



# COUNTIES MATTER

**National Association of Counties**

STRONGER COUNTIES. **STRONGER AMERICA.**

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation and infrastructure are core public sector responsibilities that impact everything from our daily commutes to shipping goods around the globe. From building and maintaining roads and bridges to providing efficient transit options, counties are a driving force connecting communities and strengthening our economy. Counties play a major role in other essential community infrastructure like schools, hospitals, jails, courthouses, parks and water purification and sewage systems.

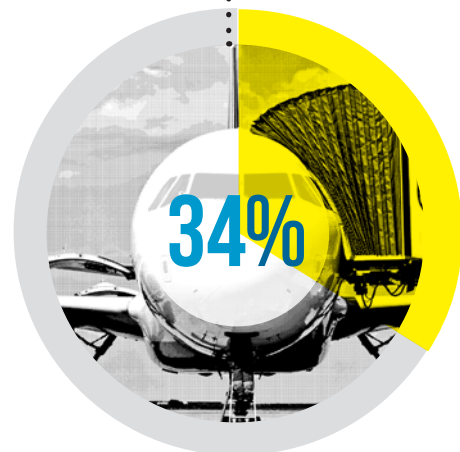
## SERVICES INCLUDE

- Roads & bridges
- Airports
- Public transportation
- Construction of public facilities
- Utilities like gas & electricity
- Solid waste recycling & management
- Water & sewage
- Telecommunications



Counties are involved in 27% of public transportation systems

Counties are involved in the operation of 34% of public airports



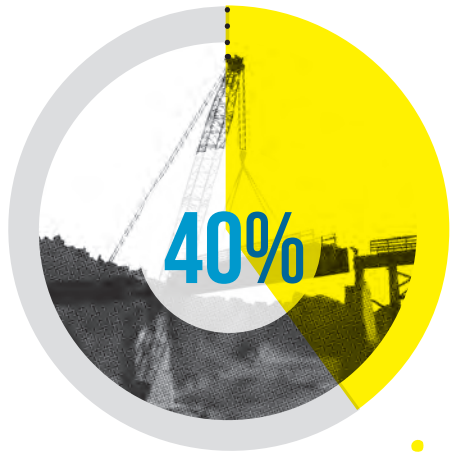
*counties invest* ..... { ..... ALMOST **\$60 BILLION** IN CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES ..... ALMOST **\$22 BILLION** IN SEWAGE AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT .....



Counties own and maintain  
45% of America's roads



Counties own  
40% of bridges



MORE THAN **\$122 BILLION** TOTAL  
IN BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND MAINTAINING AND OPERATING  
PUBLIC WORKS

} ..... *annually*

# COMMUNITY HEALTH

Counties invest heavily in local residents' health and well-being, often serving as a safety net for low-income and indigent residents. County health departments protect our residents and communities by offering a wide range of services like administering flu shots, providing health information and preventing and responding to public health emergencies.

From hospitals and emergency rooms to clinical care facilities, many counties operate the systems that keep us healthy from the time we are born to the time we grow old. Counties also often have significant responsibilities for behavioral and mental health services and care.

## SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Hospitals & health clinics
- Public health
- Behavioral & mental health
- Substance abuse treatment
- Immunizations & prevention
- Indigent healthcare
- Health code inspections
- Nursing homes



*counties invest*.....{

ABOUT **\$83 BILLION** IN  
COMMUNITY HEALTH  
AND HOSPITALS



Counties are involved  
in promoting public  
health through  
1,592 local health  
departments

1,592



In a majority of states (27),  
counties are required to  
provide healthcare for  
low-income, uninsured or  
underinsured residents



1,000

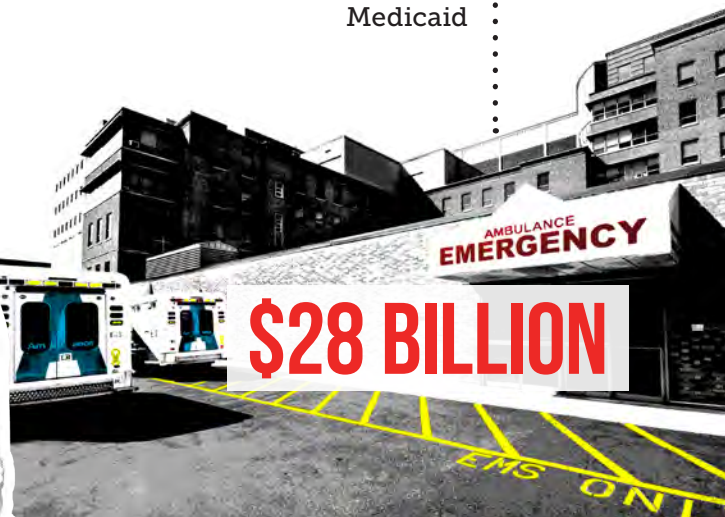
Counties support  
nearly 1,000 hospitals



100,000

...with more than  
100,000 beds

Local governments,  
mostly counties,  
contribute  
\$28 billion to the  
non-federal share of  
Medicaid



\$28 BILLION

MORE THAN \$58 BILLION IN  
HUMAN SERVICES

*annually*

# JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Counties play a major role in two distinct areas of justice and public safety: emergency response and preparedness and the criminal justice system. Counties keep communities safe by providing law enforcement and preventing crime. From patrolling the streets, to operating and maintaining county detention facilities, to serving as the arm of the county courts, county sheriffs and other law enforcement departments are on the front lines of public safety and the criminal justice system. Other key county players are judges, district attorneys, public defenders, court clerks, jail directors, 911 operators and coroners.

## SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Sheriffs departments
- County police departments
- County courts
- Jails & correctional facilities
- Juvenile detention & justice services
- Emergency management personnel
- Paid & volunteer firefighters
- District attorneys
- Public defenders
- Coroners



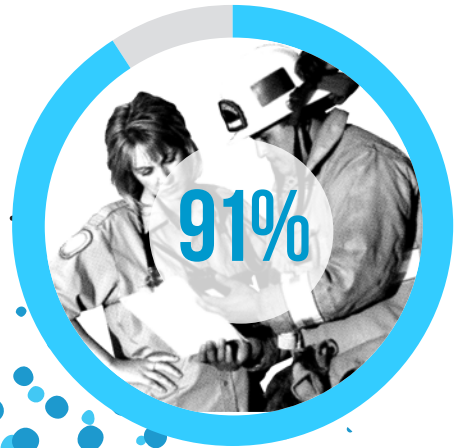
*counties invest* ..... { ALMOST **\$11 BILLION**  
IN FIRE PROTECTION  
ACTIVITIES

ALMOST **\$26 BILLION**  
ON CORRECTIONAL  
FACILITIES

ALMOST **\$19 BILLION**  
ON COUNTY COURTS  
AND LEGAL SERVICES



Counties operate  
91% of all local jails  
.....



**11.4 MILLION**

11.4 million people were admitted to  
county and other local jails in 2014



..... OVER **\$35 BILLION** ON  
**3,041** POLICE AND  
SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS

..... ALMOST **\$93 BILLION**  
TOTAL IN JUSTICE AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

} ..... *annually*



# COUNTY MANAGEMENT

Counties provide vital services to all Americans, from issuing birth certificates and marriage licenses to operating 911 call centers. Counties often build and maintain parks, community centers, libraries and cultural centers. Counties are responsible for managing elections, from presidential to local. While balancing numerous administrative responsibilities, counties deliver essential services to ensure healthy, vibrant and safe communities across the United States.

## SERVICES INCLUDE

- Record keeping
- Tax assessments & collection
- 911 call centers
- Elections and polling places
- Recreation and parks
- Arts programs
- Housing
- Community and economic development



*counties invest*.....

..... ALMOST **\$10 BILLION** TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN  
PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES .....



37,984

There are 37,984 total county elected officials (including county board, executives and row officers)

19,355

...19,355 elected county board members and elected executives

18,629

...18,629 are independently elected constitutional or row officers responsible for specific county functions

Every two years counties fund and oversee more than 104,000 polling places

...and coordinate more than 648,000 poll workers

648,000



..... CLOSE TO **\$11 BILLION** IN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT .....

} ..... *annually*

# COUNTIES' HISTORY & DIVERSITY

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

No two counties are exactly the same. Counties are diverse in structure and how

we deliver services to our communities. In general, states decide the roles and responsibilities of county governments. Counties are governed by locally elected officials and, in some instances, operate under home rule authority, which allows for more local flexibility and control with structural, functional and fiscal powers. Though organizational structures vary, all county governments are on the front lines of delivering vital services to residents.



## \$554.4 BILLION + 3.6 MILLION = 308 MILLION

\$554.4 billion total  
expenditures annually

3.6 million county  
employees

Service to almost  
308 million  
county residents



# · NACo'S MISSION

· THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo) UNITES  
· AMERICA'S 3,069 COUNTY GOVERNMENTS. FOUNDED IN  
· 1935, NACo BRINGS COUNTY OFFICIALS TOGETHER TO:

- ● ADVOCATE WITH A COLLECTIVE VOICE ON NATIONAL POLICY
- ● EXCHANGE IDEAS AND BUILD NEW LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- ● PURSUE TRANSFORMATIONAL, COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS
- ● ENRICH THE PUBLIC'S UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND
- ● EXERCISE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

## · NACo'S VISION

· **HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND SAFE COUNTIES** ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

### SOURCES:

The annual investments are 2012 figures. NACo analysis of Census of Governments' Data, 2012; NACo Data on county elected officials, December 2015; NACo analysis of U.S DOT data, 2011; USDOT, 2014; NACo analysis of U.S FTA Data, 2011; NACo analysis of U.S. FAA Data, 2015; NACo analysis of American Hospital Directory Data, 2011; NACo Analysis of U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, March 2015; National Association of County and City Health Officials, 2015; Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014; NACo analysis of Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jail Facilities Data, 2006; NACo analysis of U.S. Election Commission Data, 2014; U.S Census, Population Division, Vintage 2014.



STRONGER COUNTIES. **STRONGER AMERICA.**

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