

NACO National Association of Counties

CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

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The devil ... and angels in the details of Obama's FY10 Budget

President Barack Obama submitted his detailed budget to Congress earlier this month. NACo legislative staff provides a synopsis of the details below.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs

President Obama's FY10 budget includes \$25.7 billion

See **FY10 BUDGET** page 7

QuickTakes



Top 5 Large Counties for Business Recruitment

1. Mecklenburg County, N.C.
2. Lee County, Fla.
3. Travis County, Texas
4. Maricopa County, Ariz.
5. DuPage County, Ill.

Source: National Policy Research Council Proprietary Database, 2007



Photo by Matt Fellows

Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee members meet with administration officials in the Indian Treaty Room at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building during RAC's early May fly-in. RAC and the White House officials talked about rural health care, development and transportation. To read about their meeting, go to page 2.

State, local governments may receive TARP funds

By STEVE TRAYLOR
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

On Sept. 15, 2008, Lehman Brothers, Wall Street's fourth largest investment firm, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection — the largest bankruptcy filing in American history. With nearly \$700 billion in reported debt, the firm's collapse helped usher in the current international financial crisis.

The U.S. government responded by enacting the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP), which provided \$700 billion to be used by the U.S. secretary of the treasury to provide financial assistance through the purchase of "troubled assets."

In exercising his discretion, the secretary is required to take into consideration a number of guiding factors. One such factor is "the need to ensure stability for United States public instrumentalities such as counties and cities that may have

See **TARP FUNDS** page 8

Napolitano to fire chiefs: Prepare for potential fall flu pandemic

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Fire departments and paramedical services should "lean forward" this summer to prepare for a potentially more serious flu outbreak this fall, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told the nation's fire services' top brass recently.

This spring's H1N1 "swine" flu outbreak may be a harbinger of things to come, she said, addressing the board of directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, a NACo affiliate, at its meeting at NACo headquarters May 7.

"The concern we have is that this thing will mutate over the summer and come back in the fall as a much more lethal strain. That would be the 1918 experience," Napolitano said. The 1918 flu epidemic killed 50 million people worldwide.

She encouraged the fire chiefs to train and conduct readiness exercises over the summer as if "there's going to be serious pandemic in the fall."

Fire chiefs from across the nation shared their concerns about a number of issues — from calling for greater inclusion of fire service professionals in the U.S. Depart-

ment of Homeland Security (DHS) to concerns about the lack of a national strategy on interoperable communications.

Napolitano said she was there to listen and answer questions more than lecture.

On another flu-related issue, Chief John Sinclair of the Kittitas Valley (Wash.) Fire and Rescue, suggested that the federal government raise the priority of fire and emergency medical services professionals to receive flu vaccines.

Fire and EMS departments

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Panel discusses the dawning new age for jails. » Page 4

CDP's Mobile Training Teams bring disaster preparedness training to your front yard » Page 9

RAC addresses rural issues to Congress and administration

By **ERIK JOHNSTON**
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Seventeen members of NACo's Rural Action Caucus (RAC), led by RAC Chair Bill Kennedy, conducted a fly-in April 28–30, and met with Obama administration officials and 52 members of Congress to advance issues important to rural counties.

Each year, the caucus identifies the most pressing issues facing rural counties and brings them to the attention of key administration officials and congressional leaders.

This year's priority issues included:

- Farm Bill implementation,

especially as it relates to USDA rural development programs

- reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Program, in particular ensuring rural roads and bridges receive adequate federal funding

- rural health care issues
- support for H.R. 2209, the County Health Care Costs Act of 2009 (loss of federal health benefits to persons incarcerated)

- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), and

- opposition to legislation to expand the federal reach of the Clean Water Act.

Also discussed were provisions in

the Recovery Act that are providing economic stimulus funding for rural communities.

"With a new Congress and administration in office, it is more important than ever to forge new partnerships and emphasize face-to-face the importance of programs and issues that are essential to rural counties," said Kennedy, a commissioner from Yellowstone County, Mont. "I believe this effort was very successful in communicating our challenges directly to the White House and key members of Congress. They need to hear from those of us who represent rural communities."

Key offices visited included Reps. Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) and Travis Childers (D-Miss.), co-chairs of the Congressional Rural Caucus; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.); Senate Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-Mont.); Senate Republican Senatorial Committee Chair John Cornyn (R-Texas); and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

RAC members held a roundtable discussion with administration officials on the last day of the fly-in. Cecilia Munoz, director, and Michael Blake, associate director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, led the meeting and set a positive tone by expressing the administration's interest in engaging NACo in a true partnership centered on the policy-making process.

Cheryl Cook, deputy under secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, spoke about Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's commitment to rural development, especially through renewable energy and rural broadband deployment. She also expressed a strong desire to make the various agencies within USDA work together better to simplify the agencies' funding streams for state and local officials. She also plans to encourage USDA field staff to be in regular communication with the county officials whom they serve.

Joanna Turner, deputy assistant secretary for intergovernmental affairs, Department of Transportation, updated the status of Recovery Act funding and pledged that DOT would continue to work closely with NACo during the upcoming reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Program debate.

Dr. Mary Wakefield, administrator of the Department of Health

Fire chiefs: guidelines for interoperable communications needed

NAPOLITANO from page 1

would play a key role in a flu pandemic — or any community-wide health threat — because they transport 85 percent of patients seeking emergency medical treatment, he said.

"I think that it's important from a critical infrastructure protection perspective to elevate the fire service, and especially the EMS components of the fire service up much higher into the vaccination plan as it currently exists, because right now we're in tier three," said Sinclair, who heads IAFC's emergency medical services section.

By telephone, he later explained that fire and EMS personnel trail medical personnel and at-risk nursing home patients in vaccination priority. He said the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) sets the priority.

Non-EMS fire personnel also need to be vaccinated at a higher priority, Sinclair added, because they would provide "surge capacity" to backup the EMS system.

For those reasons, Napolitano urged the chiefs to step up their contingency planning and consider how their operations would be affected by staff absentee rates of 10 percent to 30 percent for at least 14 days.

"What will you do when your firefighters' kids have to stay home from school for two weeks? What will you do when [firefighters] start getting sick; how will you handle absenteeism and your continuity of operation obligations?"

Napolitano said, "Your ability

to practice and exercise that — or table-top it at least over the summer — is key." She added that she will share the chiefs' concerns with other Cabinet departments, including HHS.

Other Issues

Jeff Johnson, fire chief and chief executive officer, Tualatin Valley (Ore.) Fire and Rescue, addressed the issue of interoperable communications. He said the nation lacks a strategy to create public safety two-way wireless communications interoperability — which, in turn, hinders local efforts. "We can't put the puzzle together until someone shows us the top of the box," Johnson, a former Douglas County, Ore. firefighter, said.

Napolitano responded that she's asked the division within DHS that deals with interoperability to "get me a plan" on how to get out standards that fire departments can follow by the end of May.

The fire chiefs praised President Obama's nomination of someone with a fire and emergency management background to head the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The nominee, Craig Fugate, has served as Florida's director of Emergency Management and has a fire and emergency medical services background. The chiefs said they would like to see more individuals with fire services backgrounds in the DHS.

Napolitano said, "I'm always looking for good fire people."

As if on cue, the IAFC brass handed her a thick, multi-page list — three copies of it — of candidates they believe are worthy of consideration.

Vilsack announces \$760 million for rural projects, development

By **ERIK JOHNSTON**
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the selection of more than \$615.8 million in water and environmental projects that are being funded immediately with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The 193 projects represent the first round of rural water and waste disposal projects that NACo helped persuade Congress to include in the Recovery Act. They will help provide safe drinking water and improved wastewater treatment systems for rural communities

in 34 states and create or save an estimated 12,385 jobs.

The new funding, announced April 28, comes on top of the \$144.3 million in annual funding for the program released on April 21 that will fund projects in 56 communities in 34 states.

USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

In Case You Missed It ... News to Use from Past County News

► Knowledge Share: A Peer-to-Peer Network

Knowledge Share is an opportunity for county officials to learn from each other. It provides a resource center for technical assistance with new county projects, an up-to-date list of people who have addressed some of the same problems their county is facing and a database of officials who will share knowledge, information and resources.

Visit www.naco.org ► "County Resource Center" and log in. Then select the issue you are addressing. Once your selection is made, a contact list of peers with their information will be generated especially for you.

Keep up with NACo online ...

www.naco.org



Photo by Barry Bahler, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano (r) discusses a range of issues with the board of directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. To her right is IAFC Executive Director Mark Light.

See RAC page 16

Economy puts county mental health services to the test

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Some call it recession-depression.

In Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, N.C., the rate of suicide attempts and threats was up 55 percent last month, according to police data. Clark County, Nev. saw a 10 percent increase in suicides in 2008 compared to 2007.

Officials in both counties see evidence of a connection to the economic downturn and foreclosure crisis.

Across the nation, county mental health professionals are seeing higher demand for their services due to financial stresses.

"The numbers of clients that we've responded to that have been depressed and or suicidal have certainly increased over the last few months," said Bill Cook, who leads Mecklenburg County's mental health mobile crisis team. "It appears to us that there is a higher frequency of those depressed clients that is related to the economy."

Grace Crockett, the county's

area mental health director said Mecklenburg has a 24-hour county psychiatric emergency room that saw 1,505 individuals in March 2009 compared to 1,382 in March of 2008.

The spike couldn't come at a worse time.

"In county dollars this year, I'm taking about a 10-and-a-half percent decrease in funding, so demand is going up when funding is going down," Crockett said.

Pamela Kulbarsh is a psychiatric nurse, formerly with San Diego County, Calif's Psychiatric Emergency Response Team. "When the economy is hurting, people are more likely to hurt or kill themselves and others," according to an April 21 article she wrote for *LawOfficer.com*. Economic downturns can trigger an increase in suicides, "as well as in heart attacks, domestic violence, child abuse and murder," she wrote.

The American Psychological Association's most recent Stress in America survey (October 2008) showed that eight out of 10 Americans are worried about money and the economy. In addition, close to half of the people surveyed reported they are increasingly stressed about their ability to provide for their families' basic needs.

Mecklenburg County recently collaborated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Charlotte to conduct a free community forum on mental health. Crockett discussed the challenges of providing "culturally competent, reliable and accessible services," among other topics. The forum, earlier this month, also emphasized the resources and tools available to families to help them become advocates for their loved ones coping with mental illness.

In Clark County (Las Vegas), where home mortgage foreclosure filings are among the highest in the nation, it's the coroner's job to investigate suicides. Coroner Michael Murphy recently told the *Las Vegas Sun* that in some cases the sour economy appears to be a contributing factor.

"You can literally see some of the signs of that in the residence. The house is in foreclosure or there are debt collection bills [strewn] around the house," he said.

At the end of April, Las Vegas had the highest foreclosure rate among metro areas with a population of at least 200,000, according to the latest Foreclosure Market Report from RealtyTrac. One in every 56 Las Vegas housing units

received a foreclosure filing during the month—nearly seven times the national average.

In an interview, Murphy explained to *CountyNews* that it can be difficult to make a direct connection between suicides and the economy, since fewer than 30 percent of people who commit suicide leave behind a suicide note. "Any increase is of concern and we're seeing a slight increase," he said. "And we're seeing evidence of financial issues being a part of that."

The county had 351 suicides in 2006; 349 in 2007 and 383 last year. Murphy said there has been an increase in murder-suicides.

County coroners and behavioral health departments are not alone in being affected by mental health issues related to the depressed economy.

"There has also been an increase of training requests from law enforcement and fire departments, as well as financial institutions, to help deal with an upsurge in suicide risk," Kulbarsh, the former San Diego County nurse wrote for *LawOfficer.com*.

She added that employee assistance programs (EAP), which are provided by employers as part of their health plans, "have also reported a dramatic increase in calls related to depression and financial worries."

LEADING in TOUGH TIMES

More Recovery Act Implementation Guidelines Released

The White House Office of Management and Budget issued on May 11 new guidance covering allowable administrative costs under the Recovery Act.

The document, Guidance to Agencies on Payments to State Grantees for Administrative Costs of Recovery Act Activities (May 11, 2009), is available at www.naco.org/toughtimes.

In addition, OMB has convened organizations representing state and local governments, including NACo, to discuss data and reporting requirements; new guidance on reporting is anticipated in June.

Funding Details Released for Recovery Act Head Start Expansion

Additional funding of \$102 million is available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for current federally funded Head Start agencies only. A 20 percent match is required. Applications are due June 23.

For the full funding announcement and application guidelines, see www.acf.hhs.gov Working with AFC ▶ Grant Opportunities ▶ Program Announcements ▶ Recovery Act Funding Opportunities.

Community Development Block Grant Recovery Act (CDBG-R) Funding Notice Issued

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, appropriated \$1 billion in supplemental funding for the Community Development Block Grant program. On May 5, HUD issued a Notice describing the submission requirements, submission deadlines and implementation requirements for CDBG-R funding. Grantees are to submit a substantial amendment to their Fiscal Year 2008 Action Plan, containing the required elements described in the notice by June 5 for entitlement grantees, insular areas and non-entitlement counties in Hawaii. The states' deadline for submission is June 29. The notice is available on HUD's Web site at: www.hud.gov/recovery/cdblock.cfm Allocation amounts for grantees were previously posted on that Web site. The HUD press release on the CDBG-R notice is available at www.hud.gov/news.

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Profiles in Service



» Dale Pinkerton

Butler County, Pa.
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

NACo Board of Directors

Years in public service: 1½

Occupation: Founder and president (retired), Dale Pinkerton Goodyear

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Miss Swavel, my 12th grade homeroom teacher who taught me the importance of education; Jim Atterson, director of the Hilltop YMCA in Pittsburgh; and Dr. Robert Smith, president of Slippery Rock University. I'd like them to know the huge difference they have made in my life.

A dream I have is to: get everyone in the county to work together.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: am a Shriner clown and a licensed funeral director.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: take a trip on the rapids in Costa Rica.

My favorite way to relax is: sit on the beach, watch the waves and smoke a cigar.

I'm most proud of: my family.

Every morning I read: the Bible.

My favorite meal is: my wife Millie's special leg of lamb.

My pet peeve is: people who are self-centered and don't think about others.

My motto is: the Rotary Club motto of "service above self."

The last book I read was: *Dead Heat* by Joel Rosenberg

My favorite movie is: *The Sound of Music*.

My favorite music is: '50s and '60s pop music.

My favorite president is: Ronald Reagan.

Jail redesign a positive change for county policy, community

By ELIZABETH PERRY
STAFF WRITER

The era of jails as institutions that can deal with mental and physical health issues, substance abuse, behavioral health and reentry has arrived, said Art Wallenstein, director of the Montgomery County, Md. Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.

Wallenstein offered his analysis during a panel discussion on "Re-Imagining Jail Design: How Can Innovation Reduce Jail Populations and Benefit Communities?" May 4 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

He was one of nine panelists who included criminal justice and public policy experts from county corrections and sheriff's departments, and criminal justice organizations across the nation. Panelists addressed topics such as what county officials, sheriffs and jail administrators should put into and get out of new jail facilities, the relationship between jail design and construction, and alternatives to incarceration.

Wallenstein said jails are being "discovered now for the first time at a conceptual level" and that the public policy opportunities to push for moderate growth, alternatives

to incarceration and reentry programs are abundant.

"I don't think we've ever had such a positive opportunity to take a look at what the role of jails can be, but to do so we really have to examine public policy on a very broad basis, exclude no stakeholders from the table," he said. "In fact, drag those stakeholders to the table to begin with and remind them the jail is no longer some Mom and Pop operation."

Kelly Rowe, chief deputy of the Lubbock County, Texas, Sheriff's Office, is responsible for the administration and operation of the Detention Branch of the jail. He is also overseeing the jail's transition into a new 1,512-bed direct supervision facility, which is currently being constructed. When asked if the county looked into other alternatives to building its new jail, Rowe said the county conducted an initial needs assessment and looked at different formulas and models before deciding to build.

"Everything came to a head-count based on what we were willing to do: If we were willing to do more pretrial release, look at more alternative sentencing, move into a more active reentry program," he said. "And then there are the citizens and the stakeholders and everybody else, we got them involved in it. We got the public campaign to where we have had success financially."

Michael Jacobsen, director and president of the Vera Institute of Justice, said that as the national economy improves, states and counties will continue to struggle financially for a long time. The thinking about building jails in this economy has to be based around substance and fiscal strategies. He said jail administrators and elected officials need to consider making a

"holistic argument" about the merits of jail construction.

"Why should a county or city spend not only scarce, but declining resources on what happens to be an incredibly expensive piece of infrastructure?" he asked. "There is a whole world of prison architecture that can minimize staffing requirements and save money on the operating side. To make the argument that you need a new jail for whatever reason, you also have to think about the money that you really need to invest in other parts of the system, whether it's beefing up your pretrial capacity or a range of alternatives for your public health services in the jail," Jacobsen said.

Jason Ziedenberg, Multnomah County, Ore. policy and communications manager, Department of Community Justice, talked about his county's efforts to expand the use of sanctions and community-based alternatives to jail for parole and probation violators. He said the county did an analysis of how sanctions were used and found that inmates in the jail were no more or less prone to recidivism than those who were given other sanctions apart from incarceration.

"So it changed and reduced the barriers to alternative sanctions, like the day reporting center, the electronic monitoring program and community service," he said. "During this time in Multnomah County, we actually control a chunk of the jail beds that exist under the county. We've reduced the use of the jail by about 75 beds, and allocated some of that money toward shoring up some of these alternative sanctions."

The panel discussion was sponsored by the Vera Institute, the American Jail Association and NACo.



Photo by Elizabeth Perry

Kelly Rowe, chief deputy, Lubbock County, Texas, Sheriff's Office (l); Art Wallenstein, director, Montgomery County, Md. Department of Correction and Rehabilitation; Margaret Winter, associate director, National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Jason Ziedenberg, policy and communications manager, Multnomah County, Ore. were some of the panelists at the jail redesign discussion.



Photo courtesy of NACE

NACo First Vice President Teresa Altemus (c) pauses for an official photo with outgoing National Association of County Engineers (NACE) President Susan G. Miller, Freeborn County, Minn. engineer, and incoming NACE President Chris E. Bauserman, Delaware County, Ohio engineer. Altemus was a featured speaker at NACE's Annual Management and Technical Conference, held in Peoria, Ill. April 19-23. More than 500 delegates attended the event. NACE is a NACo affiliate.

Counties celebrate National County Government Week 2009

By JIM PHILLIPS
MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER

From plastic bag swaps to “green building” dedications, the “Greening Our Future” message was heard all across the country in many innovative ways during National County Government Week (NCGW), May 3-9.

The theme was chosen to complement NACo President Don Stapley’s Green Government presidential initiative.

“Despite the tough economic times, counties recognize the value of finding more energy-efficient and less wasteful ways to serve the public,” Stapley said. “I applaud each and every county who made the extra effort to celebrate National County Government Week this year.”

First celebrated in 1991, NCGW was created by NACo to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation’s 3,068 counties. As evidenced below, the community outreach events held during the week help residents and businesses better understand how counties serve the community.

In Cumberland County, Ga., 14 departments were “certified green” by the Board of Commissioners, according to County Clerk Marsha Fogle. As part of NCGW, county officials offered residents “Greening

Our Future” tips, such as filling gas tanks in the evening, taking public transit, car pooling and recycling to help preserve the life of the local landfill.

Hernando County, Fla. took several actions, including placing displays at local libraries about “green” transportation tips and ways to conserve local natural resources. The county also produced cable TV shows featuring green government services and efforts. County staffers were also guests on a local radio show.

Public events were held all week in Tuscola County, Mich., including open houses and tours of probate court, the recycling center and central dispatch. On May 9, residents of all ages participated in a county park and campground clean-up day.

In Sonoma County, Calif., the Board of Supervisors held an employee recognition “pasta feed” in the parking lot of the county center as part of NCGW. NACo President-elect Valerie Brown greeted county employees and helped serve up plates of pasta herself.

In Gloucester County, Va., the home county of First Vice President Teresa Altemus, the county held a plastic bag swap event. Residents who brought a plastic grocery bag full of clean plastic bags received a free reusable shopping bag. Brochures were available offering recycling tips and other ways to go green at home.



Photo courtesy of Johnson County, Kan.

Johnson County, Kan. Board Chair Annabeth Surbaugh marks National County Government Week during dedication ceremonies of the county’s new “green” County Communications Center. The county hopes to receive LEED silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for the facility. Pictured in the background is Walt Way, director of the county’s Emergency Communications Center.

Oakland County, Mich. hosted a Youth in Government Day program in which local high school students were invited to meet with their county commissioner and learn more about county government. In addition, the Board of Commissioners passed a National County Government Week resolution, according to NACo Immediate Past President Eric Coleman.

Johnson County, Kan. marked NCGW by dedicating its newest green building, the county communications center. County Board Chair Annabeth Surbaugh, a member of NACo’s board of directors, was a featured speaker at the dedication along with County Sheriff Frank Denning. The county hopes to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for the facility. The facility will house the county’s existing emergency communications center as well as new emergency dispatch operations for natural and human-caused disasters.

In DeKalb County, Ga., officials presented a “New Jobs in a Green Infrastructure” workshop at a local college. The workshop covered retrofitting, entrepreneurship, innovation and new jobs in developing a green infrastructure. Other NCGW events included old paint collections, promotion of rain gardens to reduce carbon footprints, plant-a-tree day and lights-out periods.

Erie County, Pa. marked NCGW with a grand opening of its centralized recycling center which now provides residents with safe and responsible means to recycle electronic waste and

household hazardous waste.

In Weber County, Utah, commissioners and other elected officials visited fourth-grade school classes throughout the county and discussed county government. Commissioners presented Weber County Crystal Bowl Awards to individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to sustainability and volunteerism.

In Milwaukee County, Wis., supervisors and other county officials held a news conference to highlight completion of the first phase of the county’s energy savings projects. Projects included energy-efficient lighting systems in the courthouse complex and modern updates to the heating and cooling systems. The improvements are projected to save \$3 million over the next decade.

Putman County, Fla. officials held NCGW events all week long, including recreation department vehicle displays for children, free diabetes screenings through the health department and a traditional cookout with the Board of Supervisors.

In Fayetteville Lincoln County, Tenn., County Mayor Peggy Bevels said her county partnered with Gail Randolph, director of Keep Fayetteville Lincoln County Beautiful, and celebrated NCGW events all week to inform residents of available public services.

“We believe this is a great opportunity to learn about protecting our environment, conserve energy and save taxpayers’ money,” she said. “We had our local newspapers, our local radio station and television station advertise our events for each day of the week.”

Nueces County, Texas, County Judge Samuel Loyd Neal Jr. reported that his county sponsored two employee recognition luncheons and a healthy dessert contest. In addition, the county offered free vehicle emissions testing as part of the county’s Pollution Prevention Partnership/Auto Check program.

Renville County, Minn. Administrator Sara Folsted said the county hosted a brownbag lunch for county employees and the public which featured Greening Our Future discussions of topics such as recycling, green cleaning products and household energy audits. County departments created informational displays on their various services and programs.

In San Mateo County, Calif., the board of supervisors premiered a video highlighting the county’s ongoing go-green efforts. The “Easy to be Green” video is in regular rotation on the local cable TV channel and is available on the county Web site.

Cumberland County, N.C.’s Board of Commissioners recognized county employees with more than 20 years of public service, sponsored a children’s poster contest, reviewed county departments to identify and recognize green departments, and adopted a NCGW proclamation.

In Cuyahoga County, Ohio, County Recorder Lillian Greene sponsored an essay contest for ninth grade students. The question: What can you and your peers do to help ensure a green future for our county, state and nation? The first prize winner of \$150 was Ariana Henderson of Genesis High School and the second prize winner of \$50 was Jonah Weinstein of Shaker Heights High School.

Among the many others who celebrated NCGW: The Association of County Commissioners of Georgia; Berkeley County, S.C.; Val Verde County, Texas; Essex County, Va.; Lake County, Calif.; Prince William County, Va.; Carroll County, Md.; El Paso County, Colo.; Monroe County, Ind.; Etowah County, Ala.; Schuyler County, N.Y.; Hernando County, Fla.; Chatham County, Ga.; Henderson County, N.C.; Phillips County, Colo.; the Texas Association of Counties; Brunswick County, N.C.; Anoka County, Minn.; Boone County, Mo.; Genesee County, N.Y.; Peoria County, Ill.; Bibb County, Ga.; Oceana County, Mich.; Bell County, Texas; Davis County, Utah; Knox County, Tenn.; Clarke County, Ala.; Marion County, Ohio; Somerset County, N.J.; Henderson County, N.C.; Smith County, Texas; Durham County, N.C.; and Escambia County, Fla.

Word Search

Some Counties with Beaches

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| BAY (Fla.) | ESCAMBIA (Fla.) | OKALOOSA (Fla.) |
| BROWARD (Fla.) | KINGS (N.Y.) | ORANGE (Calif.) |
| BRUNSWICK (N.C.) | LAFOURCHE (La.) | PALM (Fla.) |
| CALCASIEU (La.) | LOS ANGELES (Calif.) | PINELLAS (Fla.) |
| CAMERON (La.) | MONMOUTH (N.J.) | SAINT MARY (La.) |
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Created by Christopher Johnson

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Key county rural development programs maintain funding levels

FY10 BUDGET from page 1

for discretionary programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This is \$1.6 billion above FY09 for programs such as rural development, food safety, conservation and research. USDA Rural Development programs are funded through the department's discretionary funds and are bolstered by Recovery Act funding that is clearing the backlog of projects. The budget specifies that more than \$20 billion in grants and loans will be available for rural development programs, an increase of \$300 million from FY09.

The newly authorized Rural Collaborative Investment Program supported by NACo is not mentioned in the budget, but NACo will continue to work with appropriators to advocate for full funding for this innovative rural development program.

A summary of priority programs follows.

● Key County Rural Development Programs Maintain Funding Levels

Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program: The budget provides \$546 million in budget authority to support more than \$1 billion in direct loans, \$75 million in guaranteed loans and \$469 million in grants for Water and Waste Disposal projects for a total program level of \$1.6 billion. This represents an \$8 million increase in budget authority from FY09. The 2008 Farm Bill changed the way interest rates are calculated, which reduced the cost of borrowing for most applicants, but cost the federal government more. The increased costs for the federal government are more than offset by the historically low cost of borrowing for the Treasury.

Rural Community Facilities: Provides \$295 million in direct loans, \$206 million in loan guarantees and \$44 million for grants. This represents a \$3 million increase in grants and the same loan levels as FY09. The budget authority for the program decreased by \$12 million as the administration chose to use savings from the decreased cost of borrowing to fund other programs.

Rural Business Programs: Several key rural business programs remain relatively unchanged. The Rural Business Enterprise Grants remain funded at \$39 million and the Rural Business Opportunity Grants remain funded at \$5 million. The Intermediary Relending program continues to be supported at a program level of \$34 million.

Rural Housing: Unlike the previous administration's budgets, this proposal does not suggest eliminating some key rural housing programs. Most USDA Rural Development housing programs would operate at FY09 levels. This program level of \$8.8 billion includes funding for single-family housing, multi-family housing, rental assistance, farm labor housing and low-income housing repairs.

● Large Increases for New Rural Business Programs, Renewable Energy and Rural Broadband

Rural Business: The Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program received an \$11 million boost to \$17 million and the administration continued to support the Value Added Producer Grant Program with \$22 million in total funding, a large commitment due to the expenditure of all mandatory funding for the program in FY08 and FY09. The Rural Microenterprise Investment Program received \$26 million, a \$22 million boost for loans and grants to provide more low- and moderate-income individuals the opportunity to establish new small businesses in rural areas.

Renewable Energy: The budget increases capacity for rural renewable energy development with \$770 million in additional investments. The Rural Energy for America Program receives \$128 million, a boost of \$88 million to help rural businesses, farmers, ranchers and schools purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. The Bio-refinery Assistance Program is funded at \$262 million, which is estimated to lead to \$515 million more in loans to expand the nation's bio-refinery capacity.

Rural Broadband: The administration requests \$52 million in subsidy for the Rural Utility Service's ongoing Broadband Program, an increase of \$23 million over the regular appropriation for 2009. This funding will support \$532 million in direct loans and \$13 million in grants. The budget also requests \$30 million for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program, a cut of \$5 million.

● Administration Eliminates Several Rural Programs

The High Energy Costs Grants Program funded at \$18 million in FY09 is eliminated. This program is critical to remote rural communities with average home energy costs exceeding 2.75 times the national average. Grant funds are used for on-grid and off-grid renewable energy projects, and energy-efficiency

and energy-conservation projects serving eligible communities. The administration believes the program is duplicative and serves only a few isolated areas that can be served less expensively through existing loan programs.

The Rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Grants, funded at \$8 million in FY09 are eliminated. The program, funded at \$8 million in FY09, is designed to afford severely distressed rural communities real opportunities for growth and revitalization. The administration believes the program duplicates the larger USDA Rural Development programs and that congressional set-asides of \$27.6 million for these communities are sufficient.

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program is targeted for elimination. The administration believes that the program's councils are self-sustaining at the state and local level. President George W. Bush also tried to eliminate RC&D funding, but congressional appropriators continued the program, which first began in 1962 and was funded at \$51 million in FY09.

The Watershed and Flood Prevention Program, a Natural Resources and Conservation Service program, funded at \$24 million in FY09, is targeted for elimination because nearly all funded projects are selected through the earmark process.

● Other Terminations and Reductions

The budget also limits farm commodity payments to \$250,000 per person for direct payments and phases direct payments out over three years for farmers with sales revenue of more than \$500,000 annually. It also eliminates the \$52 million in payments to cotton producers for storage payments and reduces crop insurance subsidies to farmers and insurance companies. All of these provisions are very unpopular in Congress and are likely to be ignored.

Community and Economic Development

● Housing and Urban Development Fares Well

The Obama administration's FY10 budget request of \$43.7 billion is a 7.4 percent increase over the 2009 budget. The request fully funds the Community Development Block Grant Program at \$4.1 billion in formula funds and totals \$4.5 billion overall. The budget proposes changing the CDBG formula and also CDBG program performance measures.

Within CDBG, the budget provides \$150 million in new funding for a Sustainable Communities Initiative to be overseen by HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims who recently was confirmed by the Senate. Sims was the King County, Wash. executive before his appointment at HUD.

Also, \$25 million is added for a Rural Innovation fund for states to award grants through a competitive process promoting innovative approaches to improving housing in rural communities.

The HOME Investment Partnerships program would be funded at \$1.825 billion, up from current \$1.7 billion level.

The budget renews the federal government's commitment to housing and community development

with a focus on meeting low-income family housing needs by providing \$17.8 billion for rental assistance programs to fund public housing vouchers through end of 2009. \$8.1 billion is included for Section 8 housing vouchers to preserve 1.3 million affordable rental units. One billion dollars is also provided for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund created last year as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act legislation.

The budget expands the Federal Housing Administration loan-making capabilities and also provides \$100 million for Housing Counseling, a \$35 million increase from the current level. Also, \$250 million is added for a New Choice

See FY10 BUDGET page 8



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Water infrastructure funding slated to get \$3.9 billion in FY10 budget

FY10 BUDGET from page 7

Neighborhood Initiative to transform neighborhoods with extreme poverty areas.

Also included is \$100 million for energy-efficiency construction grants and \$10 million for HUD to coordinate with the Transportation Department in developing strategies for public housing and transportation accessibility.

While housing and most community development get a boost, the Obama budget does not request funding for the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative, or Empowerment Zone (EZ) or Renewable Community (RC) initiatives but proposes to extend the EZ and RC tax incentives through December 2010.

● Economic Development Administration

The Obama administration budget includes \$284 million for Economic Development Administration an \$11.2 million increase. The budget would increase funding for the Economic Adjustment program to \$125 million. This \$90 million increase would fund two initiatives — creation of regional innovation clusters and support for networks of business incubators.

The budget in turn reduces \$60 million in funding for the public works agency for \$73 million in FY10.

Environment, Energy and Land Use

● Army Corps of Engineers Takes a Hit

The administration budget proposal for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for FY10 reduces overall funding from \$5.4 billion in FY09 to \$5.1 billion. The Corps received \$4.6 billion through the Recovery Act, which was signed into law in February.

Most notably in the Corps budget, the administration proposes not to fund water and wastewater projects through Corps money. In FY09, \$180 million was available. The administration believes this is outside of the agency's three mission areas of commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration. Additionally, the budget documents suggest the program duplicates other programs funded through other agencies. The money will be reallocated for other Corps-type projects.

● Environmental Protection Agency Boosted

Under the Obama proposal,

EPA would receive \$10.5 billion, nearly \$3 billion above its FY09 enacted budget.

Water Infrastructure funding is slated to get \$3.9 billion under the FY10 budget. It gives \$2.4 billion for the Clean Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) projects and \$1.5 billion for Safe Drinking Water Act SRF loans.

These amounts represent a substantial increase in funding over the FY09 enacted levels. In 2009, the Clean Water SRF received \$689 million and the Safe Drinking Water SRF received \$829 million. This funding will help communities meet the challenges of upgrading their aging water infrastructure systems.

One of the reasons for the significant jump in water infrastructure funding centers around the administration's proposal to eliminate \$145 million in earmarked water infrastructure funds. In FY09, these earmarks amounted to 301 water or wastewater projects in specified communities. The administration states that earmarks bypass a state's priority-setting process and should be eliminated from the budget process.

Also in the water realm, the Homeland Security Grants for Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems program would be eliminated. These grants — \$5 million in FY09 — were used for water infrastructure vulnerability assessments, operator training and education on water utility preparedness, and for coordination on security measures.

The administration contends the program is no longer needed since water systems were required to complete vulnerability assessments in 2004. Additionally, there is already a strong intergovernmental cooperation on water security issues; the administration feels this program is duplicative in nature.

In the air realm, the president proposes to fund the EPA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory at \$17 million. This will be used to design and develop guidance and training materials to guide the regulated entities under the proposed mandatory GHG reporting rule on emissions inventory.

However, the administration's budget, at the same time, would cut Local Government Climate Change Grants. This program, first funded in 2009, was intended to help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, the administration believes program "lacks focus" and is duplicative of other programs. That is why the administration proposes

to cut \$10 million from its budget and focus on other programs such as ENERGY STAR.

The president's budget gives Superfund a boost from \$1.28 billion to \$1.3 billion.

● No Money for EECBG Program in Department of Energy Budget

The administration requested \$26.4 billion for the DOE FY10 budget request. This is in addition to the \$38.7 billion DOE received in the Recovery Act.

The administration's budget, however, does not include funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. EECBG was first funded in the Recovery Act at \$3.2 billion. EECBG is instrumental in providing funding to help local governments make energy-efficient changes at the local level.

The administration proposes to eliminate all funding for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage project (\$91 million in FY09). However, the president acknowledges that nuclear power is an important source of electricity and that it is important to continue research into the best way to dispose of nuclear waste. To that end, he has proposed nearly \$197 million to be used for research on alternative ways to dispose of nuclear waste.

Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs

● Commerce Department's Census Bureau Would Get \$3 Billion Increase

The Census Bureau would receive \$7.8 billion to ensure it has the resources necessary to complete the 2010 decennial census. This is approximately \$3 billion more than the bureau received in 2009. The decennial census will employ an estimated one million temporary workers and will engage in extensive advertising and other activities to encourage a full and accurate count.

● Treasury

The Treasury Department's Office of Financial Stability will receive \$228 million, some of which will be used to pay financial services firms for overseeing the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP). Created by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2009, TARP funding is used to buy troubled assets from financial institutions. NACO supports efforts to use some of these funds to reimburse losses local government entities incurred as a result of the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy.

● Proposed Cuts

Following a line-by-line review

of the 2010 budget proposal, the Obama administration announced its intention to reduce grant funding to states under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). These grants are used to purchase and upgrade voting machines, pay poll workers and support the implementation of voter registration databases. The administration's stated rationale for reducing grant funding from \$106 million to \$52 million is the assertion that more than \$1.3 billion in funds previously distributed to states under HAVA have gone unspent.

Health

The president's more detailed budget request includes some adjustment to the proposal for a reserve fund of more than \$600 billion to finance an overhaul of the nation's health system. The administration acknowledges that health reform will require additional savings and revenue-raising measures that "promote efficiency and accountability, align incentives toward quality and encourage shared responsibility."

The president requests \$584 million for pandemic influenza preparedness and response, in addition to the \$1.5 billion supplemental request sent to Congress in

See FY10 BUDGET page 10

Local governments among those hurt by Lehman Brothers bankruptcy

TARP FUNDS from page 1

suffered significant increased costs or losses in the current market turmoil." Subsequently, nearly \$590 billion in TARP funds has been provided for assistance to more than 500 financial institutions.

To date, no TARP funds have been provided to any so-called "public instrumentality." But that could change.

On May 5, the House Committee on Financial Services held a hearing on the effect of the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy on state and local governments. Testimony presented during the hearing revealed that local government entities in 20 states suffered an estimated loss of \$1.67 billion when the company collapsed. For example, public entities in Minnesota lost more than \$56 million; Oregon lost \$173 million; and Florida lost \$465 million.

Speaking on behalf of the Equitable Treatment of State and

Local Governments Act of 2009 (H.R. 467), the bill's co-sponsor Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) stated that the use of TARP funds to reimburse Lehman losses "is perhaps the fastest way to bring relief to communities across America, allowing them to pay their employees, maintain current levels of service and immediately put shovels in the ground on already approved projects."

In his testimony, San Mateo County, Calif. Supervisor Richard S. Gordon emphasized that the Lehman securities purchased by the county's public agencies were "conservative investments in bonds and corporate notes, not speculative purchases of Lehman stock." Christopher Thornberg of Beacon Economics, said San Mateo's losses, which totaled \$155 million, "mean the loss of 1,658 local jobs, approximately one half of one percent of the county's employment base. It will suffer an overall loss of \$216 million in output within the local economy including \$100

million in income for local workers and major delays in the completion of projects necessary for the growth of the economy."

Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif.) echoed Committee Chairman Barney Frank's (D-Mass.) characterization of public entities as the "unfair victims of this financial crisis." As co-sponsor of H.R. 467, Eshoo noted that billions of dollars in TARP funds had been expended to help such financial institutions as Bank of America and Citigroup, but that no funds had been used to help out any public entities. "It's been said that no banks are too big to fail. It can also be said that counties, schools districts and cities are too small to be noticed," she lamented.

NACO supports H.R. 467 and has sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner asking that he exercise his authority and immediately begin using TARP funds to reimburse these public entities for their losses.

Mobile training teams take preparedness on the road

The Center for Domestic Preparedness' commitment to train emergency response providers goes beyond standard classroom instruction.

Whether it's tailored to law enforcement, firefighters or healthcare professionals, the CDP staff offers a wide variety of courses to local jurisdictions.

The CDP has averaged 45 mobile training events per week in 2009. The Mobile Training Teams—MTTs—offer hometown responders an opportunity to receive the necessary training to respond to potential threats, whether accidental or manmade.

Established in 1998, the CDP offers training for emergency response providers in 10 response disciplines: emergency management, emergency medical services, fire service, governmental administrative, hazardous materials, health care, law enforcement, public health, public safety communications and public works.

"MTTs allow us to extend the same quality of training that's offered at the CDP to local jurisdictions," said Rick Dickson, CDP director of training delivery. "Providing mobile training allows

our instructors to train responders in their own communities, based on their specific needs."

The CDP is a major component of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Preparedness Directorate and is the nation's only congressionally chartered federal training facility.

"This is a win-win for local jurisdictions faced with staffing challenges and the responsibility to prepare for catastrophic events associated with disasters."

The training program provides responders with knowledge to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from chemical, biological, explosive, radiological or other hazardous materials incidents. As many as 25 of the CDP's 38 training courses are available through MTTs. Emergency response providers who require training at the CDP's toxic training facility must make the trip to Anniston, Ala. The CDP is home to the nation's only civilian

training facility offering emergency response providers an opportunity to train and operate in a nerve agent environment.

The CDP's first MTT was conducted in Salt Lake City, when Utah requested the training for its emergency responders in support of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Because the training was beneficial to the state's preparedness, the CDP began offering MTTs to all states and U.S. territories.

As of April 2009, MTTs have been offered in 49 states and four U.S. territories, resulting in more than 7,800 MTTs since 2002 — totaling more than 218,000 MTT-trained emergency responders.

"Mobile training allows the CDP to provide quality training to emergency response personnel, assists departments in establishing capabilities, and prepares them for advanced training at the CDP's campus in Anniston," said Dickson. The Anniston, Ala. campus houses the CDP's toxic training facility. "This is a win-win for local jurisdictions faced with staffing challenges and the responsibility to prepare for catastrophic events associated with disasters."

"For cost reasons, I wouldn't have attended the training if it weren't available here," said Dan Bigelow, a sergeant with the Oklahoma City Police Department. "It was great and I feel better prepared, especially from the hands-on training. The CDP has a professional and educated staff... They knew what they were doing."

MTTs last from one to four days, depending on the course. A request made through the State's Administrative Agency (SAA) initiates the process. Jurisdictions are responsible for recruiting responder students and providing the required training locations or classrooms. The CDP provides training at no cost to the local jurisdiction.

"Jurisdictions routinely take advantage of the CDP's ability to provide advanced hands-on training by hosting MTTs and sending their emergency response providers to the Alabama facility," said Denis Campeau, CDP director for training and education.

The CDP offered an aggressive Mobile Training Team approach that provided training to hundreds of emergency responders who sup-

ported the Presidential Inauguration and Super Bowl XLIII.

"The CDP was very helpful and provided training material that was easy to understand," said Lt. Stacey Goss, from the Denver Police Department. "[The CDP] broke the training down to the simplest of details which proved to be extremely helpful."

Deputy Benjamin Kenney, Hillsborough County, Fla. Sheriff's Office, said: "The [Managing Civil Actions] training is essential for responders who encounter an illegal mass protest or riot situation. Each class builds upon a variety of skill sets and has the opportunity to train with other departments, which puts us all in sync in the event we ever have to work together."

Numerous federal and non-federal training partnerships enable the CDP staff to share knowledge, ensuring the nation's emergency response providers receive the most up-to-date training. The CDP offers responders a wide range of training available as MTTs, and resident and non-resident programs.

To learn more about the CDP and its Mobile Training Teams, visit its Web site at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>.

Some partnerships are just meant to be.

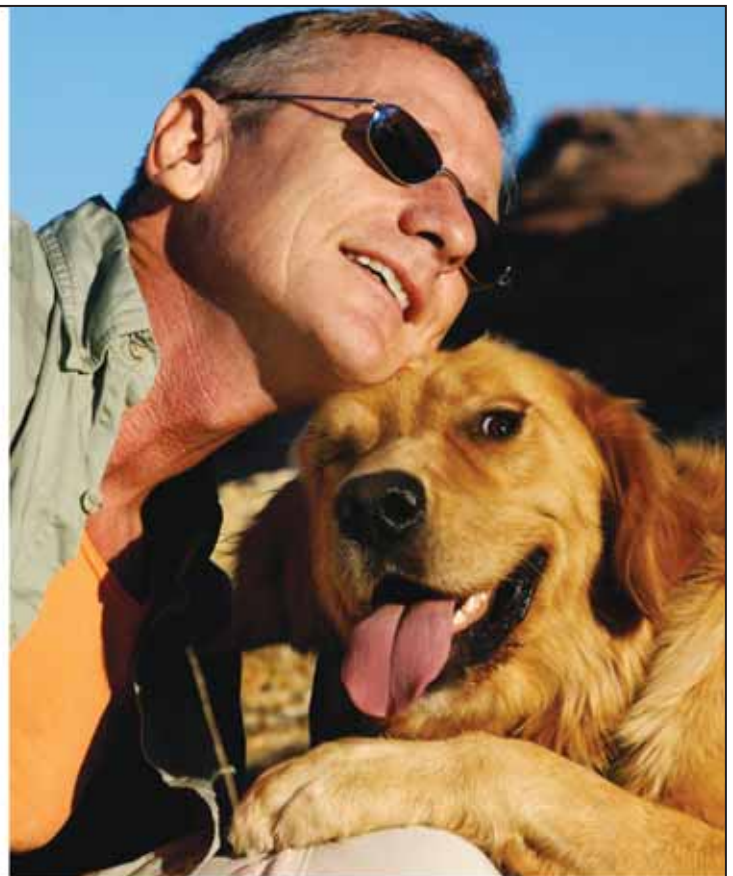
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Budget would axe criminal alien assistance funding

FY10 BUDGET from page 8

April. The request for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention includes \$102 million for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, which is the same level as FY09.

The request for health centers is \$2.208 billion, the same level as was appropriated in FY09.

The request includes more than \$1 billion for programs to strengthen and support the health workforce, especially in underserved areas, and \$73 million for programs to improve rural health care, including Rural Health Care Services Outreach, Network and Quality Improvement grants, state offices of rural health and Telehealth grants.

The budget requests \$2.3 billion for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, an increase of \$54 million over this year's level.

The president requests \$48 million for programs supporting children with autism spectrum disorders and their families, an increase of \$6 million.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) request includes \$59 million to increase the capacity of drug courts (an increase of \$35 million), including \$5 million to support families affected by methamphetamine abuse. It also asks for level funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant Program at \$1.8 billion and Community Mental Health Services Block Grants at \$421 million.

The budget proposes eliminating 927 earmarks approved by Congress in 2009 for local health projects worth \$356 million. These include Health Care Facilities and Construction (\$310 million), the Denali Commission (\$20 million) and the Delta Health Initiative (\$26 million).

The Health Care Facilities and Construction program funds construction, renovation and equipment acquisition for public and private sector facilities. The Denali Commission supports construction of health facilities in Alaska. The Delta Health Initiative funds construction of health care facilities, training of health professionals, and the purchase of equipment in Mississippi.

The administration argues that the projects are not subject to competitive or merit-based processes and support private institutions that should not be federally subsidized.

Human Services and Education

The president's budget proposes major expansions of early childhood development programs. The early childhood initiative includes a legislative proposal with several new programs:

- a mandatory program for states for home-visitation programs, which would start at \$124 million in FY10 and increase to \$1.8 billion in FY19
- \$500 million for formula grants under a new Early Childhood Grants for state and local education agencies, and
- \$300 million for competitive grants to develop and improve pre-K and other early childhood education programs.

Head Start funding for 2010 would be \$7.2 billion, an increase of \$122 million over the 2009 appropriation level. However, it should be noted that the American Recovery and Investment Act provided an additional \$2.1 billion for Head Start and \$1.1 billion for Early Head Start, half of which would still be available in FY10.

The administration's budget includes a legislative proposal for a funding trigger under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that would allow for an automatic program increase when gas prices increase by at least 15 percent or electricity costs by at least 10 percent. The overall funding for LIHEAP would be \$3.2 billion.

This amount is more than the traditional \$2.5 billion that is usually provided to LIHEAP, but less than the 2009 amount because the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 doubled the program to \$5.2 billion as a result of the energy crisis.

In general, most other human services received level funding including \$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant. One exception is the refugee program, which

would receive \$741 million, an increase of \$107 million.

On the other hand, the Community Services Block Grant, which received a boost of \$1 billion under the Recovery Act, would receive \$765 million, \$10 million less than the regular appropriation. Programs for the elderly also received the same funding as in 2009: \$810 million for nutrition programs, \$361 million for home and community services, and \$154 million for the Family Caregiver Support Program.

On the nutrition side, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program would receive a significant increase of \$917 million, for a total of \$7.8 billion. Child nutrition programs, including WIC, school lunch, and school breakfast are up for reauthorization in this Congress.

On the education side, the Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies would receive just under \$13 billion. This is about \$500 million less than the FY09 budget, but the Recovery Act provided \$10 billion for Title I, \$5 billion of which would

be available for the 2010 school year, bringing the total up to almost \$18 billion. The grants to states under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) received level funding, \$11.5 billion. IDEA also has much of the \$11 billion it received under the Recovery Act for the next school year.

Justice and Public Safety

The Obama budget request for FY10 marks Byrne JAG at \$517 million; the same as last year, and \$100 million for the Second Chance Act, an increase of \$75 million. The COPS program increased \$210 million from \$551 million in FY09 to \$761 million in FY10. Of the \$761 million for COPS, \$298 million was set aside for COPS hiring.

The only major disappointment in the budget request was a call to eliminate the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funded at \$405 million in FY09. Attorney General Eric Holder has agreed to review the SCAAP decision. SCAAP reimburses counties for illegal

immigrants who are detained in county jails.

Byrne Discretionary Grants, which had received \$225 million in the Recovery Act, received an added request of \$30 million in the administration's FY10 budget. Byrne JAG received \$2 billion in the Recovery Act and COPS received \$1 billion. Under Juvenile Justice, Title V (the prevention title) received \$62 million while the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant received \$55 million in the FY10 budget.

Homeland Security

President Obama's first budget request to Congress proposes \$42.7 billion for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), an increase of \$2.718 billion compared to last year. Funding would support five major priorities — counterterrorism; border security; enforcement of immigration laws; disaster preparedness, response and recovery; and department unification.

See FY10 BUDGET page 11

PayPal online payment service becomes NACo premier member

PayPal, the popular online payment tool, has become NACo's newest premier member. Like other NACo premier members, it produces case studies to show the impact of its service. Following is a case study from PayPal involving Lee County, Ala.

Located in the beautiful plains of eastern Alabama between Birmingham and Atlanta, Lee County has experienced 20 percent population growth since 2000. To keep up with the rising demand for services, county agencies realized they needed to make it easier for citizens to do business with the county.

"We decided to eliminate the long lines at the courthouse and make it faster for people to conduct business, such as renewing car tags or paying property taxes," said Oline Price, revenue commissioner for Lee County.

Accepting payments online with PayPal was a logical decision for Lee County. "I've used PayPal for personal purchases and never had a bad experience," Price said. "By adding PayPal to our Web site, we could immediately provide citizens with a familiar, easy way to pay fees."

But Price didn't make the decision lightly. With millions of dollars of taxpayer funds at stake,



the county had to choose a reliable, secure payment solution.

"We have a duty to manage revenues responsibly and protect sensitive taxpayer information," Price explained. "After evaluating PayPal's safety and security measures, we knew the system would protect our taxpayers' financial data."

Shorter Lines, Satisfied Citizens

For Lee County, setting up PayPal was simple. "Our PayPal integration was about as close to flawless as possible," Price said. "Since then, we haven't had a single problem between PayPal and our banking system."

About 8 percent of Lee County's payments now come in through PayPal — more than twice as many as the county expected. Many users have offered positive feedback. "People are very happy they can pay tax bills online with PayPal," Price said. "We actually get comments like, 'You are wonderful' and 'We love you' from our citizens."

With a faster, easier payment

tool at their fingertips, more citizens are also paying motor vehicle renewals on time. In fact, the lines at the county courthouse in Opelika have shrunk considerably. "The day before a recent payment deadline, we found clerks asking, 'Where's my next customer?'" Price said. "That's unheard of. PayPal has proved tremendously helpful in expediting our services."

Ahead of the Curve

In addition to a 20 percent increase in population, Lee County has also seen a 50 percent increase in property parcels over the past decade. But Price has continued to do business without significantly increasing staff. In fact, she has redeployed some personnel to a satellite office and will soon redeploy others to Auburn. "We can deliver services much more efficiently — thanks in large part to PayPal," Price said.

After recently winning reelection with 65 percent of the vote, Price explained, "Everyone who publicly endorsed me focused on two of my accomplishments: online bill payment and opening satellite offices. Thanks to PayPal, Lee County is ahead of the curve in providing convenient services to our citizens."

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Obama FY10 budget boosts Forest Service funding 9 percent

FY10 BUDGET from page 10

Key state and local first responder assistance programs would receive a total of \$3.8 billion, an increase over FY09's \$3.1 billion level.

Specifically, the FY10 budget request includes the following amounts for key state and local first responder assistance programs:

- \$713 million for DHS' State Homeland Security Grant Program (\$713 million enacted in FY09), of which \$60 million is slated for grants to Southwest border applicants
- \$666 million for DHS' Urban Area Security Initiative Program (\$629 million enacted in FY09)
- \$460 million for Law Enforcement Prevention (\$447 million enacted in FY09);
- \$590 million for FIRE Grants (\$775 million enacted in FY09), of which \$420 million is proposed for grants for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program (\$220 million enacted in FY09), and \$170 million is proposed for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program (\$565 million enacted in 2009 with an additional \$210 million provided in the Recovery Act)
- \$315 million for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (\$315 million enacted in FY09), and
- \$114 million for State and Local Training Programs (\$196 million enacted in FY09).

• Eliminations Proposed for Justice and DHS programs

While the president's FY10 budget request supports many programs important to counties, there are several major programs recommended for elimination. In addition to eliminating SCAAP, the request recommends terminating DHS' Emergency Operation Grant Program, Trucking Security Program and Intercity Bus Security Grant Program.

The budget request also

proposes to terminate the Environmental Protection Agency's Homeland Security Grant Program to States.

Labor and Employment

The president's budget for the Department of Labor (DOL) includes \$76.7 billion in budget authority for the department's mandatory programs. In addition, the budget requests \$13.3 billion in discretionary budget authority for DOL, which includes \$3.83 billion in funding for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs — a \$200 million increase over FY09 funding levels. WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth formula funding streams remain essentially level-funded from FY09.

Highlights of the budget include:

- \$861.5 million for Adult Training
- \$1.413 billion for Dislocated Workers Employment and Training Activities
- \$924 million for WIA Youth Activities (no increase over FY09)
- \$114 million for YouthBuild (\$44 million increase over FY09)
- \$115 million for ex-offender activities, of which \$88.5 million shall be for youthful offender activities (\$7 million increase over FY09)
- \$135 million for a Career Pathways Innovation fund (new in FY10), and
- \$15 million for a Workforce Data Quality Initiative (new in FY10)

The budget also creates three new initiatives:

- The Green Jobs Innovation Fund would provide \$50 million to support competitive grant opportunities to help workers receive job training in green industry sectors and occupations and access green career pathways. This initiative was designed to complement and extend the competitive grant awards made through the funding available

for training in high-growth and emerging industry sectors under the Recovery Act.

• The Workforce Data Quality Initiative would provide \$15 million in competitive grants to support the development of data systems that integrate education and workforce data to provide timely and accessible information to consumers, policymakers and others.

• Career Pathways Innovation Fund would provide \$135 million in competitive grants to community college-led partnerships that are developing or expanding career pathway programs in partnership with education and training providers, employers and the workforce investment system.

Public Lands

• USDA Forest Service Boosted in Obama Budget

The president's FY10 budget request for the Forest Service totals \$5.227 billion, an 8.9 percent increase over FY09 levels. The budget reflects new presidential initiatives to:

- address critical deferred maintenance and operational components of the Forest Service infrastructure
- address regional issues that affect the Great Lakes, such as invasive species, non-point source pollution and contaminated sediment, and
- address climate change.

Additional program funding changes include:

- State and Private Forestry programs are proposed at \$306 million, an increase of \$40 million.
- National Forest System funding is proposed at approximately \$1.5 billion, slightly less than FY09.
- FY10 Wildland Fire Activities would increase (excluding emergency funding) by \$388 million to \$2.5 billion, and
- Capital Improvement and Maintenance programs are proposed at \$557 million, an increase of \$62 million.

The Secure Rural Schools payment would decrease in FY10 since the legislation re-establishing the program called for a phase-out of payments after four years. The 2009 payment was \$395 million and the 2010 payment would be \$354 million.

• U.S. Department of the Interior

The president's FY10 budget request for DOI totals \$12 billion and provides additional investments in developing renewable energy and protecting endangered

species. Most importantly, the budget request includes a funding level of \$390 million for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program.

Last year, Congress passed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which converted the PILT program from a discretionary program (subject to annual appropriations) to a mandatory entitlement program. Full funding for the program was provided through FY12.

Other budget priorities include:

- \$75.4 million have been set aside for a new Energy Frontier initiative, which includes \$50.1 million to promote a clean energy future with a focus on renewable energy sources on federal lands
- \$133 million in additional funding to monitor, adaptively manage, and assess the impacts of climate change on the nation's lands, waters, fish and wildlife

• \$26 million in grants to promote conservation of western water by local communities through voluntary water banks, wastewater reclamation and reuse, and other market-based conservation measures

• a \$95 million increase in the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisition, and

• \$370 million for wildfire suppression and \$75 million in a new Wildland Fire Contingency Reserve Fund, which will minimize the need for the transfer of funds from non-fire programs.

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Telecommunications and Technology

The president's budget provides for the establishment of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and also provides resources for broadband grants and loans through the Rural Utilities Service of the Department of Agriculture.

BTOP is intended to increase access to broadband service in unserved and underserved areas of the country, and ensure broadband access to strategic institutions that are likely to provide significant public benefits such as schools, libraries, health care providers and public safety agencies.

The BTOP initiatives will provide grant support to enable broadband access for consumers with limited or no broadband service as well as stimulate demand and facilitate greater use of broadband services, while contributing to economic growth and job creation.

Transportation

The administration's FY10 budget provides \$73.25 billion, up from the FY09 level of \$71.4 billion. Most programs received an increase to continue current services, although there were a few exceptions where programs got a major boost in spending, including high-speed rail and Essential Air Service.

• Highways

The federal highway program is increased from the FY09 level of \$40.7 billion to the FY10 level of \$41.1 billion. Because of the potential revenue problems faced by the Highway Trust Fund, only \$5 billion comes from the Trust Fund and \$36 billion from the General Fund. If the Trust Fund problem is fixed to address the potential negative balance, it is likely that the General Fund will not be needed to fund the highway program.

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• Aviation

The Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which is used for capital projects at public airports, is level-funded at \$3.51 billion, the same amount as the past four years. That figure could change if Congress passes the reauthorization of the federal aviation and airport program this year.

A big increase, however, is proposed for the Essential Air Service Program (EAS), which is funded at \$175 million for FY10, up from the \$127 million level in FY09. EAS provides subsidized air service to about 150 rural communities. This increase in funding is part of the Obama administration's "Standing with Rural America Initiative."

• Rail

Amtrak is funded at \$1.502 billion for FY10, up from \$1.49 billion in FY09. High-speed rail/intercity passenger receives \$1 billion, up from \$90 million in the FY09 budget and continues the initiative in funding high-speed rail that began with \$8 billion in the stimulus legislation. The Rail Line Relocation Grant Program, a small program providing \$25 million to communities for moving rail lines to mitigate the impact of rail traffic on motor vehicle traffic and improve safety, is terminated.

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Model Programs FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES

County Program Standardizes Green Building Practices

By ELIZABETH PERRY
STAFF WRITER

The GreenTools program of King County, Wash. seeks to standardize green building practices that will support development but also protect and conserve natural resources.

Staffed and coordinated by its Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, the program has provided technical assistance and policy support to county residents, businesses and agencies seeking to build green. It was recently named one of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's 2009 Top 50 Government Innovations.

"GreenTools is our brand name for our Green Building Team," said Beth Humphrey, project manager of the county's GreenTools and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) programs. "We have five people who work on green buildings, including someone who works on residential, and I work mostly with the county infrastructure and buildings. King County has 39 cities, so we have people who work with them to help with their green building programs, too."

The Green Building Team consists of representatives from county agencies, including Facilities Management, Transportation, Natural Resources and Parks, and Development and Environmental Services. They provide technical support to project teams in need of assistance in training, budget analysis and technical assistance, and encourage best practices to conserve resources, use recycled materials, maximize energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

"We work with other organizations in the county and suburban cities," Humphrey said. "We try to leverage what we do to distribute the information and education more broadly."

The program began in 2001, when the County Council issued an executive order to encourage and promote green building practices in the construction and renovation of county buildings. The county decided to practice what it preached by bringing its own buildings into compliance. The Green Building Team was formed to educate and assist county agencies in green building practices. Eventually, the team branched out to collaborate with the Master Builders Association

to develop a Built Green rating system for residential buildings and gained momentum after Gov. Christine Gregoire signed a bill in 2005 mandating all public buildings comply with LEED standards.

One of the ways the county has been able to encourage green building practices is by providing

As of this year the program has certified more than 10,000 Built Green homes in the county.

\$20,000 to \$30,000 grants for LEED-certified commercial buildings and \$5,000 to \$20,000 grants for Built Green-certified residential single- and multi-family homes. Commercial projects meeting LEED standards score high on sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection indoor environmental quality and innovation in design. Ratings range from 26 points for minimum certification, through 69 points at the platinum level, the

highest certification in the rating system. The Built Green certification is based on a "green star" rating system, with five being the highest score possible.

The Kent Pullen Regional Communications and Emergency Coordination Center was King County's first registered LEED project. Built in 2003, the 34,800-square-foot center is home to the county's Office of Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office Communications Center.

The building consists of space for emergency coordination, training, radio and telecommunications, 911 and police dispatch, as well as administrative offices and two onsite radio towers.

According to figures from the county, the building cost \$14.3 million to construct and incorporates a number of green building features, including:

- The center was built on the site of a former road construction training facility.
- Open spaces and woodlands were left undisturbed, and plants native to the area were added.
- Ponds were added to manage

storm water runoff, increase infiltration and eliminate contaminants.

- Irrigation equipment used to water plants reduces the need for potable water by 50 percent.

- Energy-efficient mechanical and lighting systems use 25 percent less energy than called for by the state code; natural lighting is used in work areas to reduce need for cooling and lights, and

- Approximately 86 percent of construction and demolition waste, and 97 percent of structural steel used to build the center was recycled.

When asked if the GreenTools program has been successful,

Humphreys said the numbers speak for themselves. As of this year, the program has certified more than 10,000 Built Green homes in the county, and "we have seen the number of LEED-certified buildings increase dramatically over the years," she said.

For counties interested in developing their own green building programs, Humphreys suggested leading by example. "Counties can really lead the commercial and residential sectors by implementing green programs internally," she said.

For more information on green building, contact Beth Humphreys at 206/296-4365.

NACo on the Move

» In the News

NACo's National County Government Week was mentioned in an article in the *Lake County (Calif.) News* May 4 and in a guest column by Angela Carbeta in *The Marion Star* in Marion County, Ohio May 6.

» NACo Officers and Elected Officials

Larry L. Johnson, De Kalb County, Ga. commissioner and Health Steering Committee vice chair, contributed county government perspectives as a panelist in a town-hall style session April 22 entitled "Launching a Health Equity Movement."

» NACo Staff

Ed Rosado, legislative director, spoke on Recovery Act implementation at the 2009 National Summit on Grants in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act sponsored by the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri April 30.



Ed Rosado

On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson.



Photo by Paul Beddoe

Health Steering Committee Chair Linda Langston (r), Linn County, Iowa, met with Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on May 8. They discussed health reform and opportunities for NACo and HHS to collaborate.



Photo courtesy of King County, Wash.

Workers build a house with structural insulated panels. According to information from BuildCentral, Inc. most of the panels used consist of two layers of wood sheathing laminated to a foam core. When installed in a home, they provide structure and insulation.

News From the Nation's Counties

► CALIFORNIA

SAN MATEO COUNTY Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance recently requiring **medical marijuana clubs** to obtain a license from the county, the *Daily News* reported. The ordinance states a club cannot advertise marijuana, must have exterior lights and extra safety precautions.

Clubs must not be built near schools, recreation centers or youth centers, and should not employ felons. The officials said they wanted to set conditions for how clubs should operate to discourage illegal activity, but still comply with state law, which legalized the distribution of marijuana for medicinal use in 1996.

► GEORGIA

GWINNETT COUNTY recently announced the start of its **Environmental Sustainability Program**, which will focus primarily on energy efficiency and water conservation. The program's goals include a 10 percent reduction in energy consumption. Dennis Baxter, environmental sustainability program coordinator, estimates the program will reduce energy usage by 20 million to 30 million kilowatt hours and save the county \$1 million.

The county will also conduct periodic water audits, establish limits on irrigation and encourage replacement of older plumbing with high-efficiency fixtures and ultra low-flow toilets. The county hopes to reduce water consumption by 15 million gallons and save approximately \$100,000 in annual water utility billings.

► IOWA

County extension offices **face major restructuring** due to budget shortfalls, according to Jack Payne, Iowa State University vice president for extension and outreach. The first step involves eliminating 92 county education directors, five area director positions and closing all area offices. County extension offices will remain open, with much of the decision-making done by county extension councils.

The *Creston News Advertiser* reported that counties will be grouped into 20 regions, instead of having a director and an office for each county. Each group of counties will share a regional director and a supervising director of field operations.

► KANSAS

SHAWNEE and 18 other counties have filed a lawsuit against

the state for **underpayment of highway funds**, the Associated Press reported. Errors attributed to the state Treasurer's Office dated back nine years, resulting in some counties being paid more and others less than their share of fuel tax revenues.

Although the state legislature addressed the matter this year and awarded restitution for three years, Shawnee County attorney Richard Eckert said the lawsuit seeks restitution for the other six years. During that period, Shawnee was overcharged \$6.5 million to \$7 million, according to Eckert.

► MICHIGAN

OTTAWA COUNTY's Planning Commission recently voted 5-1 in favor of asking the Board to support **rejoining the Grand Rapids-Wyoming Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** on the 2010 U.S. Census, the *Holland Sentinel* reported. The U.S. Census Bureau

defines a metropolitan statistical area as a "geographic entity of 50,000 people or more used by the U.S. Census Bureau to categorize federal statistics."

The county was included along with **MUSKEGON** and **ALLEGAN counties** in the Grand Rapids MSA in 2000, but split off to become its own area of 260,364 people three years later. The *Sentinel* said Ottawa officials want to rejoin Grand Rapids, which has an estimated population of 776,833, in order to boost their numbers and improve economic development.

► NEW JERSEY

BERGEN COUNTY freeholders have rejected a plan to close the county's only **free HIV/AIDS testing clinic**. "We are unanimously against it," Freeholder David Ganz told *NorthJersey.com*. Proponents had seen closure as a way to save the county \$104,000. Opponents of closing the facility said doing

so would result in a loss of federal funding.

Ganz said he was more concerned about an interruption in access to free, anonymous HIV testing than about losing federal funding. "It's not a money issue," Ganz said. "It's the anonymity. The people that go want this to be an anonymous test."

► NEW YORK

ONEIDA COUNTY residents looking for jobs through the city of Utica's Working Solutions office now have one less thing to look for — parking. The county and city, which is the county seat, have arranged to provide **free parking for job seekers** who use the center's services.

Working Solutions offers a two-hour seminar on training and career options. County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. said: "We want our job seekers to be able to attend the seminars without needing to worry that

they will be getting parking tickets, or that they will not be able to find parking near the building."

The arrangement provides three hours of free parking at the city's open parking lots but not its parking garages

► PENNSYLVANIA

ALLEGHENY COUNTY may file a **federal lawsuit** to force a change in state law concerning property assessments if state government can't solve the problem, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported. The state Supreme Court recently struck down the county's base-year assessment system.

County Executive Dan Onorato recently met with lawmakers in Harrisburg, the state capital, to seek a legislative solution to fix the county's reassessment system.

The high court ruled that Allegheny County's assessment system is unconstitutional. Under the existing system, property values are frozen at 2002 levels — the last time a county-wide assessment was conducted.

► SOUTH CAROLINA

CHARLESTON COUNTY's Environmental Management Department (formerly Solid Waste and Recycling Department) received the **2009 Most Successful Local Government Award** at the Carolina Recycling Association's 19th Annual Awards Ceremony. John Foster, the County's recycling manager, also took home the Recycler of the Year Award for the county's Neighborhood Initiative Program.

► TEXAS

DALLAS COUNTY Sheriff Lupe Valdez recently ordered more than **900 prisoners to be moved** into an overflow jail because of faulty smoke detectors in the county's largest jail building, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. "We have to think of inmate safety," Valdez said. "I'm not taking any chances."

► VIRGINIA

• **ARLINGTON COUNTY** has increased its purchase assistance for **low and moderate income first-time homebuyers** for the first time since 2003. The new limit provides up to 25 percent of the purchase price, up to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development purchase price limit of \$362,790. The maximum loan under the program would be \$90,700.

From 2000 through 2005, HUD's median income for the Washington,

Research News

It's Turtle Time in May

May 1 is the beginning of loggerhead sea turtle nesting season along the East Coast. Sea turtle nesting season can begin as early as March for some species.

Most common are the leatherback, green, hawksbill and Kemp's ridley sea turtles, all on the endangered species list, and the loggerhead, which is threatened. Counties all along the coast have established special ordinances to help protect these turtles that have been around, unchanged, for millions of years.

On a schedule known only to them, but at least two to three times a year, the female turtles, with some species weighing as much as 1,300 pounds, come out of the ocean and lumber up above the tide line where they dig holes about 18 inches deep. In this depression they lay up to 100 ping-pong ball-sized eggs, cover them and then go back into the ocean.

After about 60 days, the eggs begin to hatch and the baby turtles begin their trek back to the ocean, using the reflection from the water as their guide. Statistics show that only about one in 1,000 of the new baby turtles reach adulthood. If they don't make it to the water fast enough they can die of dehydration, and their natural predators include birds, crabs, raccoons, and other animals.

Another source of destruction



Loggerhead turtles begin nesting in May along the East Coast.

for baby turtles is artificial lighting along the beaches. These artificial lights cause the sea turtles to become disoriented and to go in the wrong direction heading inland rather than to the water, often to roads when they are crushed by cars or eaten by predators. Lee, Franklin, Brevard, Duval and Collier counties in Florida are a few of the many counties that regulate lighting on the beaches at night during nesting season.

Franklin County's ordinance addresses many issues that assist with the survival of the sea turtles. It establishes what kinds of lights are

permissible along the beaches and defines nesting season, the prohibited period, as May 1 through Oct. 31. It also establishes standards for artificial light sources for all coastal construction within the Coastal Construction Control Line (defined by Florida statutes) in the county.

The ordinance also provides standards for existing lighting and requires the repositioning or modification of non-conforming lighting fixtures. These standards even regulate the amount of light that



What's in a Seal?

» Logan County, Colo.

www.loganco.gov

Logan County, Colo. was formed by an act of the Colorado State Legislature on Feb. 25, 1887. The county had been a part of Weld County, and citizens from the eastern part of the state were required to travel to Greeley, the county seat, to conduct official business. Citizens petitioned the state legislature to form the new county.

The design of the county seal is based on the wagon wheel which helped open the West back in the 1800s. The words "Logan County" are placed at the hub of the wheel suggesting it as an important county in Colorado. The design is right-side up from any angle instead of being viewed from just one point (as with a wheel at rest) signifying a rolling onward progress of the community.

The symbols pictured, such as corn, wheat and cattle, are important to the past, present and future of the county.

(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Christopher Johnson at 202/942-4256 or cjohnson@naco.org.)

More counties jump on Twitter bandwagon

NEWS FROM from page 13

D.C. Metropolitan Area — of which Arlington is a part — stayed flat, while housing prices in the county doubled to a median price of \$537,500 in 2008.

● Congratulations to **HENRICO COUNTY** Television (HCTV). Five programs produced by HCTV received awards at the 42nd annual **WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival**. The festival is a competition for independent and educational programming. This year it received more than 4,500 entries from 37 countries.

HCTV's awards included two platinum awards, the highest honor in an individual category, for "Your Other Mind: The Healing Power of Hypnotherapy," an examination of how hypnosis helped several Henrico residents manage medical or behavioral problems; and "Monticello: Thomas Jefferson's Dream," a look inside the famous house and how it reflects Jefferson's diverse interests and intellect. HCTV is the broadcast arm of Henrico's Department of Public Relations and Media Services.

► WASHINGTON

Everyone — counties included — seems to be "tweeting" these days. Tweets are short text mes-

sages distributed to subscribers using **Twitter**, the free social networking site. **KING COUNTY** has more than 1,800 followers. It used Twitter, among other means, to announce that County Executive Ron Sims had resigned, following his U.S. Senate confirmation as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Elsewhere, **ALLEN COUNTY, Ind.** is also tweeting away, announcing everything from road lane closures to the following: "5 new videos about Allen Co. government now available at our YouTube channel." As of May 10, it had 242 followers.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Ore. recently posted a job opening for a "social media coordinator" to provide community information through such Web sites, KGW-TV reported.

And **FAIRFAX COUNTY, Va.** with 773 followers to date has used its tweets to get the story straight on who is responsible for mowing the grass along its roads — the state — and to promote other Twitter sites.

(News From the Nation's Counties is compiled by Charles Taylor and Elizabeth Perry, staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please e-mail ctaylor@naco.org or eperry@naco.org.)

The H.R. Doctor Is In

The 'SAD' Nation to Come

Nothing lasts forever. Nothing ever does. This is a fundamental truth, not only in Julie Andrews' song in "The Sound of Music," but also in science, religion and philosophy.

Certainly it is true in economics, as everyone with retirement plans built around 401 or 457 plans can attest. It is true as we watch our children grow, and as we age during the course of our careers and our lifetimes. The shape and form of how our country's political institutions work are also subject to changes.

This is an article about how our political institutions appear to be moving. It is also an article about how we might stop and think about supporting and encouraging the change or finding an alternate direction. To begin with, maneuvering anywhere in an environment of change requires two very basic points. The first is to know where you are. The second is to know what the direction of change seems to be, or at least your best guess at it.

In the case of American government the HR Doctor, in a prior article entitled "The Second American Revolution," focused on the fact that state governments appeared to be roaming around aimlessly trying to decide what they are going to be when they grow up.

The position of state government in the federal system has declined from being the prime focus at the time of the founding of the Republic to being organizations that can't quite cope. States are too big to handle little problems successfully, like the protection of an individual abused child. They are also certainly too small to deal with many of the most important issues we will face as a society. These include global warming, the power of technology, multinational corporations, health care and personal accountability deficits, Social Security reform and much more.

States are retreating into increasingly loud arenas for partisan bickering, whining and budgets that never quite get balanced other than with a short-term view lasting barely until the next election.

There is an increasing worry from this author's vantage point that the fundamental principle which has allowed our institutions to function so brilliantly

for more than two centuries is at risk. That fundamental cornerstone is compromise and the ability to act for a larger and more common good instead of narrower "litmus test" interests.

Recall that more than two centuries ago the concept of giant urban metropolitan areas did not exist in America. The state seemed to be a natural center for governance since we were at war literally and figuratively with the concept of centralized power excesses, especially by people who wore red coats. Combine that with the rural, agricultural-based economy and about all that was left was the concept of the individual colonies or states.

America today has about 89,500 government organizations. This rather staggering number, however, is down from more than 115,116 when World War II began.

That has now changed dramatically. The HR Doctor, for example, lives in a county which alone has a population larger than that of 12 states. The world is different today.

Where will this change in dynamics and demographics take us? This type of question was raised ironically by the now retired HR director St. Thomas Aquinas, who posed the philosophical debating point "How many angels can fit on the head of a pin?" The same can be asked when we look at government organization.

America today has about 89,500 government organizations. This rather staggering number, however, is down from more than 115,116 when World War II began. The entire federal government counts as one with each of the 50 states also counting as one. Given that only 51 of the 89,500 extend beyond the level of local or regional government, where are the rest of these governments?

Certainly counties have not caused the government population to be as large as it is. There was roughly the same number of counties a generation ago as there is today. In 1942 there were about 3,050. Recent Census data tells us there are 3,033, not counting consolidated city-county governments. Today there are about 19,492

municipalities, up from the 16,220 in 1942.

You can begin to see a clear trend if you imagine the very thrilling thought of inviting the entire staff of the U.S. Census Bureau over to your home for tea to review some of the predictive gems contained in the data they produce. The Census Bureau's role is an absolutely essential one in taking "GPS" readings of where our country is and has been. After all, the Founding Fathers were no dummies. They decided that the role of the census was so important that it should be in the very First Article of the new Constitution very close to the large letters that say "We the People ..."

According to census data the number of school districts has declined tremendously from more than 108,000 in 1942 to about 14,500 as of 2007. While the number of counties and municipalities has remained fairly constant, the "big news" may be found in the growth of "Special Assessment Districts" (SAD). From 8,300 at World War II's beginning to the current roughly 37,400, the SAD news is that this is a growth industry.

There are fire districts, water districts, lighting districts, recreation and park districts, hospital districts and much more. These special districts are financed by assessments, usually found in small print on property tax bills. The assessments allow the functions to be managed while escaping the clutches and, increasingly, the handcuffs of General Fund dollar competition in other government entities like cities and counties.

The beginning of this article noted that everything changes. There may perhaps be one exception and that is a universal disdain for paying taxes.

The trend suggests that we will continue to see a decline in the ability of state governments to figure out what their place in the world is. It will also be awhile before citizens realize they don't need fire stations from multiple jurisdictions covering "their" territories only a few minutes away from one another. There will, however, be an increasing search by the vested-interest leaders in specific government operations to escape from the General Fund.

The attractive escape route will increasingly be found in the creation of Special Assessment Districts. As this article was being written, the Florida Legislature was considering

Financial Services News

Nationwide Extends Call-center Hours into Late Evening

As the uncertainty of the investment markets as well as the economy in general continues to concern workers trying to prepare financially for their retirement, many find themselves dealing with questions or worries about their retirement accounts well after business hours.

Nationwide recognizes this need and has responded by extending its hours of service to the retirement-plan participants of the cities, counties and other governmental entities it serves.

Effective May 18, Nationwide's call centers will remain open until 11 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday. In addition, Nationwide is reinforcing its commitment to processing requests received by 4 p.m. EDT on the same day every day.

No Time to Pull Back

"Our country has often faced uncertain economic times in the past,"

said Louie Watson, vice president of strategic relationships for Nationwide Retirement Solutions. "But the current situation has brought together a particularly volatile set of conditions and events that have led to a severe market downturn and a global economy that's in crisis. Many organizations have been forced to curtail services.

"At Nationwide, we believe times like these are not for pulling back. We've seen an upward trend in calls from public employees who are looking for answers about what to do next," Watson added. "In announcing these extended hours, we're telling participants 'Someone is here, ready to help you put things into context and help you review your strategy and risk tolerance.'"

Workers Looking for Reassurance

Recent surveys reveal that

despite experiencing declines in both account balances and confidence, workers are still committed to saving for retirement. By and large, workers are also resisting the urge to tap into their retirement accounts. But only one out of every seven Americans is very confident of having enough money to live comfortably in retirement, half the number with the same level of confidence two years ago, according to the Retirement Confidence Survey released in April 2009 by the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

Watson says this underlying concern is an opportunity for employers.

"Plan sponsors can help employees understand that market turmoil happens from time to time, but history suggests conditions are likely to recover and rebound over the long term. Since most retirement plan participants are investing for the long-term, 'staying the course' may be their best option.

"Fortunately, Nationwide is enhancing services to help participants find and use the resources available through their employers' deferred compensation plan," Watson said.

Let Nationwide Help

If you're a public employee not participating in deferred compensation, contact your local Nationwide retirement specialist about how you may be able to enroll, or call an in-house retirement specialist toll-free at 877/677-3678.

If you're a benefits decision-maker for a governmental employer, you should know that finding creative solutions for employers has been a hallmark of Nationwide's service to the public sector, and especially NACo.

As provider of the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, Nationwide has more than 30 years of collaborative experience in working with and developing solutions for the nation's leading county employers. For more information on what Nationwide is doing to help participants succeed even during difficult economic conditions, contact Louie Watson, by e-mail at WatsonL2@Nationwide.com or by phone at 614/854-8895.

(Financial Services News was written by Bob Beasley, communications consultant, Nationwide Retirement Solutions)



Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor • www.hrd.net

Special assessment districts distance citizens from government

H.R. DOC from page 14

a bill that would remove fire services from General Fund reliance and make them SAD cases. That would be the good news and generate parties throughout the state hosted by the fire unions. The bad news would be that it would be a "tax swap" in which local government property taxes would be reduced.

The result will be economic security for the "true heroes" and a setback for the idea of reform of the fire service. It would mean more difficulty for local governments to manage their own affairs, and make decisions about the services and level of services at the local level.

Another bit of SAD news is that this type of government will be more distant from the general population than is a city or county. The more removed, the less oversight. America is evolving more and more toward government through special assessment districts as a quick, snappy, and in the long run, probably the wrong answer to the frustrations which are growing about the current system.

At some point, this "quiet

revolution" will grow louder and louder to the point where our country will even consider changing its name. It will no longer be the United States of America. It will become the "United Special Districts of America" — the USDA.

This change may excite American farmers, although their numbers are declining steadily. It is questionable whether it will excite government leaders to change direction and to begin to create rational service boundaries, consortia and coalitions that focus on the best government at the least cost for the greatest number of people.

Perhaps instead of creating a new SAD species, what we really need is thoughtful leaders with an over-the-horizon vision of the future to bravely create long-term stable funding, to innovate and end the dysfunctional squabbling over silos in favor of governments that are more local, more accountable and more service-delivery transparent.

Job Market / Classifieds

► COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD.

Salary: DOQ.

Chief Administrative Officer of the County responsible to the Board of County Commissioners for the administration of all County affairs placed in the Administrator's charge by or under the County code or other applicable law. **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:** Considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of public administration; county government organization; and management decision-making principles. Strong financial and strategic planning skills and experience. Demonstrated ability in: oral and written communication; development of policies and programs for public administration; and supervision of a staff of professionals. Strong interpersonal skills. Ability to be proactive, questioning, insightful and innovative; to deal with sensitive information and issues; and to negotiate agreements. (Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential tasks.) **QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Administration or related field from an accredited college or university and at least six years of experience in public administration/government service. A Master's Degree in Business or Public Administration or related field preferred. (A comparable amount of training and experience may be substituted for the minimum qualifications.) **SALARY AND BENEFITS:** Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications; comprehensive County benefits package including health and life insurance, paid leave and pension/retirement. Allegany County is classified as a "code home rule" county under Article XI-F of the Constitution of Maryland, with an annual budget (FY09) of \$129,137,765, and approximately 600 full-time employees. Allegany County is situated in the heart of Western Md. equidistant from Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh, Pa. with a total population of 73,000. The County's diverse businesses and industries produce a myriad of different products including high-quality paper and packaging, raw resources for energy, and national defense equipment and materials, and employ approximately 35,000. The terrain of Allegany County is predominately rolling hills with rich forestation and open pastures. Long known for its heritage as a transportation hub, Allegany County offers an enviable quality of life, with low cost of living, good schools, low crime rates, and numerous cultural and recreational activities. Please visit our Web site at: www.gov.allconet.org/ for information on governmental structure and links to community, educational, and recreational resources. Applications and Complete Job Description may be obtained from: Allegany County

Office Complex, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, MD 21502-2803 or from our website: www.gov.allconet.org/hrps/jobs.html. Please submit application, resume, and letter of interest to the Director of Human Resources at the above address. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS JUNE 26. ALLEGANY COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

► COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – MONROE COUNTY, WIS.

Salary: \$83,000 – \$95,000 plus benefits; DOQ.

New position with statutory authority. Progressive western Wisconsin county with excellent urban and rural quality of life. Require relevant bachelor's degree, master's preferred, and administrative experience, public sector preferred; expertise in budgeting/finance, organizational supervision, intergovernmental relations, general county operations; strong interpersonal/communication skills and commitment to team management and citizen participation/service. Application letter, resume, salary history, references to Public Administration Associates LLC, P.O. Box 282, Oshkosh WI 54903 or paassoc@northnet.net by June 7. Confidentiality must be requested and cannot be guaranteed for finalists. EOE.

► COUNTY MANAGER – SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH

Salary: \$110,000 – \$147,000; DOQ.

Summit County, Utah, with 40,000 residents, is located 30 minutes from downtown Salt Lake City and is nestled in the Wasatch Mountains. As a recreational area, Summit County, Utah is known throughout the United States and the world for the quality and variety of its natural environment, recreational and cultural opportunities. This new position is the Chief Executive Officer managing the day-to-day affairs of Summit County. The Manager provides visionary innovative leadership, supervision, coordination and general direction for the County and department heads. Experience: Five (5) years working as an administrator in a city or county government, including all quasi-public entities which are created by a state, county or city government. Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Public Finance or similar educational degree. A master's degree in Public Administration or Business Administration is desirable. Additional information is available on our website at www.summitcounty.org. Excellent benefits. For more information contact Brian Bellamy at bbellamy@co.summit.ut.us or 435/615-3247. To apply: Please submit a resume with a cover letter explaining why you would like to serve as Summit County Manager and would be a good candidate for the position to: Manager Selection Committee, Summit County, P.O. Box 128, Coalville, UT 84017. Filing Deadline is June 12, 5 p.m. MDT.

Coastal residents keep sea turtles under watchful eyes

RESEARCH from page 13

can come from windows and doors of existing residences and buildings and specifies window treatments that meet the standards.

South Carolina coastal counties that have similar statutes include Georgetown County and Beaufort County. The state also has several laws that are directed at the conservation of endangered species and the control of various devices and activities that are dangerous to sea turtles.

In addition to the lights and naturally occurring predators that threaten the existence of sea turtles, trapping them in shrimp fishing nets is another danger. As a result of this occurrence, all U.S. shrimpers are now required by law to put Turtle Extruder Devices on their nets. Plastic bags and other debris also pose a great risk to sea turtles. Thousands of turtles either die from eating plastic bags or from getting entangled in the plastic. Helium balloons are often

released as part of a celebratory event but wind up floating in the ocean where the turtles mistake them for one of their natural food sources, jelly fish, and eat them.

Seawalls, sandbags and other barriers used to prevent beach erosion can block the way of female turtles as

they try to find their nesting grounds. In addition, pollution, including fertilizer runoff and other contaminants, is killing off the turtles' food sources and creating sickness and disease.

Many Florida coastal communities have turtle watch committees that educate children and adults

about sea turtles and their nesting habits. Many of these citizens have state-issued permits from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to monitor and protect sea turtles.

This permit allows them to mark off and barricade the nests when they find them. Walton County, Fla.'s

citizens' group has even developed a curriculum that is used in the local schools where the nesting data and migration patterns of the turtles are used as a teaching tool.

(Research News was written by Jacqueline Byers, director of research.)

RAC fly-in agenda includes rural health issues

RAC from page 2

and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration, engaged RAC members in a passionate discussion around rural health issues. Dr. Wakefield is one of the nation's most prominent experts on rural health issues. She grew up in Devils Lake, N.D., population 7,000, and still commutes to her home there regularly.

As the new chief of HRSA, Dr. Wakefield heads a \$7 billion agency that supports a nationwide network of 7,000 health center sites serving more than 16 million patients; the Ryan White HIV-AIDS program; the 4,000-clinician National Health Service Corps that benefits rural and underserved urban areas and the nation's State Offices of Rural Health. Dr. Wakefield thanked RAC members for their work to protect and improve the rural health system. RAC members also emphasized the importance of enhanced federal support for local public health departments and the need to include behavioral health in health reform.

For more information about NACo's Rural Action Caucus, visit www.naco.org/ruralcounties.

National Association of Counties presents ...

Restoring the Partnership for American Health



The Role of County Government in the Health System

Health Briefing on Capitol Hill – Invite your Congressional staff

NACo will host a series of Congressional briefings on Capitol Hill as part of its Restore the Partnership Campaign. NACo is asking for YOUR help to ensure that our first briefing on June 8 is a true success. Our goal is to educate Congressional staff on the important role counties share in the health system debate. Please invite your Congressman or a member of his or her staff to attend.

The issue of health system reform is critical and timely to counties.

Contact: Kasia Witkowski, 202/942-4225, kwitkowski@naco.org
or Paul Beddoe, 202/942-4234, pbeddoe@naco.org.

NACo National Association of Counties
The Voice of America's Counties

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THE
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