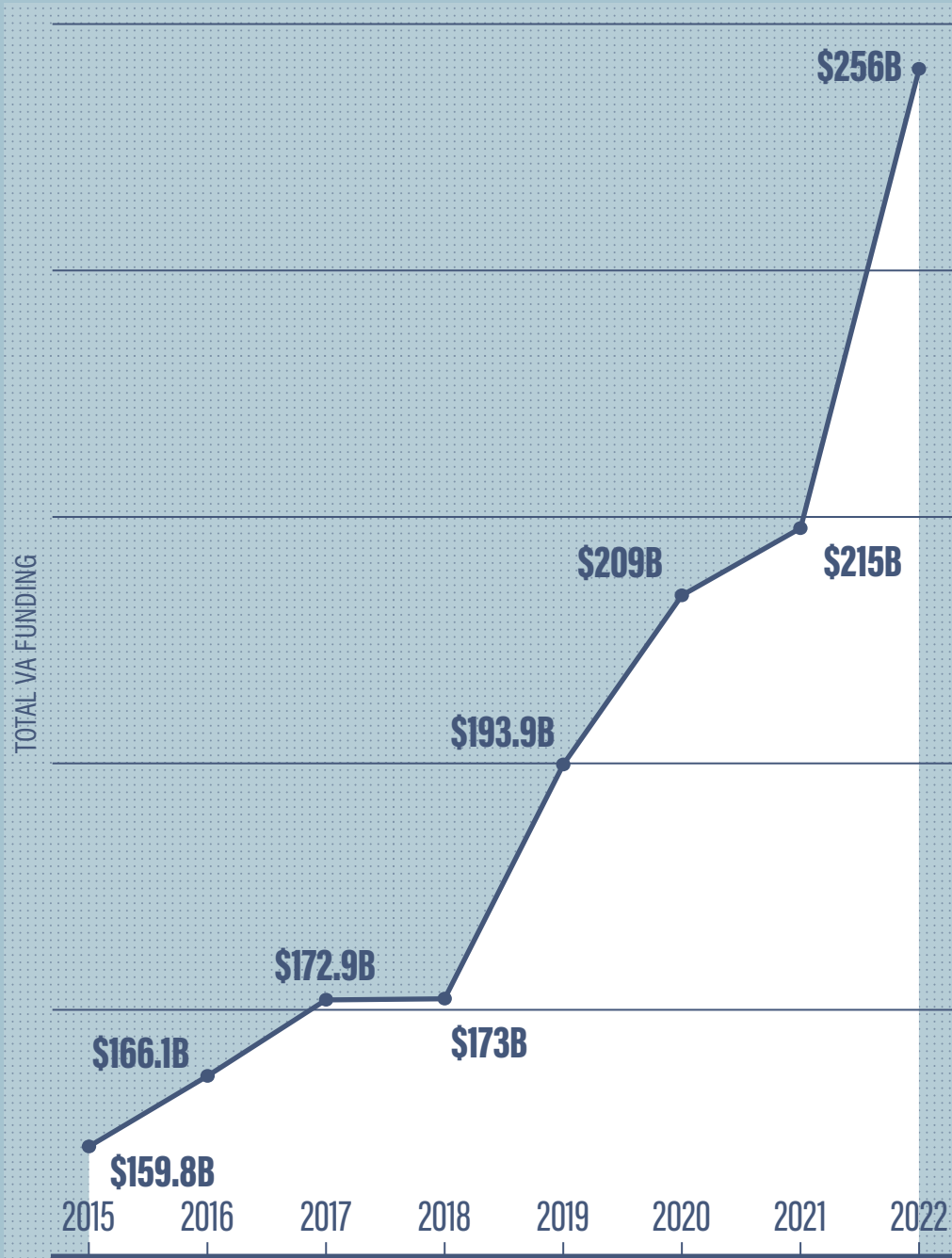


GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS (VA) EXPENDITURES BY STATE



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) expenditures within the county jurisdiction. Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Data, 2022.

TOTAL VETERAN AFFAIRS (VA) FUNDING, 2015 - 2022



In FY 2022, **\$256 billion in federal dollars** was distributed to veterans in counties across the nation.

FY 2022 VA FUNDS INCREASED BY \$41 BILLION, representing a **19 percent** increase from 2021 expenditure levels. Two VA spending categories—compensation and pension, and medical care—largely drove this increase, comprising **50 percent** and **39 percent** of FY 2022 VA expenditures, respectively.



Texas, California and Florida—the states with the largest veteran populations—also had larger total VA expenditures, which represented **27 percent** of all VA funds in FY 2021.

**\$256
BILLION**

in VA funding distributed to support veterans and their families



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NACo's MISSION

STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S COUNTIES.

NACo's VISION

HEALTHY, SAFE AND VIBRANT COUNTIES ACROSS AMERICA.



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