



# INSIDE WASHINGTON

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County Impacts from the White House & Congress

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

# FY 2026 Appropriations

## Current State of Play

- Federal government funding expires on Sept. 30, 2025

## U.S. House – Approved 10 out of 12 appropriations bills

- **Topline spending: \$1.598 trillion** topline spending level
  - Defense spending: \$895.2 billion
  - Non-defense spending: \$705.6 billion (6 percent cut)

## U.S. Senate – Approved 8 out of 12 appropriations bill

- **No topline spending number identified**
  - Defense spending: \$852.5 billion
  - Non-defense spending: No topline number (Appropriations bills being marked up)
- Next Steps: *Continuing Resolution likely*

***Congressional  
Reality: With OBBA  
enacted, focus  
shifts entirely to  
defending  
remaining direct-to-  
county programs in  
appropriations***

# FEMA & DISASTER RESPONSE

- House T&I Committee passed 57-3 – **Now heads to the full House**
  - Establishes FEMA as an independent agency
  - Public assistance reform – Transition from reimbursement to grant model
  - Individual assistance reform – Universal disaster application
  - Mitigation reforms – Pre-approved mitigation projects for counties
  - Creates a public PA dashboard

***This bill responds directly to NACo feedback, including major reforms that would speed up recovery timelines, ease administrative burdens and improve support for survivors.***



*Read NACo's analysis on the  
FEMA Act*

# SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

- Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act expires on **Sept. 30, 2026**
- USDOT is requesting recommendations to support the agency's development of priorities for upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill
- NACo's recommendations:
  - Improving county access to federal formula funding
  - Improving the grant process
  - Strengthening rail safety
  - Permit streamlining
- Recommendations are **due Sept. 8, 2025**



Access NACo's template letter here



Scan the QR code to submit your  
recommendations

# HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS

- H.R. 3372 would implement a pilot program to allow states to increase the maximum truck weight from 80,000 lbs. to 91,000 lbs.
  - Messaged as a middle ground bill
  - Trucks are required to have six axles
- NACo opposes H.R. 3372 due to damage on county-owned infrastructure
  - Not enough federal funding to cover new damages
- NACo is opposing the inclusion of this and other bills in the next surface transportation bill

Nationally, the new  
91,000 lbs. truck  
weight would put  
over 68,000 bridges  
at risk of falling into  
poor condition,  
many of which are  
county-owned

# FARM BILL 2.0

- Series of short-term extensions since 2023, when the **Farm Bill 2018 expired**
- Major provisions passed as part of reconciliation - **SNAP and conservation**
- House Agriculture Committee is drafting text
  - Goal to advance the bill by the end of September
  - Tense negotiations on nutrition title
- Provisions from previously passed 2024 Farm Bill framework must be updated
- Potential for punting introduction until the new year
- NACo continues to push for key county priorities with lawmakers



*Scan the QR code for NACo's Farm Bill  
Reauthorization Hub*

# EXECUTIVE ORDER:

## *Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking*

- **Grant Review Processes:** The EO instructs federal agencies to designate senior appointees to be responsible for reviewing both NOFOs and discretionary grant awards to ensure alignment with agency priorities and national interest
- **Accountability Measures:** Agencies will conduct annual reviews of discretionary awards to assess progress and ensure consistency with the administration's priorities
- **Streamlining and Simplification:** The EO requires that federal agencies review the type of information requested when an applicant is applying to a discretionary grant program
- **Selection Criteria:** The EO states that agencies should select applications that support the administration's policy priorities
- **Financial Controls:** The EO directs agencies to take steps to amend current grant policies, resulting in the potential termination of grant programs
  - Requires grant recipients (i.e. counties) to obtain authorization from the awarding federal agency to draw down funds



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