

# **INSIDE WASHINGTON**

County Impacts from the White House & Congress

OCTOBER 16, 2025

### **Government Shutdown**

- Congress was unable to pass legislation to fund the federal government
- Lapse in appropriations triggers a shutdown
- Two competing proposals
  - House: 7-week continuing resolution
  - Senate: Partisan Split Full-year appropriations bill vs House Bill - Senate has voted down House-passed CR 10 times
- Federal agencies are implementing plans for the shutdown
- Potential for additional firings of federal workers up to 10,000
- No clear path in sight on funding agreement





Tell NACo how the government shutdown is impacting your county!





- President's budget includes deep budget cuts
  - The discretionary budget requests reducing annual nondefense spending by 22.6 percent, or about \$163 billion, and proposes increasing defense spending by 13 percent, about \$119.3 billion.
- County priorities include:
  - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - Discretionary rural development programs
  - State and Local Law Enforcement Grants
  - Election Security Grants
  - Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
  - Brownfields Program
  - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)



Full list of county appropriations requests







### Auty 9, 2021

The Honorable Susan Collins Chair

Senate Committee on Appropriations U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray

Senate Committee on Appropriations U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable for Cole Chairman

House Appropriations Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

Ranking Member House Appropriations Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs, the National Association of Counties (NACo) writes as an intergovernmental partner and implementer of federal programs to strongly urge Congress to make federal investments in crucial local government activities through the FY 2026 appropriations process.

With a professional workforce of nearly 3.6 million, we support over 1,900 local public health departments, almost 1,000 hospitals and critical access clinics, more than 700 long-term care facilities, 750 behavioral health centers and 91 percent of local jails. Additionally, counties own 44 percent of America's roads, nearly 40 percent of its bridges, support a third of the nation's airports, and 78 percent of its public transit systems. County governments handle emergency operations centers and 911 services, public safety and emergency response, protective services for children, seniors, and veterans, as well as the "last of the first responders," including coroners and medical examiners, among other vital public services.



Counties rely on federal funds determined through the annual appropriations process to provide vital services to our residents.





- July 29: Passed Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
- October 9: Passed full Senate as NDAA floor amendment
- County Wins:
  - Reauthorizes HOME Program
  - Permanently authorizes CDBG-DR Program
  - Streamlined Housing Choice Voucher inspection requirements
- Model Zoning Frameworks (Sec. 203)
  - Directs HUD to develop model frameworks for states and local governments
  - Opportunity for zoning reform based on best practices vs. potential for state preemption
- Build Now Act (Sec. 206)
  - Ties CDBG allocations to relative housing growth
  - Couties above the median eligible for bonus; counties below subject to penalty
  - Exemptions: high vacancy, low median rental prices, no zoning authority

**County leaders** should reach out to their Representatives to highlight how the ROAD to **Housing Act** would impact their counties.





- October 9: Passed full Senate as NDAA floor amendment Moves to the House for a vote
- Bipartisan bill introduced in both the House and Senate prior to NDAA inclusion
  - Reauthorizes critical grant programs offering services to justice-involved indiivudlas
  - Expands allowable uses for supportive and transitional housing services
  - Enhances substance use disorder treatment services
- Funding for reentry grant programs and expansion of substance use treatment services
- Counties are direct recipients of SCA funding and utilize dollars to support justice-involved individuals reintegrate back into the community

Since its establishment in 2008, the SCA has funded more than 1,300 grants to state and local governments and nonprofit organizations, and more than a third of these grants have been awarded to counties.





- October 3: USDA released guidance on new SNAP work requirements established under H.R. 1
  - Expands definition of ABAWDs to 18 to 65 (originally 18 to 54)
  - Eliminates exemptions for veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness and former foster youth
  - Reduces flexibility for states to waive ABAWD requirements
- States are required to notify SNAP recipients of these changes ASAP
  - In some states, counties are require to carry out this responsibility
- The deadline for states to ensure SNAP recipients are complying with new work requirements is Nov. 1 – After Nov. 1 deadline will impact SNAP state error rates



Scan the QR code to view all SNAP reforms included in H.R. 1





- NACo Disaster Reform Task Force Fly-in
  - Advocating passage of the FEMA Act 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
- NACo Surface Transportation Reauthorization Fly-in
  - Package is currently being written by Congress
    - Improving county access to federal formula funding
    - Improving the grant process
    - Strengthening rail safety
    - Permit streamlining



NACo's FEMA Act Analysis



NACo's Surface Transportation Reauthorization Hub



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SEPTEMBER 4, 2025