



# Interim Policy Resolutions

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As Approved by the NACo Board of Directors

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# COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Resolution on FY 2020 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Issue:** Support FY 2020 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the following levels of funding for core U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs in the FY 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill: no less than \$3.8 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula funding; no less than \$1.5 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); \$2.6 billion for Homeless Housing Assistance grants, including at least \$270 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program plus an amount to fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; full funding for existing Section 8 project-based and tenant-based contracts; and \$500 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

## Resolution on Economic Development Administration Reauthorization

**Issue:** Support appropriations and reauthorization of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate funding and reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) as follows:

- Provide at least \$304 million in appropriations annually for EDA to support economic assistance programs.
- Focus on EDA's core infrastructure and economic adjustment programs – public works, economic adjustment assistance and partnership planning. Congress should also authorize additional funding investments for special initiatives so as not to steer funding away from EDA core programs.
- Encourage regional collaboration by rewarding and incentivizing local governments, businesses and communities to participate in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process. The CEDS process brings together stakeholders to develop regional strategies and goals.
- Elevate EDA's role as an integrator of federal economic development planning programs and formalize EDA's role as the federal government's lead integrator for economic development and central facilitator for interagency collaboration and resource integration.
- Expand EDA Disaster and Recovery Relief Eligibility. EDA has a significant role to play in post-disaster relief and long-term recovery assistance for impacted communities. In areas where a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Stafford Act, EDA grant recipients should be eligible for up to 100 percent of the cost of the project.
- Strengthen EDA's National Technical Assistance program for small and distressed rural communities to allow greater access and leveraging of federal, state, local and regional economic development programs.

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**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

**Resolution on Opportunity Zones**

**Issue:** Support the issuance of guidance and regulations from the U.S. Department of Treasury on the newly created Opportunity Zones tax benefit.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Treasury to provide guidance and regulations on the newly created Opportunity Zones tax benefit that prevent abuse, promote developments that support and provide public benefits and encourage collaboration with local jurisdictions and stakeholders.

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

**Resolution to Support Legal Migration to Strengthen Local Economies and the Workforce**

**Issue:** The role legal immigration plays in our nation’s workforce and local economies.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to enact legislative and regulatory proposals that provide improved and efficient legal avenues for immigrants to enter the United States and contribute to the workforce and local economies.

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

**Resolution on Streamlining State Licensing Procedures for Military Spouses**

**Issue:** The men and women who serve in uniform, and their families, experience hardships following a move when seeking employment due to licensing procedures.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Defense to implement the provisions of Public Law 115-91 to fully reimburse military spouses for costs they incur in transferring professional licenses and certifications from state to state. Further, counties should do all that they can to support the U.S. Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Labor and the Military Spouse Employment Partnership in encouraging states to streamline the process for granting reciprocity for military spouses who must relocate from state to state in support of our men and women in uniform as they provide for the security of our nation.

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

1 **ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE**

2  
3 **Resolution to Revise the Process to Assess Benefits of Federally Funded Water Infrastructure**  
4 **Projects**

5  
6 **Issue:** The process for conducting cost-benefit analyses for flood control projects does not properly  
7 acknowledge the value of agricultural land or socio-economic factors.

8  
9 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
10 (Army Corps) and the White House’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to add a quantitative  
11 indexed value to life-safety, agricultural land value and the impacts of crop flooding, protection of low  
12 income communities and environmental benefits to determine the benefit of federal investments in flood  
13 control projects.

14  
15 Additionally, NACo urges Congress to authorize the Army Corps to implement the *2013 Principles,*  
16 *Requirements and Guidelines* to allow rural communities to fairly compete for federal funding by  
17 considering non-population-based criteria for water projects.

18  
19 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

20  
21 **Resolution on Compensatory Mitigation In-Lieu Fee Programs**

22  
23 **Issue:** Ensuring that mitigation programs occur in the watershed or region where the impact occurred.

24  
25 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
26 to give preference to mitigation projects funded by in-lieu fees for compensatory mitigation in the local  
27 watershed where the fee was collected in consultation with local officials.

28  
29 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

30  
31 **Resolution Supporting the Development of New Coal Export Facilities**

32  
33 **Issue:** Natural resources are an economic driver in many communities and new export facilities would  
34 deliver an economic boost.

35  
36 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the development of new coal  
37 export facilities in the United States, as long as it does not preempt state or local authority.

38  
39 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

1                   **FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

2  
3                   **Resolution on Restoring Tax Incentives for Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems**

4  
5   **Issue:** A portion of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) prevents fire sprinkler systems and other  
6 interior building improvements from qualifying for a limited period of full expensing as well as an  
7 accelerated depreciation schedule.

8  
9   **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to allow qualified  
10 improvement properties (QIPs) to be eligible for bonus and accelerated depreciation as intended by the  
11 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

12  
13   **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

1 **HEALTH**

2  
3 **Resolution on Reducing Disparities in African American Child Deaths**

4  
5 **Issue:** African American children die at disproportionate rates across the United States, impacting  
6 families and communities.

7  
8 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal legislative efforts to  
9 fund local initiatives to reduce African American child deaths through collective impact models and  
10 targeted, community-based programs to reduce risks.

11  
12 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

13  
14 **Resolution Supporting Funding for and Improvements to Rural Emergency Medical Services**  
15 **(EMS) Needs Grants**

16  
17 **Issue:** Rural fire and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies currently struggle to fund their EMS  
18 operations.

19  
20 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fund the SIREN grants  
21 at \$20 million for FY 2020. The SIREN grants will provide funding for rural fire and EMS agencies to  
22 recruit personnel, procure emergency medical supplies and provide EMS training classes. Only public and  
23 nonprofit agencies are eligible to receive these funds.

24  
25 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**



1 **HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

2  
3 **Resolution to Minimize the Negative Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Families and**  
4 **Children**

5  
6 **Issue:** The need to carry out enforcement of immigration law in a matter that does not increase reliance on  
7 local social safety-net services or increase administrative costs for counties.

8  
9 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to carry out  
10 its enforcement of immigration law in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on families and children  
11 and does not increase reliance on local social safety-net services or create new demands and  
12 administrative costs for counties.

13  
14 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

15  
16 **Resolution to Oppose the Proposed Rule Further Restricting the Ability of States to Request**  
17 **Waivers to Modify Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Work Requirements for**  
18 **Single Individuals**

19  
20 **Issue:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM)  
21 that would change the criteria and calculations of state waivers for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
22 Program (SNAP) program.

23  
24 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of County (NACo) urges USDA to modify substantially the  
25 proposed rule on SNAP waivers. NACo supports the continued ability of states to request statewide  
26 waivers, as well as the current flexibility states have when grouping counties subject to a waiver. NACo  
27 supports greater flexibility to allow able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) to receive SNAP  
28 benefits as they find jobs, including increasing federal support and administrative flexibility in  
29 administering SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs. Finally, NACo supports a change in the  
30 waiver process to allow counties to apply for an ABAWD waiver if a state does not apply for a state-wide  
31 or partial waiver.

32  
33 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

34  
35 **Resolution to Maintain Current Levels of Legal Migration**

36  
37 **Issue:** The health of our economy and communities and our economic growth as counties depends on a  
38 robust legal immigration system.

39  
40 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative or regulatory  
41 proposals that at least maintain current statutory legal immigration levels and opposes any efforts that  
42 would significantly reduce legal immigration to the United States.

43  
44 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

1 **JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

2  
3 **Resolution on Pretrial Bail Reform**

4  
5 **Issue:** Reforming bail to reduce disparities in the pretrial justice system.

6  
7 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges support for a nationwide effort to  
8 make communities safer and ensure better outcomes for all by applying common sense solutions to  
9 widespread pretrial justice challenges. The goals are to: 1) help counties reduce unnecessary arrests by  
10 expanding the use of alternatives such as citations or summons, 2) replace money bail with non-financial,  
11 less restrictive conditions, and restrict detention to only the most serious offenses in which, after a  
12 rigorous process, a court determines that no condition or combination of condition can reasonably assure  
13 appearance in court and public safety, and 3) reduce disparities within the pretrial justice system. NACo  
14 urges the federal government to support county efforts to explore disparity reduction in the pre-trial  
15 justice system through funding and technical assistance, including data collection and studies to identify  
16 successful reform solutions.

17  
18 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

19  
20 **Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Conduct an**  
21 **Assessment and Develop an Improvement Plan on FEMA Individual Assistance Programs**

22  
23 **Issue:** Citizens, businesses and governments impacted by disasters should be afforded a simple process,  
24 clear guidelines and timely assistance to recover from a disaster.

25  
26 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the Federal  
27 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a study on FEMA’s Individual Assistance programs  
28 to measure the simplicity, clarity and expediency of applying for assistance and take appropriate actions  
29 to refine the programs based on results.

30  
31 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

32  
33 **Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Clarify FEMA Debris**  
34 **Removal Guidelines for Private Roadways and Gated Communities**

35  
36 **Issue:** Citizens, businesses and governments that are located on private roads or within private gated  
37 communities and are impacted by disasters and should be provided a simple process, clear guidelines and  
38 timely reimbursement assistance to recover from a disaster.

39  
40 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the Federal  
41 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to clarify FEMA’s debris removal reimbursement guidelines  
42 for private roadways and gated communities to simplify and expedite the process.

43  
44 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

1     **Resolution Urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Coordinate with Local**  
2                     **Government Stakeholders on FEMA After-Action Reports**

3  
4     **Issue:** Citizens, businesses and governments that are impacted by disasters should be provided a simple  
5 process, clear guidelines and timely reimbursement assistance to recover from a disaster.

6  
7     **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the Federal  
8 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate with local government stakeholders and residents  
9 on FEMA After-Action Reports.

10  
11    **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

## PUBLIC LANDS

### **Resolution Supporting the Utilization of Domestic Livestock Grazing as a Cost-Effective and Viable Method for Hazardous Fuels Reduction Goals in Executive Order 13855, *Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands and Other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk***

**Issue:** Allowing grazing as an acceptable form of active forest and vegetation management to reduce hazardous fuel loads.

**Adopted Policy:** To protect communities and critical infrastructure, the National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Trump Administration to instruct federal land management agencies to utilize domestic livestock grazing as a cost-effective and viable method of hazardous fuels reduction on public lands in the West. In accordance with Executive Order 13855, counties urge the administration to require agencies to reactivate all suspended non-use Animal Unit Months (AUMs) when requested by permittees, unless the agencies can produce peer-reviewed, irrefutable scientific evidence that doing so would be detrimental to the range. Additionally, counties recommend that all grazing permits be treated as outcome-based in order to grant federal agencies greater flexibility to respond to conditions on the ground.

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

### **Resolution on the Council of Environmental Quality's Revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations**

**Issue:** The Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) is in the process of updating its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports revising NEPA implementing regulations to require federal agencies to regularly provide meaningful opportunities for states and counties to be involved in the NEPA process for planning and projects on federal lands that may affect the economy, society and culture of constituents. NACo asks that the CEQ work closely with state and local governments to revise the NEPA regulations.

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

### **Resolution Regarding Wildland Fire Regulations and Policies**

**Issue:** Federal regulations, policies and guidelines that allow lightning-caused fires to burn on federal lands at all times and that permit the use of prescribed fires, regardless of ignition source, on federal lands at all times.

**Adopted Policy:** NACo supports greater coordination between federal land management agencies and local governments in implementing wildland fire suppression policies and strategies, with the understanding that a blanket, one-size-fits-all policy is untenable on diverse landscapes. Federal agencies must work with local governments to accomplish their land management goals, including wildfire suppression and risk reduction, and ensure such efforts do not jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of local residents.

1  
2 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

1 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**

2  
3 **Resolution Calling for the Federal Communications Commission to Address the Lack of Cellular**  
4 **Phone Coverage for Unserved and Underserved Areas of the United States**

5  
6 **Issue:** Many areas of the United States, particularly in rural areas, are either underserved or not served at  
7 all by cellular phone carriers, preventing residents and visitors from accessing emergency services  
8 through E-911.

9  
10 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Communications  
11 Commission (FCC) to direct additional funding for the build-out of additional cellular communications  
12 capabilities in the unserved and underserved areas of the United States through the High Cost Program  
13 administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

14  
15 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

16  
17 **Resolution Supporting Federal Legislation to Implement Next Generation 911**

18  
19 **Issue:** There is an urgent need to implement Next Generation 911 systems and services nationwide to  
20 ensure that members of the public and first responders (i.e., 911, police, fire, EMS) benefit from modern  
21 emergency communications services.

22  
23 **Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation that  
24 affirms nationwide implementation of Next Generation 911 and provides funding to facilitate  
25 implementation across all states, U.S. territories, tribal lands and the District of Columbia.

26  
27 **Adopted | March 4, 2019**

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## TRANSPORTATION

### Resolution on Regulating Air Ambulances Under the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA)

**Issue:** Air ambulance regulation under the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA).

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports policies to remove air ambulances from the definition of “Air Carrier” in the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA) and ensure other federal laws do not prevent states from regulating air ambulance billing rates to protect consumers from price-gouging and/or balance billing conducted by some air ambulance providers. NACo encourages Congress to direct a thorough and complete study of Air Ambulance operations to be conducted.

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

### Resolution in Support of Funding the Assistance to Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) Grant

**Issue:** Funding support for the Assistance to Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grants.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to designate \$6 million in dedicated funds for the ALERT grant, administered by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**

### Resolution Supporting National Voluntary Registry of Persons with Invisible Disabilities When Applying for a Government Issued Identification Document

**Issue:** Persons with invisible disabilities drive, work and play in our society and the recognition of such disabilities by law enforcement is paramount to everyone’s safety.

**Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the federal government to support a nationwide, individual state driven model which allows persons with hidden disabilities to voluntarily register that they have such a disability when applying for a government issued identification card and/or driver’s license.

**Adopted | March 4, 2019**