

NACO National Association of Counties

# CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ■ WASHINGTON, D.C.

VOL. 39, NO. 21 ■ NOVEMBER 12, 2007

## Senate boots biggest funding bill back to House

By **DARIA DANIEL AND MARILINA SANZ**  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORS

Even though House and Senate conferees quickly agreed on a Labor/HHS appropriations bill and the House readily approved the conference agreement, the measure hit a bump when it got to the Senate and has been returned to the House for yet another vote.

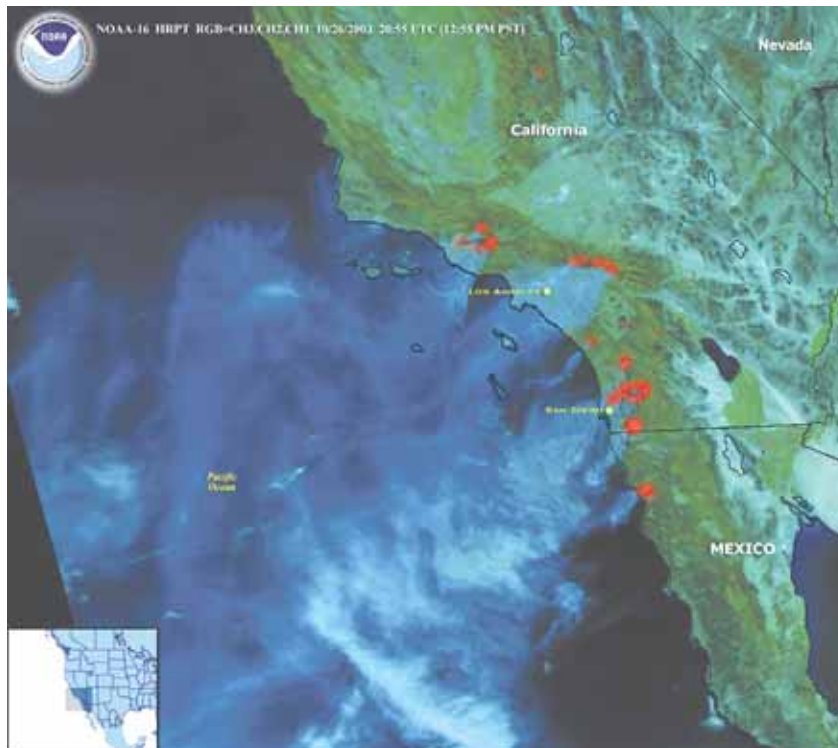
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### QuickTakes

#### States with the Largest Percentage of Foreign-born Residents

California . . . . .	28%
New York . . . . .	11.8%
Texas . . . . .	9.8%
Florida . . . . .	8.9%

Source: Census Bureau Report – 2003



As smoke streams across the Pacific, a NOAA satellite image shows the magnitude of the wildfires which raged in Southern California the week of Oct. 21. According to California state officials, at least 518,021 acres, or 800 square miles were burned in October's wildfire outbreak. There were seven fatalities and 3,177 structures destroyed.

## Farm bill moves to Senate floor

By **MARILINA SANZ**  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

After months of negotiations, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee has finished its work the 2007 Farm Bill, the Food and Energy Security Act. The Senate was expected to begin debate on the five-year, \$288-billion piece of legislation Nov. 5.

One of NACO's priorities in this bill is the rural development title. This title provides \$400 million in budget authority for several initiatives that will enhance life in rural communities. Mandatory funding was included for community facilities such as day care centers, rural hospitals and libraries.

The title enhances rural broadband initiatives and creates two new programs to assist rural communities with planning grants and provide technical assistance for entrepreneurs. Mandatory funding is also provided to help alleviate

See **FARM BILL** page 5

## Biden releases new Crime Bill

By **DONALD MURRAY**  
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Sen. Joe Biden, Jr. (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, recently released his anti-crime package, S. 2237 — The Crime Control and Prevention Act of 2007. Of particular note, the package includes NACO's concept of a national commission to examine and analyze the intergovernmental dimensions of jailing the non-violent mentally ill.

This is a very ambitious and comprehensive bill. Among other things, it strengthens the Community-Oriented Policing program (primarily an urban program), authorizes more agents for the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration and

outlines a new housing assistance program to attract and retain federal law enforcement officers.

S. 2237 would establish a new National Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. The commission would be charged with reviewing the role of policing in the U.S., anticipating challenges in policing and issuing detailed recommendations to Congress. The U.S. attorney general would appoint its members after consulting with federal, state and local law enforcement officials who have demonstrated expertise in policing, counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, court administration, prison management, prisoner reentry, drug treatment or the protection of civil liberties.

The bill has an entire title on preventing violent crime with a

particular emphasis on protecting children and providing resources to communities to deal with pre-crime intervention, violent crimes and gangs.

These include changes to Head Start, strengthening programs targeting babies and the very young, and specific gang abatement programs. It has provisions dealing with juvenile justice programs including grants for specialized training programs for juvenile court justices.

S. 2237 has a title dedicated to reducing recidivism and its impacts on communities. It takes on improving drug control and treatment programs, and improves gun control statutes and addresses technology crimes.

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More green frontier: NACO offers energy tracking. » **Page 5**

# Proposed regulations threaten county mental health systems

By PAUL V. BEDDOE  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

David Wiebe, the executive director of the Johnson County, Kan. Mental Health Center, is worried. New Medicaid regulations proposed in August by the Bush administration would limit his department's flexibility.

The new rules, if implemented, would essentially cut off funds for the successful programs he and his dedicated staff have developed to serve the county's approximately 900 adults with severe and disabling mental illness, the majority of whom have long histories of extended institutional or hospital care.

Wiebe, who chairs NACo's Health Steering Committee Subcommittee on Behavioral Health, puts a human face on the regulatory controversy by telling the story of one of the Health Center's clients, Julie (not her real name).

Julie's early adulthood was marred with the onset of a severe and persistent mental illness, which resulted in severe depressive episodes with feelings of worthlessness and several suicide attempts. The combination of her illness and her self-medicating with alcohol and drugs resulted in homelessness and her inability to maintain employment.

For years Julie struggled with her illness resulting in a string of private

hospitalizations and several lengthy stays in a state psychiatric hospital. It wasn't until Julie engaged with Johnson County Mental Health Center and began receiving community-based services, such as intensive case management, supported education and supported housing, that her life began to change.

Julie's depression began to subside and she slowly became more hopeful about her life. With this newfound outlook on life and support from the mental health center, Julie applied and was accepted into college and for four and a half years worked on her bachelor's degree. Today, Julie is a graduate of the University of Kansas and is a full-time employee with a small company in Johnson County.

Julie continues to struggle from time to time with episodes of her mental illness but with the support of her family, friends and the mental health center she is able to live independently and maintain a hopeful outlook on life.

The proposed rule restricting Medicaid rehabilitation services (or "Rehab Option" rule) would prohibit covering the full range of services that allow individuals like Julie to live independent successful lives in the community.

And like Johnson County, county governments across the country depend upon Medicaid to assist them

in serving their communities.

In most states, counties — along with other local authorities — are responsible for providing essential mental health, developmental disability and substance abuse services for vulnerable and disabled residents. Local authorities contribute well over \$15 billion to behavioral health and developmental disability services in both Medicaid-match and non-Medicaid services.

In 22 states, counties either directly or indirectly provide a range of behavioral health services — such as mental health, addictions, mental retardation and developmental disability services — to 70 percent of the U.S. population.

In 18 states, county-sponsored behavioral health authorities ensure delivery of substance abuse services to 60 percent of the U.S. population. County-sponsored local authorities are also responsible in 15 states for the delivery of developmental disability services that reach more than 50 percent of the U.S. population.

In 13 states, all or some of the counties are responsible for child welfare and foster care.

More than 800,000 children receive Medicaid because they are in the foster care system. These children disproportionately suffer from developmental delays and mental health problems. The new rules would specifically deny the use

of federal Medicaid for therapeutic foster care.

Under therapeutic foster care arrangements, children are placed with foster parents who have received specialized training. By eliminating this treatment option, the proposed rule would lead to more costly placements such as psychiatric institutions.

Cruz Vallarta, leader of a forensic case management team in Bexar County, Texas, recalls first encountering John (not his real name) during the Hurricane Katrina crisis. The police had been called because John, 40 years old, six feet and four inches tall, weighing 300 pounds, was on the third floor of a local hotel throwing things at people on the ground.

Vallarta was able to use appropriate crisis intervention training to convince John to see a doctor the next day and avoid going to jail. The intervention enabled him to receive Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) for his schizophrenia, delusions, substance abuse and related problems.

Over time, with the intensive, sometimes daily support from members of the ACT team, John has learned to treat and control his schizophrenia, stay on his medications and out of trouble. After two and a half years, he has even been able to begin to repair his relationships with his family. "The real benefit of [programs offered under the Rehab Option] is that they help people who have been in trouble all their lives," said Vallarta.

NACo and its mental health affiliate the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD) both submitted comments opposing the proposed Medicaid regulation changes in October. While the administration considers public comments as part of its formal rulemaking process, Congress has indicated its opposition to the new regulations by including a moratorium on its implementation in the bill reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

## Workforce Investment Act funding at-risk; cuts to block grant programs rejected

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### What's In It for Counties

The FY08 Labor-HHS Conference agreement includes a \$245 million rescission (take-back) for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding from FY05 and FY06. However, the secretary of labor is given the authority to take the funds

out of unspent 2007 funds at a governor's request.

This \$245 million rescission will likely come from those states with an excess of 30 percent in workforce carryover funds first. A cut may be applied across the board if the funding from those states with carryover funds is not sufficient. The conference agreement provides no new funding

for WIA programs in FY08.

In other areas, the conferees rejected the president's proposal to eliminate the Community Services Block Grant and provided \$665 million, which is \$35 million above current funding. They also rejected the president's proposal to reduce the Social Services Block Grant by \$500 million and funded it at its current level of \$1.7 billion.

The conferees likewise rejected a Senate amendment that would have changed the formula for the Ryan White AIDS program. The conferees agreed on a total of \$1.86 billion for the grants to local governments with a significant number of AIDS cases (Part A) and grants to states (Part B). The current level of funding for Parts A and B is 1.72 billion.

The numbers on the conference agreement are not expected to change, even though the House has to vote on the bill again. The president has said that he will veto the bill because it exceeds his budget request.

## New Senate rule derails Labor/HHS appropriations maneuver

A new procedural rule adopted by the Senate earlier this year allows bills to be challenged that contain provisions not included in the original bills passed by either chamber.

In the case of the nation's largest domestic spending bill, conferees had wedded the Military Construction/Veterans Appropriations bill to the Labor/HHS bill. As a result, the entire package was challenged, the Senate failed to overturn the objection and sent only the Labor/HHS measure back to the House.

This new rule could affect many bills, including the next Continuing Resolution, which is expected to be attached to the defense spending bill.

## In Case You Missed It ...

### News to Use from Past County News

#### » Nov. 16 deadline for County Radon Outreach Program

(Oct. 29) January is Radon Awareness Month, and to raise awareness during this time NACo is again conducting the County Radon Outreach Program.

Ten counties will be selected to receive 200 free radon test kits to distribute in their communities in recognition of their outreach, education and mitigation efforts.

Applicants are selected based on several criteria, including need for assistance, innovative efforts at raising awareness, county radon zone and planned follow-up activities; recipients of the award will be notified by Dec. 1 and will receive their 200 free radon test kits by the end of December.

## UPDATE: President signs Internet tax moratorium bill

There will be no new taxes on Internet access for the next seven years as the result of Congressional action on the Internet Tax Freedom Act, H.R. 3678.

Congress passed the measure late last month by wide margins in both chambers. President George W. Bush signed the bill Oct. 31.

The Internet Tax Freedom Act places a seven-year moratorium on state and local taxes on Internet access, but maintains a grandfather clause for those states already taxing such access.

A moratorium from an earlier version of the tax freedom act would have expired on Nov. 1.

# NACo's 2008 Acts of Caring program accepting nominees

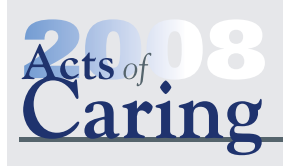
## Program to include cash prizes for the Legacy and Youth Service Awards

NACo's 2008 Acts of Caring Awards will again present cash awards to the volunteer programs that win the Legacy Award for Excellence, and Innovation and the Youth Service Award. The winner of the Legacy Award will receive \$1,500; the Youth Service Award winner will receive \$1,000.

The Acts of Caring Awards recognize the top county volunteer programs in the country. The programs are honored for their community service and the legacy they provide for the future. This is the ninth year for this unique awards program.

The awards will be presented in April 2008 during National County Government Week in Washington, D.C. in a Capitol Hill ceremony. All winning programs will receive etched-glass awards and recognition from NACo and members of Congress.

Up to 18 programs will be recognized and deemed examples of outstanding Acts of Caring. Based on county size, as many as three programs will be recognized in each of the following six categories: Community Improvement, Criminal Justice/Emergency



Management, Elderly Services, Health Services/Social Services, Libraries, and Programs for Children and Youth.

The types of programs that can be included in Community Improvement are arts and culture, historic preservation, housing,

environmental programs, services to help animals, civic education and recreation and parks.

Awards will be presented in each of three population categories to ensure that large and small communities, and urban, suburban and rural areas all receive the recognition they deserve.

The Legacy Award is presented to the program that most fully embodies the spirit of volunteerism by addressing a unique need. This award is given to the top program in the contest because it sets itself apart by providing unparalleled

service in its community. It is selected from the entire field of Acts of Caring applicants.

The Youth Service Award is presented to the program that best identifies a critical need in the youth community and addresses it, in part, by engaging young people in service.

An "act of caring" is a community service provided by a county-sponsored volunteer program that enhances or preserves the quality of life. Winners will be selected by an independent panel of judges. Any county government that is a member of NACo with an active program that meets the contest criteria is eligible to participate. A county program that won an Acts of Caring Award in the past two years is not eligible in 2004.

The deadline for entries is Friday, Jan. 18, 2008. An award application is available online. Go to the NACo Web site — [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) — and click on "Awards."

The Acts of Caring Awards is part of Counties Serve America, a NACo long-term project carried out in partnership with Freddie Mac. The project's goal is to raise public understanding and awareness about county government.

(For more information, contact Tom Goodman, NACo's public affairs director, at 202/942-422 or [tgoodman@naco.org](mailto:tgoodman@naco.org).)

# GASB seeks county input on accounting measures

By JULIE O'BRIEN  
LAKE COUNTY, ILL.

2007 has been a busy year for Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Below is some information about a concepts statement, new standards and exposure drafts on which GASB is seeking input from county officials.

Look for more updates on GASB

in future issues of *County News*.

## Elements of Financial Statements (Concepts Statement 4)

GASB issued a statement on Elements of Financial Statements at the end of June. Concepts statements are primarily intended to assist in establishing consistent and effective standards. This concepts statement defines the basic building blocks of the financial statements — assets, liabilities, net position, inflows and outflows of resources, and deferred inflows and outflows of resources.

## GASB aligns pensions standards (Statement 50)

GASB Statement No. 50, Pension Disclosures, brings the improvements in disclosure requirements on retiree health insurance and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) to public employee pensions as well. Statement 50 more closely aligns financial reporting for pensions with those for OPEB and should lead to enhanced information in the notes to financial statements and required supplementary information (RSI).

These changes are intended to help ensure that users receive information about the funded status of pensions — the degree to which sufficient resources have been set aside to pay future benefits when they come due. The statement generally is effective for financial reports covering periods beginning after June 15, 2007.

## Intangible Asset Guidance (Statement 51)

The purpose of Statement 51 is to provide consistent guidance regarding how to identify and report intangible assets. In general, intangible assets (such as easements, land use rights, computer software,

patents and trademarks) should be treated as capital assets, with the relevant authoritative standards applying.

Intangible assets that are acquired or created primarily for the purpose of directly obtaining income or profit, however, should be reported as investments.

Statement 51 specifies circumstances that have to be met in order for outlays related to an internally generated intangible asset to begin to be reported as a capital asset including detailed guidance for applying these circumstances to computer software.

Second, if there are no factors

that limit the useful life of an intangible asset, it is considered to have an indefinite useful life and would not be amortized. Statement 51 is effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2009, and is generally required to be applied retroactively. However, based on public comment, the GASB eased the transition provisions proposed in the draft standard significantly.

## Proposed Standard for Derivative Instruments

GASB has issued an exposure

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## CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

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(202) 393-6226 • FAX (202) 393-2630  
Published biweekly except August by:  
National Association of Counties  
Research Foundation, Inc.  
25 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 393-6226 | FAX (202) 393-2630  
**E-mail** | [cnews@naco.org](mailto:cnews@naco.org)  
**Online address** | [www.countynews.org](http://www.countynews.org)

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Mail subscriptions are \$100 per year for non-members. \$60 per year for non-members purchasing multiple copies. Educational institution rate, \$50 per year. Member county supplemental subscriptions are \$20 each. Send payment with order and address changes to NACo, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

**POSTMASTER: send address changes to**  
County News, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20001

(USPS 704-620) ■ (ISSN: 0744-9798)

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## Profiles in Service



### » Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Council Member  
Oahu County, Hawaii  
NACO Board of Directors

**Number of years active in NACO:** 5

**Years in public service:** 17

**Occupation:** council member/author

**Education:** University of Oregon, bachelor's in journalism, communications studies

**The hardest thing I've ever done is:** run for office.

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** Benjamin Franklin, Lyndon B. Johnson and Tip O'Neill

**A dream I have is to:** learn another foreign language.

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** co-authored four books.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** hike along the lava fields on the big island of Hawaii.

**My favorite way to relax is:** hiking.

**I'm most proud of:** helping save the Waimea Valley, enacting legislation to help farmers on Oahu and promoting affordable housing at the city level.

**Every morning I read:** the *Star Bulletin* and *Honolulu Advertiser*.

**My favorite meal is:** poke and pickled onions.

**My pet peeve is:** disorganization.

**My motto is:** "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." – M.K. Gandhi

**The last book I read was:** *The Puka Guide*.

**My favorite movie is:** *The Contender*.

**My favorite music is:** Amy Winehouse (currently).

**My favorite president is:** Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## Has your county responded to the LUCA invitation?

The Census Bureau is waiting to hear from your county in response to its invitation to participate in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) that was mailed to your government on Aug. 10.

**Responses to the invitation are due by Dec. 31, 2007. Has your county responded yet?**

If not, contact Jacqueline Byers, NACO's director of research, at [jbyers@naco.org](mailto:jbyers@naco.org) or your Census Regional Office.

**Nothing your county does around Census 2010 is more important than this!!!**



# Amtrak bill passed in Senate

By **ROBERT FOGEL**  
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Senate has passed a six-year, \$11.4 billion reauthorization of Amtrak. Authored by Sens. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Trent Lott (R-Miss.), S. 294 received substantial bipartisan support with a vote of 70 – 22 on final passage. The last time Amtrak was successfully authorized was in 1997 and since that legislation expired in 2003, Amtrak has been surviving on annual appropriations.

"When we give Amtrak the resources it needs; more Americans

take the train. The funding and improvements in our bill will improve Amtrak and make train travel a more attractive option throughout the county," said Lautenberg.

The bill provides \$11.4 billion over six years to Amtrak, including \$4.9 billion for capital grants and \$3.3 billion in operating subsidies. The average of \$1.9 billion annual funding also includes \$300 million in available funds to a state or group of states for capital grants for facilities and equipment to improve existing service or develop new service.

The bill expands Amtrak's board

of directors, and improves financial and accounting reporting procedures. The measure would also end the requirement that Amtrak achieve financial self-sufficiency and direct the federal government to try to restructure Amtrak's debt, which is currently over \$3 billion.

The Bush administration has stated its opposition to S. 294 but stopped short of a veto threat. Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has indicated that the House Amtrak bill is likely to be considered in early 2008.

## Draft guidance on reporting fund balances, final land investment standards due soon

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draft, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments*, which would require the reporting of derivative instruments at their fair value in the financial statements of state and local governments. The proposed standard follows up on preliminary views that GASB published in 2006 and incorporates the considerable public feedback the GASB received.

The disclosure requirements have been simplified, retaining the information that is most important to financial statement users while making it easier for governments to comply.

The GASB also is proposing that the existing disclosure requirements for investments in GASB Statement 40 be applied to investment derivative instruments, rather than the hedging derivative instrument disclosures set forth in the exposure draft. Other significant changes have been made in response to the constituent commentary on the preliminary views.

### Fund Balance Reporting

Bond raters, oversight agencies, legislators and taxpayer associations all use fund balance information to make decisions. However, the GASB has found a number of inconsistencies in the ways that governments report their fund balance and mismatches with the information needs of financial statement users.

In October 2006, the GASB issued an *Invitation to Comment* that considers alternative approaches. The document examines revisions

to the definitions of governmental fund types to bring more uniformity to the types of resources that are reported outside of the general fund. It also lays out different ways of organizing fund balances for the purpose of reporting in the balance sheet. GASB expects to publish an exposure draft for public review in the first quarter of 2008.

### Land, other property held as investments

Many governmental entities acquire and carry land and other real property as part of their endowment investments. However, land and other real property are not included within the scope of Statement 31 on investments. Therefore, they are required to be reported at historical costs. On the contrary, fair value reporting for these investments is provided for defined benefit pension plans, other post-employment retirement benefit plans, external investment pools and Internal Revenue Code 457 deferred compensation plans.

The objective of this project is to determine the most appropriate measurement attribute to report land and other real property that are held as investments by endowment funds. A final standard is expected to be published soon.

### Comprehensive Implementation Guide

Each year the GASB publishes

a *Comprehensive Implementation Guide* that compiles and updates previously issued guides for specific standards and adds questions for standards that do not have their own guides.

The 2006–2007 edition reorganizes the guide to better accommodate new questions and employs a new numbering system designed to make it easier to follow changes from year to year. It also incorporates for the first time the freestanding *Implementation Guide to Statement 44 on the Statistical Section* and the *Implementation Guide to Statements 43 and 45 on Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)*.

All GASB publications can be ordered online at the GASB Web site, [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org). At the site, you can also download proposed standards, review current standards-setting projects and recent pronouncements, submit technical questions to the GASB staff, and add your name to GASB's mailing list to be notified of major publications and events.

As your representative to the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council, I am also always eager to hear from you about GASB. My e-mail address is [jobrien@co.lake.il.us](mailto:jobrien@co.lake.il.us); my phone number is 847/377-2223.

(Julie O'Brien is the controller for Lake County, Ill. She is NACO's appointee to the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council.)

What's NACO up to? ... Find out online ...

[www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

# NACo assistance available for energy tracking, assessment

By **SCOTT BERRY**  
ENVIRONMENTAL INTERN

Counties interested in reducing their energy consumption should take a look at a new and free tool that can help them measure their energy consumption. Recent upgrades to ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager tool allow counties to easily and quickly track and assess the energy use of their facilities.

This free online tool helps counties measure energy use in any building and calculate fluctuations over time. It provides similar tracking and calculation for water usage and net greenhouse gas emissions. On the macro level, the Portfolio Manager can compare a county's energy performance to similar buildings around the country, assigning a rating of 1-100. Buildings with a score of 75 or higher are eligible for an ENERGY STAR label.

NACo is offering a one-time beginner's startup assistance program to help enter the necessary

utility information for each county building. Participating counties will then receive training from NACo to continue to maintain and update this data, as well as tips for improvement.

NACo will:

- establish a cost-free user account for your county in Portfolio Manager
- input your county's building information and energy data into this online tool, and
- teach you how to maintain your data using the Portfolio Manager tool.

By participating, your county will be able to:

- evaluate your county's energy use and determine comparisons between your county buildings
- compare the energy performance of your office buildings and courthouses to similar buildings throughout the country
- easily and quickly determine utility billing errors over a period of time
- receive an ENERGY STAR rating for your office buildings and

courthouses and easily determine cost-effective strategies to improve this score

- earn an ENERGY STAR label to display on any office building or courthouse found to be in the top 25 percent of energy performing buildings in the country, and

- receive free training and technical assistance to improve your energy performance, protect the environment and save taxpayer dollars.

To participate, you must have your past 12-16 months of energy usage data (from your utility bills)

for all county buildings available electronically. NACo will do the rest saving your staff time and money.

*(For more information on the ENERGY STAR Challenge, contact Scott Berry at [sberry@naco.org](mailto:sberry@naco.org) or 202/942-4274.)*

## NACIO winter workshop features Emmy-award-winning TV journalist

NACIO, the National Association of County Information Officers, will hold a Winter Workshop for communications professionals on Dec. 4 and 5 in Waxahachie, Texas.

"This is a short educational conference that is designed to be both highly affordable and highly informative," said Diana Buckley, Region 3 director for NACIO and communications director for Ellis County, Texas.

The workshop's featured speaker is Emmy-award-winning broadcast journalist Jeff Crilley, author of *How to get FREE PUBLICITY*. With a number of years in front of the camera in the Dallas news market, Crilley has also appeared on national news and television programs such as CNN, FOX News, the Discovery Channel, *Good Morning America* and the *CBS Early Show*.

In addition to winning an Emmy award, Crilley has been the recipient of the National Headliners Award, the Edward R. Murrow Award and the Thurgood Marshall Award. In 2004, he was named "The Best TV Reporter in the State" by the Texas Associated Press.

"We are packing a lot of information into this one-and-a-half day conference," Buckley added. "Attendees will be able to choose from as many as three presentations during each breakout session."

In addition to Crilley's presentation on how to get free publicity, speakers will offer insights on grant writing, two-way communications with the public, the use of video on a county Website, talking to the media, dangerous weather communication and delivering on the expectations of your organization.

"One of the really great things

is the roundtable discussion on the second day of the conference," said Jane LeMaster, NACIO president and administration division director for the Gwinnett County (Ga.) Department of Transportation. "That's going to be a great opportunity for people to really put their heads together and discuss problems and ideas, and everyone is bound to come away with something useful."

LeMaster said NACIO leaders hope the conference will become an annual event.

"We are very much interested in offering short, affordable educational opportunities at various locations throughout the country," she said. "This is something that is really beneficial to our members."

Waxahachie is located approxi-

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## Bill would expand food stamp program for seniors, families

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the current backlog for building or expanding wastewater treatment plants.

### Food stamps

The nutrition title expands the food stamp program in several ways. The current asset limit, which is \$2,000 or \$3,000 for households with elderly or disabled members, would be indexed for inflation at \$100 increments. There have been reports since the mark-up that Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) is planning to add funds in the floor manager's amendments to increase the asset limit even further.

The nutrition title also increases the standard to \$140 per family and indexes it for inflation. The dependent and childcare deduction would increase to \$175 a month for dependent care and \$200 a month for children under age 2. IRAs and education savings accounts would be exempt from the asset limit; 401(k) accounts are already exempt. The minimum monthly benefit would increase from \$10 to \$12 and would be indexed for inflation.

The time limit for single unemployed adults would change from three months to six months of

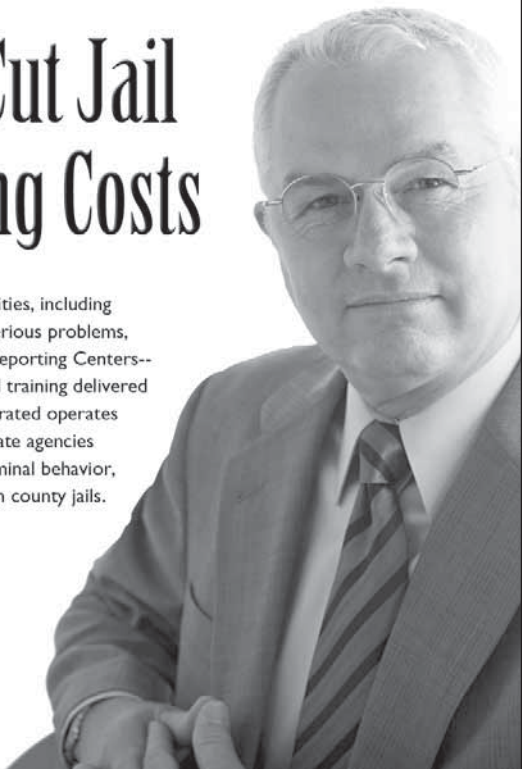
eligibility out of every 36 months, but states would have the option to keep the three-month eligibility. In addition to these and other food stamp changes, the nutrition title increases the National School Lunch Act's Food and Vegetable Program so that each state and the District of Columbia are entitled to a minimum grant of 1 percent of the total funds.

Congressional leaders are hoping for a quick conference meeting between the House and Senate, but there may be several obstacles along the way including multiple amendments that may significantly slow the process. For example, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) intends to add the AgJobs bill to the farm bill, which could be a deal-breaker. This bill would establish a path to legalization for undocumented agricultural industry workers.

It's also possible that the so-called FRESH bill would be added to the farm bill. This bill would make major changes in the farm subsidies programs and divert funds to conservation and nutrition.

If debate on the farm bill drags on, the short-term continuing resolution that expires in mid-November which funds the Food Stamp program and other farm programs would need to be extended again.

## We Need to Cut Jail Overcrowding Costs



County Executives have many responsibilities, including public safety. Overcrowded jails create serious problems, including sky high costs. Innovative Day Reporting Centers--with intensive supervision, treatment, and training delivered in the community--offer relief. BI Incorporated operates Day Reporting Centers for county and state agencies across the nation. Save money, tackle criminal behavior, and most importantly, reduce pressure on county jails.

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**BI** Behavioral Interventions

# County coupon programs promote thrift shopping, reuse

By CHARLES TAYLOR  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Eco-friendly consumers know the Three Rs are reduce, recycle and reuse. And, increasingly, county environmental and solid waste managers are encouraging — and even offering incentives — for the “third R.”

During Hennepin County, Minn.’s Choose to Reuse Month, shoppers can — as the county’s Web site touts — “Save Cash, Save the Planet! Get Great Stuff” using a coupon booklet that offers discounts on merchandise purchased from 80 local retailers. Participating shops include vintage clothing stores, consignment shops, second-hand book stores and equipment rental shops, among others.

“Residents and businesses see it as a fun and economical way to be smart about the future of our planet,” said County Commissioner Gail Dorfman, who supports the program in theory and in practice — as a vintage clothing store shopper.

The program benefits buyers, sellers and the county. By using the coupons at participating retailers, consumers save money and help divert waste or delay the time when it will be tossed. Retailers see increased business and get free

promotion through the coupon book. Hennepin County benefits by diverting waste from local landfills: The county estimates that 32 million pounds of usable items are discarded each year.



Consumer discounts can range from 10 percent off home furnishings at a consignment shop to \$5 off a \$20 purchase at a vintage clothing store, according to Angie Timmons, a senior planning analyst in the county’s Environmental Services Department. Participation in Choose to Reuse is free.

The program, now in its sixth year, operates on a budget of \$50,000 and has grown dramatically, from eight retailers in its first year to this year’s 80 businesses with 124 locations throughout the county. This year, the county printed 20,000 coupon booklets — on 100 percent recycled paper, with soy inks, of course — for the program which ended Oct. 31. Coupons



Photo courtesy of Hennepin County, Minn.

Hennepin County, Minn. Commissioner Gail Dorfman “walks the talk” of promoting reuse by shopping at a thrift store. She says the county’s Choose to Reuse program saves landfill space “by encouraging residents to recycle, reuse, repair and exchange used goods.”

could also be downloaded from the program’s Web site.

Data is still being collected and analyzed for 2007; however, last year’s participation was an improvement over 2005.

In 2006, 3,400 coupons were redeemed at participating businesses; 47 percent of participants reported an increase in sales and 79 percent

reported new customers to their stores because of the promotion, Timmons said.

Cheryl Weller runs the Look Again Consignment shop in Bloomington, Minn. and has participated in the program for at least three years. “Retail’s down all over,” she said, “and we’re right on the bottom line, so it did help us this year.”

Further, she said, she gets more coupon shoppers from the Choose to Reuse program than when she pays to advertise in coupon books, which can be “spendy” in the local vernacular for expensive.

Timmons said of participating retailers, “They’ve been very appreciative of the county paying attention to how their business does support environmental messages, and they like being recognized for that as well.”

While Hennepin’s program has been a success, a similar effort in King County, Wash. is retooling its focus. King County is merging its EcoDeals, reuse-oriented coupon program into its larger eco-consumer program, which has more of a focus on education.

King County estimates that 75 percent of the items sent to landfills still have economic value, according to the Web site [www.ecodeals.org](http://www.ecodeals.org). EcoDeals was designed to provide consumers with information about environmental practices, products and services — and substantial discounts with downloadable coupons.

“We weren’t seeing a big payback in terms of people downloading coupons,” said Patti Southard, project manager for King County GreenTools. “Our constituents were really more interested in education than they were in a coupon,” which was borne out in a survey conducted earlier this year.

Looking at the area’s demographics, the county identified a group it calls “recreational environmentalists” — residents between the ages of 21 and 35 who care about environmental issues but who don’t always take action.

The surveys also showed that residents appear to be more interested in having a framework to help them make decisions rather than help them make purchases, Southard said.

Transitioning away from EcoDeals as a coupon Web site was made easier because residents aren’t left high and dry. Seattle and King County participate in a national program called EcoMetro, which provides information on local ways to live and buy “green” — and offers a coupon book.

Southard concluded, “I think that we’re better positioned for the kind of education that we provide, to not be in the retail game anyway.”

“Helping people identify their core values and their decision-making and working on behavioral modification to me is a more important role for governments to play, and let retailers take care of the rest.”

## Biden bill includes NACo-backed intergovernmental commission on jailing mentally ill

CRIME from page 1

### The Commission on the Non-violent Mentally Ill

Biden included in his bill an important commission proposed by NACo. A major objective of the commission would be to bring together local, state and federal governments to explore with the mental health community the intergovernmental aspects of jailing the nonviolent mentally ill.

A Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report released in September 2006, *Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates*, found that 24 percent of jail inmates and 15 percent of prison inmates “reported symptoms that met the criteria for a psychotic disorder.” With BJS also estimating that 9 million different people will enter county jails each year, it now appears very likely that more than 2 million psychotic individuals are being housed in county jails annually.

NACo believes that implementing a wide range of community-based health and human services

programs would be more beneficial for those suffering from mental illnesses charged with nonviolent offenses and less costly for county taxpayers.

Five years ago, President George W. Bush appointed a 22-member New Freedom Commission on Mental Health to analyze the nation’s mental health system. Only one commission member was an elected official (a state senator from Nevada). While the commission’s report received favorable reviews, its focus did not provide any serious analysis of persons with mental illness in jail, nor did it examine with any depth the intergovernmental implications of the crisis.

NACo unanimously adopted a resolution in 2006 and 2007, calling for the creation of a national commission to study and make recommendations on the jailing of the nonviolent mentally ill in county jails and state prisons. As the resolution states, “The nation’s local jails are increasingly becoming the dumping grounds for the mentally ill.”

In addition to local governments and the mental health community, NACo’s resolution highlighted the importance of other key constituencies such as the National Sheriffs’ Association and the National District Attorneys Association serving on the commission.

Lisa Naito, chair of NACo’s Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee and a Multnomah County, Ore. commissioner, said, “A national commission appointed by the attorney general of the United States could focus attention on the intergovernmental aspects of the crisis as well as the pressing need for providing comprehensive care in the community.”

Lee County, Fla. Commissioner Bob Janes, chair of NACo’s Health Committee, noted that “by keeping the mentally ill within the health and human services system, counties would be better able to monitor their condition and provide treatment, if needed. The public safety is better served.”

“It is not appropriate to punish

people for being mentally ill,” Janes said. “The societal and dollar cost of jailing the mentally ill is staggering, when what is really called for are treatment programs. Let’s put an end to this national disgrace.”

### Funding for diversion of the mentally ill

In a related development, the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security has expanded grants for the diversion and mental health treatment of jail and prison inmates.

H.R. 3992, which was approved by voice vote Nov. 1, would authorize \$75 million each fiscal year, 2008 to 2013. Under current law (P.L. 108-414) the authorization is \$50 million annually.

The new program will provide special focus on female inmates, treatment coordination within a state, including information sharing between agencies; screening, identification and assessment of mentally ill inmates and the coordination of post-release services.

## Financial Services News

# Being Prepared

That's the name of the game in today's world.

It doesn't matter if the threat is from a person or group of people or Mother Nature. Disasters happen when people least expect them.

In fall 2005, Fairfax County, Va. awarded a contract to Hagemeyer North America to supply homeland security and disaster recovery goods to counties associated with NACo and U.S. Communities.

A \$1.8 billion company with locations throughout Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, Hagemeyer is a subsidiary of Hagemeyer NV, a \$6.2 billion global distribution company based in Naarden, The Netherlands.

The supplies Hagemeyer can help an agency acquire are essential for being prepared for disaster, along with everyday tools and items to help recover after disaster strikes.

When hurricanes threatened southern Texas this year, Hagemeyer was asked to come up with about 10,000 prepackaged meals. These aren't the traditional ready-to-eat meals with the high calorie count the military is known for, but instead ones that can sit on a shelf for five years before going bad, have minimal sodium and about 300 calories.

Dave Robinson, a manager of government sales for Hagemeyer, says they even taste good. An envelope of salt water reacts with the Styrofoam-metal tray to create steam to heat the food.

"At trade shows we let people try them," Robinson said. "They are basic meals, but it would be survival." Beef stroganoff and spaghetti are some of the entrees.

With much of the western U.S. having been on fire this summer and fall, Hagemeyer was able to provide an array of wildland firefighting tools to agencies. It could be as simple as shovels, picks and rakes. Counties always need items like self-contained breathing apparatus for firefighters. Mobile command centers are more complex tools of the trade that Hagemeyer can provide.

"We have sold boats to Mississippi and scuba diving gear for water rescue teams," Robinson said. "We've sold hovercraft that can be used on water or ice."

Hagemeyer works with more than 50,000 manufacturers who have more than 80,000 products in 2,200 categories.

About 10,000 items are on Hagemeyer's Web site for interested parties

to peruse. Access is obtained by calling 888/745-6486 and telling the customer service representative your agency wants to use this U.S. Communities contract. Any public agency may access this contract without cost by registering online with U.S. Communities ([www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org)).

"We have found the contract to be extremely useful in homeland security grants," said Shannon Brown, purchasing agent for Dallas County, Texas. "The other area is bioterrorism programs which

### Disasters happen when people least expect them.

Health and Human Services does. [Hagemeyer's] catalog offers a wide variety of items like masks, gowns and those types of things. They have a large breadth of items that are available."

Dallas County spent more than \$200,000 on radios that allow different agencies to talk with one another. This interoperability is a cornerstone requirement for public agency communications during times of crisis.

"We were able to get them through Hagemeyer at better pricing. It saved us from having to go out for bid," Brown said.

Having the contract in place often means faster turnaround time because the bidding process is not necessary. Plus, Hagemeyer is able to provide goods on short notice. Grants that counties receive often come with strings attached, like needing to spend the money in a limited time period, so the Hagemeyer contract ensures the grant stipulations are met. Their grant-tracking service is an added value to public agencies using Department of Homeland Security grants.

Brown said the Hagemeyer contract ensures her county can spend all of the money in the allotted time — and usually for less money.

The process is designed as a better way of using taxpayer dollars in both time spent on obtaining the supplies and actual cost of the goods.

See FS NEWS page 10

## The H.R. Doctor Is In

# Waist Management

A recent routine visit for a medical check-up required that the HR Doctor be weighed in. While my weight hasn't fluctuated for years, I nonetheless found my doctor/friend, as well as the beautiful HR Doctor daughter Rachel, also "weighing in" on the fact that I could do extremely well with fewer pounds on my body — preferably yanked away from the midsection. These professionals are, of course, correct.

While this writer is not obese — at least not yet — America is not only the land of the free and home of the brave, it is increasingly the land of the obese and home of the overeater. More than 60 percent of adult Americans are overweight (i.e., a body mass index greater than 25). That is a growing number and reflects a combination of changes in our diet, in our lifestyle and in our lack of consistent exercise.

The September 2007 issue of the *Smithsonian Magazine* cited several statistics that support what truly represents a serious failure of Americans to practice effective waist management. The Centers for Disease Control notes that the average adult weighed nearly 10 percent more in 2003 than in the 1980s. Males had an average weight of 168 pounds back then and about 180 pounds now. The weight of the average American female has gone from 142 pounds to 152 pounds. A similar growth is present in the weight of our children.

The *Smithsonian* noted that in the National Football League in 1976, only three players weighed more than 300 pounds. By 2006, 570 players exceeded that "milestone" (or is it a millstone)? We exercise less, eat more and watch more television — six hours and 45 minutes a day on average in 1980, versus eight hours and 11 minutes a day today.

Right along with those lifestyle changes, which have "super-sized" America, is the fact that many of our possessions have also grown in size.

Our cars weigh more, even though some of the materials that make up our cars are lighter. The number of square feet in the average house per person has nearly tripled since 1950. The size of our refrigerators, our television screens, even funeral caskets has increased. If you have any doubt about America's expansion, visit any of the super-stores and see the staggeringly huge facilities they represent.

Failure to control America's burgeoning waist management

problem will lead to extraordinarily serious and sad consequences. The trend is clear. The consequences are already appearing.

Perhaps the saddest consequence of all is that the next generation may be the first one in our history to have a shorter life-span than that of their parents.

All the drugs marketed massively during all that television-watching time are stop-gap measures. Obesity leads to diabetes — the disease of the 21st century. It leads to coronary artery disease. When combined with smoking, it contributes to lung disorders. Beyond all that, it leads to a decline in our desire to be active on a sustained basis in life. The more active a person is physically, the more engaged they are likely to be in civic activities, including volunteerism, interacting with neighbors and friends, and more.

The HR consequences are also present in the forms of workplace absenteeism, increases in health insurance costs, reductions in productivity and more.

Despite all of the difficulties

and changing statistics cited in this article, it is very possible to be better waist managers. It begins not around the tummy, but inside our brains and our spirits. Do not be the parents of children who grow up addicted to television. Be the parents of children who are active in the community and get up off the couch. Eat better, exercise more; become involved in the society more as a volunteer and as a friend. Make each day a new opportunity to improve your own personal waist management.

Give these things a try and see if you are not feeling better and contributing more in just a few weeks. If you can't buy a dog like the HR dog Kamala, buy a pedometer.

The answer to waist management in America is action and acceptance of personal responsibility. At this point, the HR Doctor will be leaving for lunch. It will be broccoli and salmon instead of a double cheeseburger!!!



Phil Rosenberg  
The HR Doctor • [www.hrd.net](http://www.hrd.net)



### » Maricopa County, Ariz.

[www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov)

The first county of the original four in Arizona, Maricopa was officially established on Feb. 17, 1871. It was named in honor of the Maricopa Indians, who were known to have inhabited the area as early as 1775.

Maricopa County's seal features the state flower, the saguaro cactus blossom, at the top center of the seal. Underneath this is a shield with several symbols that represent the county. In the upper left of the shield are scales, which represent Maricopa's legal services.

Across from this is a highway leading to a dam with mountains in the background; this represents Maricopa's scenic lands, roadways and excellent flood-control systems

Underneath the highway is the caduceus, an ancient astrological symbol associated with the Greek god Hermes, which represents the health services of Maricopa County.

To the left of the caduceus is a tree with a horse and rider, symbols of Maricopa's many parks and recreational activities.

The shield is flanked on both sides by two saguaro cactuses, which are found in abundance throughout Maricopa County and most of Arizona.

(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Matthew Fellows at 202/942-4256 or [mfellows@naco.org](mailto:mfellows@naco.org).)

## News From the Nation's Counties

### ► ARIZONA

**MARICOPA COUNTY** plans to hire and train nearly 100 new employees to help combat air pollution, the *Arizona Republic* reported.

The Board of Supervisors recently approved the new positions — mostly dust inspectors — for the county's Air Quality department. It was one of several measures the board took to help reduce airborne particulate matter known as PM-10 (particles measuring 10 microns — one-millionth of a meter — or less). PM-10 can aggravate illnesses such as bronchitis and asthma and poses risks to normally healthy people.

Nineteen miles of dirt roads will also be paved over the next four years as part of the dust-reduction effort.

The county's plan to combat PM-10 will cost \$11 million this year and up to \$13 million annually in out-years, until the region's air quality complies with federal guidelines.

### ► CALIFORNIA

Twenty-five percent of suicides committed in **PLACER COUNTY** are among those ages 65 and older, said Sheriff Edward Bonner, and his office is touting prevention services.

Low-income seniors in the area, especially, have few places to turn if they're battling depression or **suicidal tendencies**, according to the *Sierra Sun*, citing a county report.

County officials said help is available, but often times people are afraid to ask. "Information about resources and support is one of our best preventative tools," said Maureen Bauman, the county's mental health director.

Resources include the county's 24-hour response line and suicide hotlines in three cities within the county, and Placer County's Senior Peer Counseling Program — where seniors can call directly and ask for assistance or a family member or neighbor can call on their behalf.

### ► DELAWARE

• **NEW CASTLE COUNTY** is seeking proposals from residents and local organizations interested in rehabilitating and using historic county-owned facilities.

Through a new **curatorship program**, individuals and public, private or nonprofit organization can donate their time and financial resources to rehabilitate and restore historic buildings on New Castle County property in exchange for long-term tax-free and rent-free use of the building.

"I want to encourage motivated New Castle County residents and

businesses to see what these unique, historic properties have to offer," said County Executive Chris Coons. "Being a curator is a way to preserve our past and enjoy that history each day."

• **SUSSEX COUNTY's** new "**clean hands**" ordinance has nothing to do with stopping the spread of germs.

The county recently passed a law requiring residents and property owners applying for permits or other services to be current on their financial obligations to the local government.

Prior to the ordinance, applicants could apply for and receive building permits, variances, zoning approvals and other services, despite delinquencies.

"This comes down to a matter of fairness," said County Administrator David B. Baker. "It is not right for someone who is in arrears to benefit from the very services their taxes and fees would help provide. Most of all, it is unfair to those county residents and property owners who have dutifully met their obligations."

### ► INDIANA

When the nation recently switched from daylight-saving back to standard time, five Indiana counties turned back the clock 19 months.

On Nov. 4, **KNOX, DAVIESS, DUBOIS, PIKE** and **MARTIN counties** changed from Central time to **Eastern time** — right back where they had been up until April 2006. That's when the U.S. Department of Transportation — at the counties' request — allowed them to switch to Central time.

However, after numerous complaints that the earlier time was inconvenient, the counties asked DOT for permission to change back, according to the *Courier & Press*.

DOT determined that the five counties, who petitioned jointly, demonstrated the benefit of moving to Eastern time based on the counties' economic ties, schooling, recreation and regional connections.

### ► MINNESOTA

A new **HENNEPIN COUNTY** Web site aims to achieve the "reachable goal" of **ending homelessness** by getting citizens involved.

Visitors to *www.HeadingHome-Hennepin.org* can learn steps to prevent homelessness, watch a short movie, *Land of 10,000 Homeless*, link to more than 100 resources and learn how to reach out to the homeless in meaningful ways, the county said.

The site is a new tool in the

city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County's efforts to end homelessness by 2016, said Cathy ten Broeke, the city-county coordinator to end homelessness.

"We have volunteer activities, educational resources, policy issues and more on this Web site," ten Broeke said.

### ► NEW YORK

Officials in **NASSAU** and **SUFFOLK counties** recently hosted health summits on how to combat a **drug-resistant staph** infection known as MRSA, *Newsday* reported.

The efforts have been aimed primarily at school-age populations, where recent infections have been reported. At least three-dozen cases have been reported in the two counties.

In Nassau, Health Department officials held an informational meeting with school superintendents. The panel included a physician, an infection control nurse and an environmental specialist.

Some commonly prescribed antibiotics are ineffective against MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*); however, the infection does respond to others.

### ► NORTH CAROLINA

The National Association of Railroad Passengers recently honored **MECKLENBURG COUNTY**, the city of Charlotte and the state of North Carolina for their efforts on behalf of **rail passenger service**.

George Chilson, president of NARP, said, "By combining thoughtful land-use policies with investments in intercity, urban and regional passenger rail, these public agencies are providing the fast-growing Charlotte area with a streamlined transportation system that meets the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors."

NARP also commended Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for incorporating light and commuter rail "into an integrated transportation network complementing intercity passenger rail." A national, citizen-based organization, NARP advocates for increased use of trains to address energy, congestion and climate change issues.

"North Carolina is showing that not only is our vision eminently achievable, it is actually being achieved in some parts of the country," said Ross Capon, NARP's executive director.

### ► OHIO

"Show and tell" could be important to the future of the

123-year-old **SENECA COUNTY** Courthouse.

Earlier this year, county commissioners voted 2-1 to **demolish the building**; but Gov. Ted Strickland blocked immediate action with a temporary stay of demolition.

At a recent meeting of preservationists, participants said the building's advocates need to take their case to the public.

"It's about getting back to our kindergarten days," said County Commissioner Mike Bridinger, who wants to save the courthouse. "Let's show and tell."

Added Kerry Chartkoff, historian for the Michigan State Capitol Building, "You have to explain to your constituency and your community why they should care about this building." The courthouse and Michigan's capitol were designed by the same architect, Elijah Myers.

### ► PENNSYLVANIA

Pending congressional approval, **BUTLER COUNTY** will become

part of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported.

Rivers of Steel refers to southwest Pennsylvania's historical ties to the **U.S. steel industry**; the designation could mean new revenue sources for tourism and preservation projects in the county.

"Here's the long and short of it," said Butler County Commissioner James Kennedy, "It could mean more opportunities for federal and state money." The heritage area currently includes the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland.

Goals for heritage development in Butler County include: increasing heritage tourism, preserving or reusing historic properties where possible and assisting cultural groups who wish to maintain and share with others their traditional arts and skills, according to *river-sofsteel.com*.

See NEWS FROM page 9

## NACo on the Move

### ► NACo Officers and County Officials

NACo President **Eric Coleman** spoke at the Alaska Municipal League Annual Conference Nov. 8 on what NACo can do for Alaska boroughs and spoke at the Virginia Association of Counties Annual Conference on NACo activities and priorities for 2008 on Nov. 12.

### ► NACo Staff

Chief Information Officer **Bert Jarreau** gave a presentation entitled "Vendor Collaboration Strategies" Oct. 22 at the Metropolitan Information Exchange (MIX) Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. MIX is a group of chief information officers of large local governments dedicated to learning and sharing.



Bert Jarreau

Program Director **Abby Friedman** presented NACo's Green Government Initiative to the Maryland Association of County Administrators and Attorneys in Annapolis Oct. 25.

**Rocky Lopes**, project manager, spoke at the International Association of Emergency Managers National Conference in Reno, Nev. Oct. 12 on disaster preparedness for under-reached populations.

Community Services Senior Associate **Christina Rowland** and **Casey Dillon**, program assistant, helped lead a daylong dialogue on opportunities for youth obesity prevention with commissioners and key community stakeholders from Hillsdale, Branch and St. Joseph counties in Coldwater, Mich. Oct. 30.

**Erik Johnston**, community services associate, helped lead a training session for county officials and their partners on Energizing Entrepreneurs in Bismarck, N.D. Oct. 24.

NACo offered the training through a partnership with the North Dakota Association of Counties Institute of Local Government, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Rural Policy Research Institute Center for Rural Entrepreneurship.

# Model Programs FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES

## Rental program finds housing for Salt Lake County's homeless

By CHARLES TAYLOR  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Like many communities around the country, Salt Lake County, Utah wants to end homelessness. In late 2005, it joined with regional partners to adopt a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

"Humans have some basic needs, and housing is one of them," says Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon. "And we've learned that the stability that housing brings is a critical component to ending homelessness in our county."

As part of that effort — and starting with existing federal funds — the county created the Homeless Assistance Rental Program (HARP) in early 2006 to try to break the cycle of homelessness for particularly vulnerable populations: ex-offenders, people with mental health or substance abuse problems and young people aging-out of foster care.

Kerry Steadman, the county's

homeless services coordinator, says, "The thought was: could we get some money, provide these people with housing, surround them with supportive services — and will that make a difference in their lives?"

The program appears to be doing just that. County officials say 80 percent of participants in HARP remain in subsidized housing or have made the transition in to permanent housing. Anecdotal evidence is also encouraging.

Corroon says, "We've seen people who have been on the streets for years now living in a stable environment. Some of them are now at a point where they're finding steady jobs, which is something that they haven't seen in years."

Begun in 2006, HARP was initially funded using \$300,000 in HOME program money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Since then, the county council provided another \$250,000, for a total annual

budget of \$550,000. Corroon says the county council plans to increase its contribution next year.

In putting together the program, Steadman says it was important to bring the right partners to the table. The county's housing authority "knows housing," so it obviously would play a major role. The authority was tapped to be the agency that would locate and manage housing for HARP, because of its experience as an owner of public housing and with the Section 8 program.

Another key to the program's success, adds Steadman, is working with local landlords to get people into existing units — rather than relying on new construction to meet housing demand.

"I don't want to ever underestimate the importance and how valuable landlords are to stand up and say, 'I'm willing to have these people in my units,'" he emphasizes. "They're just an incredible partner in this."

One of HARP's initial challenges

was convincing landlords to take a chance on the program's clientele.

The Housing Authority's Janice Kimball explains, "When we started, everybody was a little bit apprehensive about how many problems we were going to have with folks once we got them into housing." In particular, landlords were concerned about damage to their units. To address this, the county created a \$10,000 fund to pay for repairs; to date, it's hasn't been tapped.

Prospective tenants are screened by the Housing Authority and must agree to work with case managers. Kimball and her staff also help clients with administrative tasks, such as filling out applications for housing and getting their leases signed. Those accepted into the program must agree to work with case managers.

Working through nonprofit partners, case managers help clients arrange for furniture and other household items and provide moving assistance. "Whenever possible, family, churches and other supportive friends are organizations are used to help the client with the transition into housing," Kimball said.

Because HOME funds are used, applicants receiving a subsidy can earn no more than 80 percent of the area median income (AMI). Those making more can participate in the program, but without being subsidized. Another condition of the program is that renters cannot have been convicted of producing meth in a public housing unit nor be on a sexual predator list.

The program's current capacity

is about 75 slots, and there's a two to three month waiting list — not as long as it sounds, explains Steadman, when one considers it can take 18 months to two years to get into other county public housing.

Clients are required to pay from \$50 per month to 30 percent of their monthly salary toward their rental cost. The going rate for a one-bedroom apartment in Salt Lake County is about \$600 per month, including utilities, according to county-supplied data.

In addition to saving clients money, the program also financially benefits the county. For example, the monthly cost to house a prisoner in the county jail is about \$2,300; HARP costs about \$1,050 a month, which includes housing, case management and treatment services.

For those reasons, and more, Kimball thinks HARP is "a real, workable model" worth replicating more broadly.

"It's expensive to build housing," she says, "and I'm not sure we'll build enough housing to meet the needs, so if you can use some of the market housing, it makes sense."

For more information about Salt Lake County's HARP program, contact Steadman at [ksteadman@slco.org](mailto:ksteadman@slco.org) or Kimball at [jkimball@hacs.org](mailto:jkimball@hacs.org).

*(Model Programs from the Nation's Counties highlights Achievement Award-winning programs. For more information on this and other NACo Achievement Award winners, visit NACo's Web site, [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) ⇨ Resource Library ⇨ Model County Programs.)*

## Counties nix \$18B transportation measure

NEWS FROM *from page 8*

Nationwide, Congress has created 37 National Heritage Areas since 1996 — areas in which conservation, interpretation and other activities are managed by partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and the private sector.

### ► WASHINGTON

• Call her a "farmbudsmen." **PIERCE COUNTY** has a created new position to help support the area's agricultural industry.

"My mission is to motivate policy makers, consumers and farmers to make choices that allow agriculture to have a viable place to exist and to flourish in our increasingly urban/suburban landscape," said Carrie Sikorski.

She will be working as part of a team that includes members of the Pierce County Farming Assistance, Revitalization and Marketing (FARM) Board. The county created the program in response to the local agriculture industry downturn.

"The farmbudsmen will be a

one-stop resource for farmers, so they can focus on their business instead of how to stay in business," said County Council Member Calvin Goings.

Added Council Member Shawn Bunney: "Farmers are a dying breed, and this is our last chance to throw them a life ring."

• Voters in **KING, PIERCE** and **SNOHOMISH** counties have rejected an \$18 billion roads and transit measure, Proposition 1, the Associated Press reported.

Prop. 1 would have increased the three counties' sales and car taxes to finance bonds for \$7 billion in roads improvements and nearly \$11 billion to expand light rail in the Puget Sound region.

King County Executive Ron Sims, who opposed the measure, said, "People want immediate congestion relief and to reduce their impact on global warming, and they want to do it without substantial tax increases. We must listen to voters and be sensitive to what they are saying."

The road portion of the measure would have provided \$4 billion for King County and about \$3 billion,

split evenly between Snohomish and Pierce counties.

### ► WEST VIRGINIA

Leaders from several counties met recently to discuss their 2008 legislative agenda, and **annexation** was a hot topic, West Virginia Metro News Network reported.

In recent years, a change in state law weakened the say that county commissioners have in municipalities' annexation efforts.

**KANAWHA COUNTY** Commission President Kent Carper said county governments are "outraged" because cities are using the law to gobble up unincorporated areas.

"It's a hot topic in the Eastern Panhandle, the southern part of the state, all over the state," Carper said. County commissioners "believe it's an assault on county government, and they believe the cities have no business forcing annexation on folks in incorporated areas."

*(News From the Nation's Counties is compiled by Charles Taylor and Elizabeth Perry. If you have an item for News From, please e-mail [taylor@naco.org](mailto:taylor@naco.org) or [eperry@naco.org](mailto:eperry@naco.org).)*

## NACIO hosts winter workshop for county communicators

NACIO *from page 5*

mately 30 miles south of Dallas, less than an hour's drive from both DFW International Airport and Love Field. Sandwiched between Interstate 35E and Interstate 45 on the east and west, and only minutes from Interstate 20 to the north, the city is easily accessible and enjoys a mild winter climate.

"We will also be offering an evening tour of our historic courthouse," said Buckley. "It is an amazing structure that was carefully restored a few years ago, and it draws tourists from far and wide."

Special conference rates have been arranged at Waxahachie's

new Hampton Inn and Suites, a few short steps away from the Civic Center where meetings will be held.

"This conference is one you don't want to miss," Buckley said. "If you ever find yourself staring down a reporter's microphone or trying to get the media to notice your press releases — if you are in any way involved in conveying a message to the public — there's something here for you to learn, and someone here who can learn from you. You want to be here."

For more information, visit the NACIO website at [www.nacio.org](http://www.nacio.org) or contact Buckley at 972/825-5087 or [diana.buckley@co.ellis.tx.us](mailto:diana.buckley@co.ellis.tx.us).

# Research News

## Dangerous after One Bite?

Recent headlines have once again drawn attention to the issue of dangerous dogs. Several people, some elderly and some very young, have been attacked. This media attention has required many counties to take another look at how they handle and categorize pets.

Some have adopted their own ordinances, and others rely on state law. But the question remains: How do you create a law that helps prevent dog attacks on humans, but also allows animal lovers to have the pets they want?

Counties are constantly facing this fine line of whether to adopt ordinances that target specific breeds of dogs or ordinances that define dangerous dogs by behavior. Local governments often differ on how to write these ordinances. Some use breeds, others use behavior and still others use the acts of omission by the owners to write their ordinances.

Some recent studies report that about 20 people die from dog attacks a year. One report, conducted by Animal People, says that 264 deaths from dog attacks in the U.S. and Canada between 1982 and 2006 were caused by pit bulls, rottweilers, presa canarios and mixed breeds of these dogs.

In an Ohio appeals court ruling in 2006, two breed-based dangerous dog laws were struck down as unconstitutional, saying that properly trained dogs in the categories previously defined as dangerous, are no more dangerous than any other breed. The case, *City of Toledo v. Tellings*, was one of a series of recent challenges to these breed specific laws.

In May 2007, the issue of a new proposed dangerous dog law in the Massachusetts Legislature led to a lively debate in the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. As one legislator pointed out, pit bull characteristics have been bred into other dogs, such as the Boston terrier, which is the state dog.

An overly broad law could wind up banning the state dog. Although the legislature generally stayed away from breed banning, one proposal called for limiting the number of pit bull-type dogs, while others would permit no more than one so-called "dangerous breed" dog per household.

Still another proposal involved

increasing the maximum fine for owners of dogs that cause property damage from \$25 to \$2,000.

A second proposed law in Massachusetts would have required that owners of dangerous dogs carry \$100,000 in liability insurance to cover any damages and injuries from the dogs. This proposal also provided that the designation of a dangerous dog could be applied after two displays or acts of threatening behavior within 36 months.

In July 2007, Virginia established a dangerous dog registry, which can be researched by its residents to

determine if a dangerous dog lives in their vicinity. In the Virginia Code (§ 3.1-796.93:1), a dangerous dog is defined as one that attacks another dog or cat, while a vicious dog is defined as one that inflicts an injury on humans.

The ordinance goes on to say that no dog can be declared dangerous solely because of its breed. However, once a dog has been designated dangerous or vicious the owner must register the dog as such for a fee of \$50. The dog receives a tag that must be worn at all times and identifies it as dangerous. Registration is subject to an annual renewal for the same fee.

The law also states that the animal must be confined while on the owner's property and must be leashed at all other times. Finally, once designated, owners have 45 days to enter their dogs and the

locations in the statewide dangerous dog registry.

Although most dangerous dog legislation activity is occurring at the state level, many counties have found the need for their own legislation.

### County Ordinances

The Denver Municipal Code contains a law that bans the ownership of pit bulls within the city/county limits. Generated under the city and county's home rule powers, it has withstood several recent court challenges.

The first was in 2005, when the state passed legislation stating that breed could not be used to determine a dangerous dog. The second, a challenge brought by a pit bull owner in April 2007, was dismissed for failure of the plaintiff to prove her case.

Broward County, Fla. devotes a lengthy section on its Web site to describe how it defines a dangerous dog. It includes nearly all designations previously mentioned including dogs that, unprovoked, attack either people or animals on public streets and rights of way and dogs that have been specifically trained for fighting.

Broward's statute also calls for the registration of a declared dangerous dog on the county registry, the wearing of a special tag and the implanting of a microchip under the skin of the dog.

Although many states and counties are facing strong challenges from pet owners and dog lovers about the implementation of dangerous dog laws, these jurisdictions realize that some regulation is required in this area.

As pet owners have pointed out repeatedly, most dogs, even those considered dangerous breeds, have never done any harm to anyone. They believe, as do many, that there are no dangerous breeds of dogs, just bad owners who fail to properly train and restrain their pets.

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

## Emergency preparedness made easier

FS NEWS from page 7

Brown also said Hagemeyer has been able to supply everything her county has needed.

Hagemeyer has been working with Maricopa County, Ariz. to develop an air monitoring trailer.

Something Robinson stresses is for counties and others to come to Hagemeyer first if a specialized item is needed instead of going directly to the manufacturer. This is because the company may not be an authorized dealer of Hagemeyer's, which in turn could possibly mean the county will pay more in the long run.

"If a county, city or state can get us involved early, we can find a manufacturer that is Class A. We can get in on the design phase instead of at the end," Robinson explained.

Acquiring specialized equipment is normal operating procedure for Hagemeyer. Security surveillance systems are becoming regularly requested items. Miami-Dade County used Hagemeyer to procure a closed circuit television system to monitor crowds. Instead of a lot of wires, the Internet and satellites are used.

County airports have installed security systems called smart cameras to monitor activity.

"It's all the software in the camera. The camera is the eye. The computer is thinking about what is normal and what isn't," Robinson explained.

Software is available to detect the difference between what is normal activity at a basketball game and

what isn't. For instance, if someone in the stands falls, it sets off an alarm so those monitoring the system would know to send medical aid.

County jails, through Hagemeyer's contacts, have bought jail visitation systems. A flat screen television with telephone receiver and webcam is available to the inmate and visitors or the public defender at separate locations.

"You don't have to take the person out of lockup. It reduces the expenses on the county because they don't have to transport the person," Robinson said.

People being displaced during a disaster is normal. At the same time, hospitals can be overrun with people seeking medical care.

Tent cities are often the answer. Hagemeyer works with manufacturers that can turn a 300-bed hospital into a 1,000-bed facility. It's not just a tent. Air systems are set up to filter out contaminants to ensure the ill are not breathing them in and the general public is not put in harm's way.

Trailers can be hooked up to provide hot meals. Or maybe just a bundle of tarps is needed to secure a roof. Hagemeyer knows how to get what an agency needs.

"We can help them find the right product at the right price," Robinson said. "We are constantly trying to think of the best products for the best applications."

NACo is one of five national sponsors of the U.S. Communities program, which is provided without charge to public agencies and non-

profit organizations. To register, go to [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org) and click on "register to participate."

*(Kathryn Reed writes for NACo.)*

### Word Search

## North Carolina Counties

W L J F W N G A R J G O R X L H C N M W  
V N X S G L L N V R Z K V V Q E A O L Q  
V P C M E A G G U S N P H I G N T S A S  
O G Y I M V N B J T D I B A D D A D J N  
N F Q A N H N X Z O E T Q W W E W I Q A  
I T N H O E J O H N S T O N S R B V X F  
U C F F L F N B P Q Q L R I S A A B Q  
E E M K R E B M O C N U B L A O X D I N  
J Y C I I R A F D L J E S A E N G M Z J  
X E C U M B E R L A N D W U T D G S N M  
M P L P L G O M W F R O M H R J E E T A  
N Q G Z N F Q L O E E A O H A R Q R W H  
J G X P L N R R J W M D N T R N A J I R  
S P Q I O N S L O W A H F D T Z O B T U  
G V U T K Y T T E N R A H V O J S V A D  
H G S S T B U B S Q U B X S U L R O E C  
Q A M H K J M P L B W W I M Q X P W N R  
G B K H O Y V Y G P B Q D F M W D H I E  
Z P U L M F S R Y R Z F U A O T O X P T  
J G J G R F O Y A D Z H N F F F C Y Y Q

- |            |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| ALAMANCE   | FORSYTH   | MECKLENBURG |
| BUNCOMBE   | GASTON    | NEW HANOVER |
| CABARRUS   | GUILFORD  | ONSLAW      |
| CATAWBA    | HARNETT   | ORANGE      |
| CUMBERLAND | HENDERSON | PITT        |
| DAVIDSON   | IREDELL   | RANDOLPH    |
| DURHAM     | JOHNSTON  |             |

Created By Matthew Fellows

# Job Market / Classifieds

## Job Market/Classifieds Rate Schedule

- **Line Rates:** \$7 per line, NACo member counties; \$10 per line, others.
- **Display Classified:** \$50 per column inch, NACo member counties; \$70 per column inch, others.
- **Billing:** Invoices will be sent after publication.
- **Mail advertising copy to:** Job Market, County News, 25 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
- **FAX advertising copy to:** Job Market, County News, 202/393-2630.
- **E-mail advertising copy to:** edassist@naco.org.
- Be sure to include billing information along with copy.
- Estimates given prior to publication are approximations only and do not necessarily reflect final cost.

For more information, contact the Job Market representative at 202/942-4256.

### ►DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICH.

Salary: \$85,072 – \$110,614, DOQ.

Full time position with excellent benefits. Kalamazoo County, Mich. is seeking an experienced individual to serve as the deputy county administrator of county operations. The deputy county administrator reports directly to the county administrator who reports to the Board of Commissioners, which consists of 17 members. Kalamazoo County Government has approximately 1,000 employees with an operating budget of \$83 million. Reporting to this position are the directors of Animal Services and Enforcement, Human Resources, Health and Community Services, Parks and Fairgrounds, Planning and Development, and Manager-Administrative Services. Indirectly reporting is the staff of each direct report and county employees working in the MSU Extension office. Present to and work with Board of Commissioners during regularly

scheduled meetings, providing reports and information related to employee and labor issues. Assist with long-term, strategic planning to maintain and continuously improve economic development and services provided to the community. Publicly represent the county to news media, and liaise with other units of government, community organizations and the public. Provide supervision and direction to Administrative Services and other departments directly reporting. Liaise with and assist courts, elected offices and their departments. Assist the county administrator in the development of general operating budget and capital improvement plans. Represent the county during collective bargaining process to negotiate labor union agreements. Perform other duties as delegated by the county administrator, or assume county administrator responsibilities in his/her absence. Bachelor's degree in public administration or related field and five years' senior management experience, or any comparable combination of education, training and experience. Master's degree in public administration or related field preferred. Experience working with an elected policy-making board and knowledge of county government administration. Must have the ability to analyze and interpret technical information and demonstrate high-quality verbal and written communication and presentation skills. Must possess problem-solving skills with a commitment to quality improvement and the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, elected officials and the public. Posting #103-07. Salary range: \$85,072.00 – \$110,614.40. For consideration, application must be received by 5:00 p.m. Dec. 7. Confidentiality can be maintained upon request up to interview. Send resume to: Kalamazoo

County Human Resources Department, 201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue, Suite 310, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, or fax to 269/384-8099. [www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com). EOE.

### ►DIRECTOR OF PLANNING – PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VA.

Salary: \$57,811 – \$87,966, DOQ.

Prince George County is seeking a director of planning to plan, organize and direct planning and zoning activities, services, programs and staff; coordinate work with county administrator and department directors and serve as staff support to various boards and commissions. Successful candidate must have comprehensive knowledge of the principles and practices of urban and regional planning, including subdivision development. Position requires extensive experience in professional urban planning. Bachelor's degree in planning or related field required. Master's degree preferred. Possession of or ability to obtain AICP certification within 24 months of employment. Salary range is \$57,811 – \$87,966. Pre-employment physical/drug testing and criminal background check, to include fingerprinting, required. For a complete job description and county application, visit the county Web site at [www.princegeorgeva.org](http://www.princegeorgeva.org) or pick up a copy at the main lobby of the County Administration Building or the Department of Human Resources. For information, call 804/722-8669. Deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. Dec. 28. Applications can be mailed to: Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 68, Prince George, VA 23875. Faxed applications are not accepted. Postmarks are not considered as date received. EOE.

### ►ELECTIONS MANAGER – MULTNOMAH COUNTY, ORE.

Salary: DOQ.

Multnomah County (Portland, Ore.) is seeking an energetic, motivated and strategic leader with a proven track record of progressive, innovative thinking and program development and implementation to lead the Elections Division. The elections manager is responsible for managing, directing and coordinating the activities of the Elections Division staff; providing highly complex assistance to elected officials, public agencies and related jurisdictions, and informing the public in all issues involving election activities. Essential functions include: Manage, direct and organize division activities including voter registration, maintenance of voter rolls, conduct of elections and implementation of contribution and expenditure report laws. Lead the development and implementation of program budget, goals and objectives; develop and implement policies and procedures for an efficient and effective team environment and operation. Monitor, develop and

implement national and state election legislation and legal decisions, monitor and implement current election trends and technologies and manage the Division's record and retention program. Represent Multnomah County Elections to the media, respond to questions or inquiries, resolve complaints from the public and manage Division communication with vendors and other outside agencies. Lead a professionally open and transparent operational environment. Any relevant combination of the following educational background and experience would meet the minimum qualifications for the position: Four years of increasingly responsible management experience, including two years of supervisory experience. A history of proven leadership: managerial and supervisory skills are a must. Management experience involving elections is highly desirable. Management experience involving vote by mail is preferred. The equivalent to a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in public or business administration or a related field is required. Priority will be given to candidates who understand federal policies and directives regarding elections, as well as the role of government in preparing for and responding to election needs and requirements. Multnomah County is committed to hiring a diverse workforce. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply by Nov. 30. See online description at [www.multcojobs.org](http://www.multcojobs.org). Please send a cover letter and resume (e-mail preferred) to Jerry Petty at the following address: Multnomah County Department of Community Services 1600 SE 190th Ave., Suite #224 Portland, OR 97233, or to [jerry.d.petty@co.multnomah.or.us](mailto:jerry.d.petty@co.multnomah.or.us).

### ►PLANNER – CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VA.

Salary: DOQ.

Chesterfield County, Va. (Richmond-Metro Area), a recognized leader and award-winning local government, is seeking a planner for its Planning Subdivision Review Division. Chesterfield, a suburban county of 446 square miles is centrally located in the Commonwealth with a population of over 300,000 residents. Chesterfield is the corporate location for many small businesses and large international companies, and has a national reputation as one of the more affluent and well-educated localities in the country. The planner will evaluate subdivision applications for conformance to the county's ordinances, review building permit applications, compose reports and make presentations to the Planning Commission. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in Planning, Architecture or related field, or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

This recruitment will remain open until Dec. 13. Interested applicants should submit an application by visiting [www.chesterfield.gov](http://www.chesterfield.gov). Pre-employment drug testing and FBI criminal background check required. Good driving record required, and must not reflect a total accumulation of six or more negative points within the past three years, or a major violation within the past four years. An equal opportunity employer committed to workforce diversity.

### ►SENIOR PLANNER – CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VA.

Salary: DOQ.

Chesterfield County, Va. (Richmond-Metro Area), a recognized leader and award-winning local government, is seeking an individual with strong technical and leadership qualities, and management experience to serve as a senior planner of the county's Planning-Subdivision Review Division. Chesterfield, a suburban county of 446 square miles is centrally located in the Commonwealth with a population of over 300,000 residents. Chesterfield is the corporate location for many small businesses and large international companies, and has a national reputation as one of the more affluent and well-educated localities in the country. The Development Review Division of the Planning Department consists of 30 planners and technicians and is divided into four sections: Subdivision, Site Plan, Code Enforcement and Customer Assistance. The department is currently revising its subdivision ordinance and review procedures. This position will be afforded the opportunity to become a vital part of this and other projects. The senior planner will evaluate subdivision applications for conformance to Chesterfield County ordinances, compose reports and make presentations to the Planning Commission. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in Planning or related field (master's degree preferred); at least three years' experience in local government planning, or an equivalent combination of training and experience are also required. This recruitment will remain open until Dec. 13. Interested applicants should submit an application by visiting [www.chesterfield.gov](http://www.chesterfield.gov). Pre-employment drug testing and FBI criminal background check required, and must not reflect a total accumulation of six or more negative points within the past three years, or a major violation within the past four years. An equal opportunity employer committed to workforce diversity.

(If you would like information about advertising your job openings in County News and County News Online, please contact Matthew Fellows at 202/942-4256 or [mfellows@naco.org](mailto:mfellows@naco.org).)

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# NACo's Members-Only Grants Clearinghouse

## Web page, Check it out!

To make sure counties are in the know about funding prospects, NACo has bolstered its efforts to sift through federal and private foundation grants.

We look for county-eligible grants, and we keep an eye out for those grants with the most potential to support innovative projects and ongoing county programs.

If you are a county official or county staff person working for a NACo-member county, then you are eligible to receive access to this members-only resource!



## See the Grants Clearinghouse section of the NACo Website.

- ▶ Go to [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)
- ▶ Click on "County Resource Center"
- ▶ Click on "Grants Clearinghouse"



**There are currently nearly 90 active grant opportunities listed on the clearinghouse. Here are some examples of what you'll see:**

### Community Facilities Grant Program

*(Deadline: Contact USDA State office)*

The purpose of the Community Facilities Grant Program is to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services.

### Brownfield Economic Development Initiative

*(Deadline: Dec. 24, 2007)*

This grant is designed to help local governments redevelop brownfields.

### Border Enforcement Grant

*(Deadline: Aug. 31, 2008)*

To ensure motor carriers operating commercial motor vehicles entering the United States from a foreign country are in compliance with commercial vehicle standards and regulations.

