

# COUNTIES MATTER: COVID-19



America's counties are on the front lines of our nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic. During this unprecedented public health emergency and the aftermath of an economic crisis, counties are committed to strong intergovernmental cooperation to mitigate COVID-19 and its far-reaching impacts on America's people and places.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

- **Counties support 903 hospitals, 824 long-term care facilities and over 1,900 public health departments**
- In **26 states**, counties are required to provide health care for low-income, uninsured or underinsured residents
- Counties contribute to the non-federal share of Medicaid in **26 states**. Of these states, **18 mandate counties to contribute to the non-federal share of Medicaid costs** and/or administrative, program, physical health and behavioral health costs
- Local governments, mostly counties, contribute **\$28 billion to the non-federal share of Medicaid annually**
- Mandated county contributions are the highest in New York. Counties in New York and New York City send **over \$7 billion per year – or \$140 million per week** – to the state for Medicaid costs
- **75 percent** of federal funding used by counties in FY 2014-2016 was for health and human services

## HUMAN SERVICES

- In at least 10 states that represent at least a third of the U.S. population, counties are responsible for administering federal human service programs, such as **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the child welfare system and the Child Care and Development Block Grant**
- Counties invest **\$58 billion** annually in federal, state and local dollars on human services programs
- As **unemployment numbers skyrocket**, county residents will turn to human services agencies in unprecedented numbers to access safety net programs. At the same time, **general revenue funds** – which counties often use to supplement federal and state funding for human services programs – **are declining dramatically**

## COUNTY MANAGEMENT

- **Led by 40,000 county elected officials, counties employ 3.6 million people, or 1 percent of the entire U.S. population**
- Every two years during elections, counties fund and oversee more than **100,000 polling places**

## JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- Counties typically operate **911 call centers**, county **Emergency Operations Centers** and emergency planning and response functions
- Counties provide essential public safety services from **law enforcement to fire and rescue** to even **coroners and medical examiners**
- Counties operate **91 percent of all local jails**, with **11 million total admissions** nationally each year, and an average daily jail population of **750,000 inmates**
- Counties invest **\$35 billion annually in 3,041 police and sheriffs' departments**, mostly with local funds

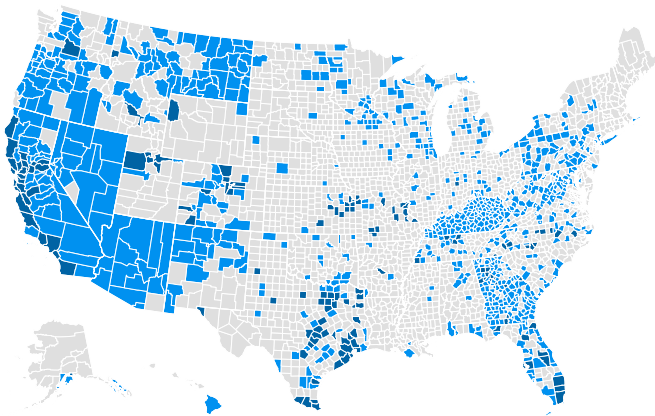
## TRANSPORTATION

- Counties directly support **34 percent** of the nation's public airports
- Counties support **78 percent** of public transit systems that connect people, communities and economies
- Counties own **45 percent** of public road miles and **40 percent** of the nation's bridges
- Counties invest **\$134 billion** in the construction of infrastructure, maintenance and operation of public works, such as roads and bridges, wastewater and stormwater systems, county hospitals, courthouses, jails and other public facilities
- To fund and finance infrastructure, counties use a combination of **federal, state and local dollars, including user fees and tax-exempt municipal bonds**

Visit [www.NACo.org/Coronavirus](http://www.NACo.org/Coronavirus) to find the latest **county-level data**

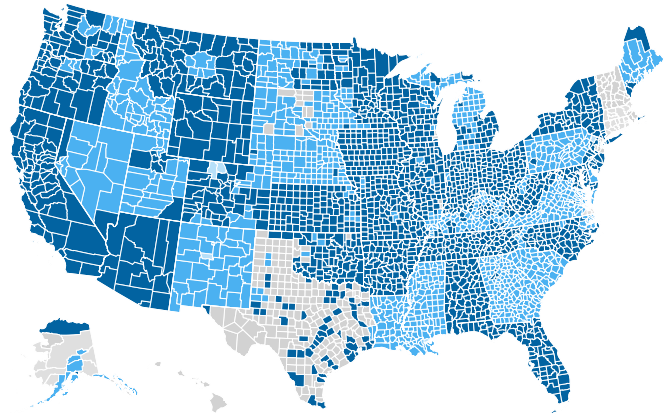
### County Declarations and Policies in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

- County with an emergency declaration
- County with a safer-at-home or business closure policy
- No known local policy



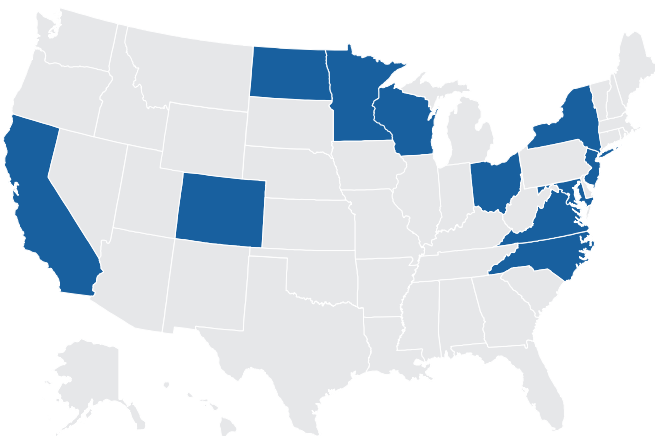
### County Supported Local Health Departments (LHDs)

- County LHD
- Multiple county supported LHDs
- Multi-county / city-county LHDs
- No county supported LHD



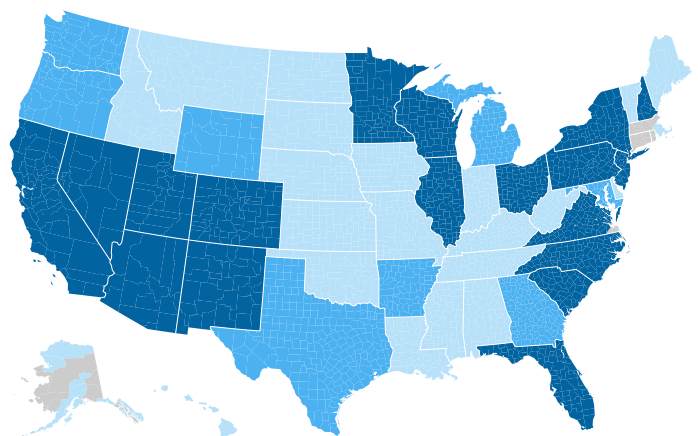
### Counties administer TANF in 10 states

- County administered
- Non-County administered



### Medicaid contribution mandates for counties

- State-mandated contribution
- Contribution, not state-mandated
- No contribution



## NACo's County Explorer COVID-19 maps include:

- County declarations and policies
- Key demographic information
- Hospital numbers
- Local health departments
- Nursing homes
- ...and more.

