



2021-2022 Adopted Policy Resolutions and Platform Changes

National Association of Counties (NACo)

2021 Annual Conference

Membership Approved



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1 **COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

2
3 **Resolution on FY 2022 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban**
4 **Development**

5
6 **Issue:** Support Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
7 Development (HUD).

8
9 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support the following levels of
10 funding for core U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs in the Fiscal
11 Year (FY) 2022 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations
12 bill: no less than \$4.2 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula funding; no less
13 than \$1.7 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); \$3 billion
14 for Homeless Housing Assistance grants, including at least \$290 million for the Emergency Solutions
15 Grant program plus an amount to fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent
16 subsidy contracts; expansion of the Section 8 voucher program in addition to full funding for existing
17 Section 8 project-based and tenant-based contracts; \$40 million for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive
18 Housing (VASH) and \$500 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

19
20 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

21
22 **Resolution on Expanding Federal Residential Eviction Moratorium**

23
24 **Issue:** The federal halt on residential evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic is scheduled to expire on July
25 30, 2021.

26
27 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to implement a
28 comprehensive halt on residential evictions to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 until the federal
29 public health emergency declaration is rescinded. NACo further urges Congress to provide additional funding
30 and flexibility to state, county, local and tribal governments to administer rental assistance and additional
31 housing stability supports throughout the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

32
33 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

34
35 **Resolution Supporting Changes to Private Activity Bond Requirements to Increase the Use of Low**
36 **Income Housing Tax Credits**

37
38 **Issue:** The requirement that affordable housing developments use tax-exempt bonds for 50 percent of the
39 aggregate basis of buildings and land in order to access the 4 percent Low Income Housing Tax Credit
40 (LIHTC) is an inefficient use of scarce private activity bond (PAB) authority.

41
42 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to amend Section 42 of the
43 Internal Revenue Code to lower the aggregate basis for housing developments using private activity
44 bonds from 50 percent to 25 percent in order to increase the amount of 4 percent Low Income Housing
45 Tax Credits available to develop more affordable housing.

46
47 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **Resolution in Support of Permanent Authorization for EB-5 Regional Center Program**

2
3 **Issue:** The EB-5 Regional Center Program (the “Program”) authorization expires on June 30, 2021. Long-
4 term authorization by the U.S. Congress is needed to ensure the Program can achieve maximum economic
5 impact and job creation by creating certainty in the marketplace.

6 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports bipartisan federal legislation developed
7 by Senator Grassley (R-Iowa) and Senator Leahy (D-V.T.) to reauthorize the EB-5 Regional Center
8 Program for five years and to ensure any reform of the EB-5 Regional Center Program maintains the
9 ability to deliver job-creating capital to American communities, avoids retroactive application of new law
10 on matters already filed, allows for economic impact models to be used in measuring job creation and
11 enhances program integrity measures.

12 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

13
14 **Resolution on Federal Support to Address Unsheltered Homelessness**

15
16 **Issue:** Federal support to address increases in the number of unsheltered homeless persons and families
17 should reflect current and anticipated needs.

18 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports increased federal support to address
19 surges in the number of persons and families who are unsheltered and experiencing homelessness.

20 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

21
22 **Resolution on the New Markets Tax Credit**

23
24 **Issue:** Support the permanent extension of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program in order to
25 promote community development and economic growth by attracting private investment in low-income
26 communities with high unemployment and poverty.

27
28 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide a permanent extension
29 of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) and other enhancements to the program to allow for private
30 sector investment and economic growth in low-income communities.

31
32 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

33
34 **Resolution on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit**

35
36 **Issue:** To build and preserve more affordable housing through the expansion of the Low-Income Housing
37 Tax Credit program.

38
39 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages Congress to pass the Affordable
40 Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2021 to expand and preserve the nation’s affordable housing stock.
41

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2
3 **Resolution on Housing Infrastructure**
4

5 **Issue:** Support the inclusion of affordable housing investments in any federal infrastructure package.
6

7 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to include affordable housing
8 investments in any federal infrastructure package to provide counties with the resources necessary to
9 create and preserve more affordable homes in the United States.
10

11 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

12
13 **Resolution on Economic Development Administration Reauthorization**
14

15 **Issue:** Support appropriations and reauthorization of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic
16 Development Administration.
17

18 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate funding
19 and reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) as
20 follows:
21

- 22 • Provide at least \$346 million in appropriations annually for EDA to support economic assistance
23 programs.
- 24 • Focus on EDA’s core infrastructure and economic adjustment programs – public works, economic
25 adjustment assistance and partnership planning. Congress should also authorize additional funding
26 for special initiatives so as not to steer funding away from EDA core programs.
- 27 • Increase EDA funding for Public Works and enhance the scope of related activities, particularly
28 related to broadband and resiliency.
- 29 • Strengthen EDA’s National Technical Assistance program for small and distressed rural
30 communities to allow greater access and leveraging of federal, state, local and regional economic
31 development programs.
- 32 • Encourage regional collaboration by rewarding and incentivizing local governments, businesses
33 and communities to participate in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
34 process. The CEDS process brings together stakeholders to develop regional strategies and goals.
- 35 • Elevate EDA’s role as an integrator of federal economic development planning programs and
36 formalize EDA’s role as the federal government’s lead integrator for economic development and
37 central facilitator for interagency collaboration and resource integration.
- 38 • Expand EDA Disaster and Recovery Relief eligibility. EDA has a significant role to play in post-
39 disaster relief and long-term recovery assistance for impacted communities. In areas where a
40 major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Stafford Act, EDA grant recipients
41 should be eligible for up to 100 percent of the cost of the project.
42

43 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1
2 **Resolution on FY 2022 Appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

3
4 **Issue:** Support FY 2022 appropriations for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

5
6 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide adequate resources for
7 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs and fund the Title I, Title II and III
8 accounts at the levels authorized and listed below:

9
10 **Title I – U.S. Department of Labor**

- 11 • \$904.782 million for Adult Employment and Training Services, \$967.187 million for the
12 Youth Activities and \$1.410 billion for Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Services

13
14 **Title II – U.S. Department of Education**

- 15 • \$674.955 million for Adult Education

16
17 **Title III – Wagner-Peyser Employment Services**

- 18 • \$701.400 million for Wagner-Peyser Employment Services (ES) – current-year levels to
19 give states the additional resources they need to provide WIOA’s intensive reemployment
20 services.

21
22 In addition, NACo supports only a WIOA formula allocation funding approach. NACo supports local
23 control and investment at the county and municipality level and rejects any mechanism that gives states
24 more authority than WIOA intends.

25
26 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

27
28 **Resolution on Leveraging the Combination of the Investing in Opportunity Act and Workforce**
29 **Innovation and Opportunity Act for Local Prosperity**

30
31 **Issue:** The purpose of the Investing in Opportunity Act is to incentivize private investment in low-income
32 census tracts. Yet, many believe that this legislation may not actually benefit the people living within
33 Opportunity Zones and may instead cause greater regional inequality.

34
35 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to
36 amend the proposed Investing in Opportunity Act regulations to allow a business to qualify as an
37 Opportunity Zone Business with 50 percent (as opposed to 70 percent) of its tangible property, owned or
38 leased, meeting the requirements of Opportunity Zone Business Property, so long as said business also
39 employs a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program (to be certified by the business’
40 local American Job Center on the IRS Form 8996).

41
42 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

43
44 **Resolution on Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

45
46 **Issue:** Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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Policy: NACo supports reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) with enhancements that would reduce bureaucracy, improve alignment and increase flexibility for more efficient and effective results. WIOA reauthorization legislation should promote innovation and flexibility at the state and local level and be responsive to local emerging economic realities, and business needs to ensure U.S. workers and businesses have the skills and training needed to compete in the 21st-century economy.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution to Support Legal Migration to Strengthen Local Economies and Workforce

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

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to enact legislative and regulatory proposals that support and provide improved and efficient legal avenues for immigrants to enter the United States, both permanently and temporarily, and contribute to the workforce and local economies and maintain the area standard industry wages for the local marketplace.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution on Protecting the Health and Safety of Sober Home Residents

Issue: Local governments continue to see a proliferation of sober homes within their boundaries and need additional clarity from the federal government on how they can protect the health and safety of sober home residents through reasonable regulations.

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports further U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) clarification on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) to allow local governments to enact reasonable regulations to protect the health and safety of sober home residents, and the residents of the surrounding communities.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution on Support for Fire Sprinkler Installations in Public Housing Developments

Issue: Residents of public housing developments are dependent upon the government to maintain the housing and ensure its safety. Unfortunately, there have been fatal fires in public housing developments across the nations due to a lack of fire sprinkler systems in these older developments. Local and state housing authorities often lack the funds needed to install these life-saving systems.

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass the Public Housing Fire Safety Act (S. 265/H.R. 2638), which would authorize a \$25 million competitive grant program within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist housing authorities with

1 completing these retrofit installation projects. This bill also would direct HUD to identify the number of
2 unsprinklered housing developments across the nation.

3

4 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

2
3 Platform Change: Environmental Equity

4
5 (LAND USE, SECTION G):

6
7 NACo continues to support the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of
8 race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement
9 of environmental laws, regulations and policies. During the implementation of these policies, the public
10 should enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the
11 decision-making process to maintain a healthy environment in which they live, learn, and work.

12
13 NACo supports federal funding of research to scientifically evaluate cumulative environmental and health
14 risks to all people, regardless of race or economic status, who live close to facilities that emit pollutants,
15 and providing the results to local elected officials.

16
17 NACo urges federal and state financial assistance to local governments to implement and enforce
18 environmental laws in a non-discriminatory manner to protect all citizens from environmental harm.

19
20 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

21
22 **Resolution Encouraging Congress to Enact the National Heritage Area Act to Establish Uniform**
23 **Criteria, Oversight, Accountability, and Funding Stability for Congressionally-designated National**
24 **Heritage Areas (NHA)**

25
26 **Issue:** Currently, 591 counties across the country are home to 55 National Heritage Areas (NHAs)
27 authorized by Congress. The NHA request begins at the local level and is presented by a member of the
28 State’s Congressional delegation for authorization by Congress. The authorization assists counties and
29 provides funding stability to improve the local economy, quality of life, and tax base through locally
30 controlled public-private partnerships which foster investment in historic preservation and natural
31 resource conservation. Thirty of these NHAs need reauthorization in 2021, with most others facing the
32 same prospect in the next few years. The National Heritage Area Act will replace this haphazard system
33 of individual reauthorizations with a standardized, nationwide program. In December 2020, similar
34 legislation was approved by the U.S. House on a bi-partisan voice vote but was not acted on by the
35 Senate. Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass the National
36 Heritage Area Act of 2021, as it will assist counties to enhance their historic, cultural and natural
37 resources.

38
39 Thirty of these NHAs need reauthorization in 2021, with most others facing the same prospect in the next
40 few years. The National Heritage Area Act will replace this haphazard system of individual
41 reauthorizations with a standardized, nationwide program. In December 2020, similar legislation was
42 approved by the U.S. House on a bi-partisan voice vote but was not acted on by the Senate.

43
44 **Policy:** Encouraging Congress to Enact the National Heritage Area Act to Establish Uniform Criteria,
45 Oversight, Accountability, and Funding Stability for Congressionally-designated National Heritage Areas
46 (NHA).

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2
3 **Resolution to Protect and Enhance Pollinator Species and their Habitat**
4 **Throughout Our Nation’s Counties**

5
6 **Issue:** Farmers depend on pollinator species such as bees, butterflies, moths, hoverflies, flower beetles,
7 pollen wasps, some birds, and some bats to successfully produce approximately one-third of all United
8 States agricultural output. Pollinators play a crucial role in the production of fibers, edible oils, medicines,
9 and other products. Given the breadth, severity, and persistence of alarming pollinator losses, it is critical
10 that the federal government work collaboratively with state and local officials to expand efforts to reverse
11 pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels.

12
13 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal efforts to protect pollinators by
14 working collaboratively with state and local officials on best management practices to enhance pollinator-
15 friendly habitat and encourages our federal partners to provide education, technical assistance,
16 conservation efforts and incentives to conserve pollinators’ health.

17
18 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

19
20 **Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act**

21
22 **Issue:** Coral reefs in Florida and throughout the United States and its territories are critically threatened due
23 to increasing global and local stressors. In particular, the Florida Reef Tract, North America’s only coral
24 barrier reef, is currently facing an unprecedented coral disease outbreak.

25
26 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the State of Florida delegation working
27 with the State of Hawaii delegation, and other delegations represented on the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef
28 Committee and NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program, to hold a Congressional hearing on the status,
29 trends, and urgent issues facing the U.S.’s coral reefs. NACo also supports reauthorization of the Coral
30 Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2000, and additional recurring funding dedicated to improving
31 the health of the nation’s coral reefs.

32
33 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

34
35 **Resolution in Support of Research into Harmful Algal Bloom Prevention and Mitigation**

36
37 **Issue:** Harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxic events (severe oxygen depletion) are some of the most
38 scientifically complex and economically damaging issues challenging our ability to safeguard the health of
39 our nation’s aquatic ecosystems. Almost every state in the U.S. now experiences a type of HAB event and
40 the number of hypoxic water bodies in the U.S. has increased 30-fold since the 1960s with over 300 aquatic
41 life systems now impacted.

42
43 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the renewal of the Harmful Algal Bloom
44 and Hypoxia Research and Control Act and encourages the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to
45 collaborate with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to identify nutrient
46 reduction strategies and scalable Harmful Algal Bloom mitigation processes.

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2
3 **Resolution on National Estuary Program Designation**
4

5 **Issue:** Designating the Pensacola Bay System and Perdido Bay System as estuaries of national significance
6 and the Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program as a National Estuary Program.
7

8 **Policy:** NACo urges Congress and the EPA Administrator to designate the Pensacola Bay System and
9 Perdido Bay System as estuaries of national significance, and by extension recognize the Pensacola &
10 Perdido Bays Estuary Program as a National Estuary Program, per Section 320 of the Clean Water Act.
11

12 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

13
14 **Resolution to Revise the Process to Assess Benefits of Federally Funded Water Infrastructure**
15 **Projects**
16

17 **Issue:** The process for conducting cost-benefit analyses for flood control projects does not properly
18 acknowledge the value of agricultural land or socio-economic factors.
19

20 **Policy:** NACo urges Congress to authorize the Army Corps to implement the 2013 Principles, Requirements
21 and Guidelines to allow rural and economically-disadvantaged communities to fairly compete for federal
22 funding by considering non-population-based criteria for water projects.
23

24 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

25
26 **Resolution on the Amendment of U.S. Code Title 16. Conservation Chapter 12. Federal Regulation**
27 **and Development of Power, Subchapter I. Regulation of the Development of Waterpower and**
28 **Resources Section 803. Conditions of License Generally**
29

30 **Issue:** A resolution urging the United States Congress to amend 16 U.S. Code § 803 (a)(2)(B), to include
31 recommendations from Local agencies exercising administration over flood control in the issuing of
32 licenses for waterpower and resources.
33

34 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the United States Congress to amend 16 U.S.
35 Code § 803 (a)(2)(B) to include recommendations from impacted regional and local agencies exercising
36 administration over flood control in issuing of licenses for waterpower and resources.
37

38 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

39
40 **Resolution on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner and Water Control Infrastructure**
41 **Drawdowns Before Flooding Events**
42

43 **Issue:** A resolution urging federal agencies to enact operating procedures consistent with its mission and
44 design to reduce downstream flooding from imminent stormwater events.
45

1 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
2 (FERC) to revise federal guidelines in coordination with regional and local governing authorities that
3 operate water control projects to reduce downstream stormwater events.
4

5 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
6

7 **Resolution in Opposition of Material Preference Legislation**
8

9 **Issue:** There is a national effort to eliminate local control of water, wastewater, and stormwater (water)
10 infrastructure systems, which would deny engineers, utilities, local governments, and public entities the
11 ability to design water systems in the manner that best serves the needs of their communities.
12

13 **Policy:** NACo supports local control of decisions related to water infrastructure as local communities are
14 in the best position to determine appropriate local water infrastructure investments. State and federal
15 governments should not pass laws or regulations that restrict or limit local governments' ability to invest
16 in the types of water infrastructure and innovative technology that best suits their needs. NACo is neutral
17 as to which materials communities select for water infrastructure projects, but NACo recognizes that
18 communities have unique needs regarding water infrastructure and their autonomy to address those needs
19 should not be restricted or limited in this manner.
20

21 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
22

23 **Resolution on the Impact of Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) on Human Health and the**
24 **Environment**
25

26 **Issue:** Addressing the potential human health and environmental threat caused by per-and polyfluoroalkyl
27 substances (PFAS).
28

29 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports efforts by the U.S. Environmental
30 Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies to study health and environmental impacts of PFAS
31 compounds. Additionally, as the administration moves toward potential regulatory action, NACo urges the
32 administration to work closely with state and local governments throughout the rule-making process.
33

34 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
35
36

37 **Resolution in Support of Increased Allocations of GOMESA Revenues to Gulf Producing States**
38

39 **Issue:** Legislation directing federal offshore mineral revenues to be allocated automatically and
40 annually to federal programs, such as parks maintenance or other causes, should not do so at the expense
41 of expense of the four Gulf Coast producing states that are essential in producing these revenues, nor
42 should allocations limit the increased revenue sharing that these states should receive under GOMESA;
43

44 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) objects strenuously to the allocation of federal
45 mineral revenue to federal programs unless the allocation also increases the GOMESA revenue that is
46 shared with four Gulf Coast states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama), which is a critical

1 recurring source of revenue to address critical coastal protection and restoration needs.

2
3 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

4
5 **Resolution on Compensatory Mitigation In-Lieu Fee Programs**

6
7 **Issue:** Ensuring that mitigation programs occur in the watershed or region where the impact occurred.

8
9 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to give
10 preference to mitigation projects funded by in-lieu fees for compensatory mitigation in the local watershed
11 where the fee was collected in consultation with local officials.

12
13 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

14
15 **Resolution on Reducing Emissions from the Aviation Sector**

16
17 **Issue:** Between 2009 and 2018, studies have shown that carbon dioxide emissions in the transportation
18 sector have steadily increased by 22%. The aviation sector has proven to be one of the fastest-growing
19 sources of emissions in the U.S. transportation sector over the past decade.

20
21 **Policy:** NACo urges the federal government to continue research of air and noise pollution caused by
22 aircraft, and enforce existing standards, rules and regulations. As we see pollution trends in transportation
23 continue to increase, NACo urges the continued support of the use of emissions standards for aircraft and
24 aircraft engines through the Environmental Protection Agency and international organizations like the
25 International Civil Aviation Organization.

26
27 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

28
29 **Resolution in Support of Resuming Federal Offshore Leasing in the Gulf of Mexico**

30
31 **Issue:** The Federal Government's position on resuming offshore leasing is important to America's
32 counties regarding the funding of conservation, recreation, restoration and protection of vital national
33 resources.

34
35 **Policy:** NACo urges the Federal Government's resumption of offshore leasing in the Gulf of Mexico, to
36 maximize the funding streams of the royalty revenue for the purposes of conservation, recreation,
37 restoration and protection of vital national resources.

38
39 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

40
41 **Resolution in Support of the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative**

42
43 **Issue:** To support a non-regulatory approach for planning and financial assistance for Mississippi River
44 projects that improve the quality of drinking water, promote flood resilience, habitat restoration and
45 prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

1 **Policy:** NACo supports passage of the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI),
2 which will create a new, non-regulatory, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) geographic grant
3 program to provide federal planning and funding supports to enhance river restoration, resilience projects
4 and program activities in the Mississippi River states from the Headwaters to the Delta.

5
6 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

7
8 **Resolution Supporting the Inclusion of Local Government Entities within CWA Section 404**
9 **Permitting Exclusions**

10
11 **Issue:** The Clean Water Act (CWA) provides an exemption from permitting under Section 404 for normal
12 ongoing silvicultural activities and operations, provided that they follow the recommendations provided
13 by the respective State Department of Environmental Quality.

14
15 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S. Environmental
16 Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) to include local government
17 public works general maintenance and repair projects in Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting
18 exclusions.

19
20 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

21
22 **Resolution on Implementation of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Refrigerant Management**
23 **Rules**

24
25 **Issue:** New federal regulations require strict air conditioning system inspections, maintenance and record
26 keeping, include heavy fines, and apply to all AC system owners. Most county governments are subject to
27 these rules and many are not aware of their liability.

28
29 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to provide resources
30 to assist with the implementation of Section 608 of the Clean Air Act, including additional funding for
31 training and assistance with tracking and documentation, maintenance, disposal and reporting
32 requirements.

33
34 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

35
36 **Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Invest in Transboundary Water and Sewage**
37 **Infrastructure Along United States/International Borders**

38
39 **Issue:** A resolution urging for sufficient funding to construct water and sewage infrastructure
40 improvements along U.S./international borders.

41
42 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to authorize and appropriate
43 funding for projects identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other appropriate
44 federal agencies, that would address transboundary sewage or contaminated water flows that occur along
45 United States/international borders.

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2

3 **Resolution in Support of Reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act**

4

5 **Issue:** The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) expired in 2012. For now, the program
6 continues to receive appropriations, but its future is uncertain unless Congress acts to reauthorize it. The
7 bipartisan America’s Conservation Enhancement Act (S. 3051 / H.R. 925) would reauthorize NAWCA
8 through 2024 while increasing the authorized annual funding level to \$60 million. The Land Trust Alliance
9 will continue to advocate for its passage.

10

11 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the reauthorization of the North American
12 Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

13

14 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

15

16 **Resolution Supporting Affordable Beach Renourishment Projects**

17

18 **Issue:** Allowing local governments to purchase sand from countries outside of the U.S. to replenish
19 shorelines due to beach erosion.

20

21 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports enabling the Secretary of the U.S. Army
22 Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or otherwise from non-
23 domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.

24

25 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

26

27 **Resolution on the Inclusion of Waste-to-Energy**

28

29 **Issue:** Local governments have invested billions of dollars in waste-to-energy (WTE) as an environmentally
30 conscientious alternative to landfilling. Unfavorable treatment of WTE by the federal government in
31 upcoming legislation could be detrimental to the financial viability of WTE and hinder the expansion of
32 WTE, and its benefits, in the United States.

33

34 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the full inclusion of WTE in the Production
35 Tax Credit, the Clean Energy Standard, climate programs, and other related policies.

36

37 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

2
3 **Resolution on Support for Tax Incentives for Fire Sprinkler System Installations in High-Rise**
4 **Buildings**

5
6 **Issue:** Fires in high-rise buildings are especially dangerous for building occupants and firefighters alike.
7 Many owners of older high-rise buildings are unable to afford the costs of retrofitting their buildings with
8 a fire sprinkler system. The current tax code forces high-rise building owners to depreciate the cost of
9 these installations over 39 years in commercial properties and 27.5 years in residential ones. This acts as a
10 disincentive as most property owners will sell their building before then and be unable to recoup the
11 project costs.

12
13 **Policy:** NACo urges Congress to pass the High-Rise Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, which will accelerate
14 the depreciation schedule for fire sprinklers in all high-rise buildings to 15 years.

15
16 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

17
18 **Resolution Urging Congressional and Administration Commitment to Timely Enactment of**
19 **Federal Budget Appropriations and No More Shutdowns**

20
21 **Issue:** The purpose of this resolution is to urge Congress and the President to work together to enact all
22 federal budget appropriations bills by Oct. 1 of each new fiscal year, thereby avoiding continuing
23 resolutions and government shutdowns, which create costly delays and uncertainty in providing federal
24 assistance and programs for US counties and their residents.

25
26 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the President to commit to
27 working together to get agreement on all spending legislation by Oct. 1 of each year. This is a
28 fundamental responsibility of both Congress and the President and should be taken more seriously.
29 Counties work hard to get their budgets approved on a timely basis, and Congress should do the same.
30 Our citizens deserve no less.

31
32 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

33
34 **Resolution on Federal Government Nonpayment of Special District Fees**

35
36 **Issue:** The federal government refuses to pay its fair share, arguing it is a tax rather than a fee.

37
38 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal regulatory and legislative efforts
39 to ensure the federal government pays its fair share of special district fees.

40
41 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

42 **Resolution Supporting the Municipal Advisor Rule**

43
44 **Issue:** The Security and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Municipal Advisor rule under the Dodd-Frank
45 Act.

1 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the 2013 rule released by the Securities
2 and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the Registration of Municipal Advisors (MA), as well as the
3 operational guidance released by the SEC. Counties support regulations separating the duties between
4 MAs and financial advisors to prevent manipulation of government finances or use of government
5 financial transactions for personal gain.

6
7 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

8
9 **Resolution to Preserve Municipal Investment Options and Access to Capital for Public**
10 **Infrastructure and Economic Development**

11
12 **Issue:** Recent Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules altering money market funds and
13 reducing access to capital markets used to finance infrastructure development projects.

14
15 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to preserve communities’
16 access to capital and promote economic development by expressly permitting any money market fund
17 with the choice to operate on a stable net asset value (NAV) basis if it adheres to certain requirements and
18 restrictions. Such legislation should not have any impact on the other changes to the regulation of money
19 market funds that were by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2010 and 2014.

20
21 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

22
23 **Resolution Supporting Remediation of Abandoned Buildings on Tribal Lands**

24
25 **Issue:** Across the nation, on tribal lands, many abandoned buildings that were once schools, federal
26 offices and clinics have been abandoned by the federal government. The federal buildings are dilapidated,
27 no longer in use, and need to be removed or restored for other use.

28
29 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide federal funding and
30 necessary resources to remove dilapidated federal buildings or restore federal buildings in tribal
31 communities.

32
33 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

34
35 **Resolution Requesting the Office of Management and Budget to Conduct Additional Analysis on**
36 **its Proposal to Change the Definition of**
37 **Metropolitan Statistical Areas**

38
39 **Issue:** A proposed change in the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) definition of Metropolitan
40 Statistical Areas (MSA) moves the minimum population of core MSA cities from 50,000 to 100,000,
41 fundamentally changing the federal definition of urban and rural. Although OMB originally did not mean
42 for the classification to be used in funding decisions, currently many federal programs do use the
43 designation of MSA/rural to categorize funding eligibility and so the change has the potential to
44 dramatically change how funds are allocated and distributed across both rural and urban areas. Very little
45 study has been undertaken to identify impact.

1 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges OMB to postpone making a final decision on
2 the change to the MSA definition until the agency has completed a thorough investigation and analysis of
3 the potential impacts of that change and how these impacts will affect federal agency funding decisions,
4 counties, and municipalities.

5

6 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **HEALTH**

2
3 **Platform Change to Medicaid and Indigent Care Section**

4
5 NACo supports:

- 6 • The Medicaid expansion available to states under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- 7 • Those provisions in the statute that provide fiscal support for states that choose to expand
- 8 Medicaid eligibility and coverage standards under the ACA.
- 9 • Maintaining the Medicaid program’s integrity as a means-tested entitlement.

10
11 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

12
13 **Resolution on Crisis Response Methods for People with Behavioral Health Conditions or**
14 **Developmental Disabilities**

15
16 **Issue:** Without adequately resourced crisis response systems in place, counties rely heavily on law
17 enforcement staff and institutionalization, especially through jails and prisons, with the result being a cost
18 burden to public systems and poor outcomes for people in crisis.

19
20 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal policy that would assist counties
21 through expanded funding and technical assistance in addressing behavioral health crises by
22 implementing the following: 1) crisis first responders with specialized skills and training, including social
23 workers and mental health professionals, who can alert law enforcement as needed (e.g., the CAHOOTS
24 model); 2) Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement; 3) 24-hour walk-in crisis centers,
25 accessible to all whether brought by a peer, family member, police officer or on their own, where a person
26 in crisis or pre-crisis can obtain the resources they need to alleviate or avert the crisis; 4) and trained and
27 certified peer supporters and peer mentors to respond at the scene of crisis, in crisis centers, and as part of
28 follow-up.

29
30 In addition to support for the community-level interventions above, we urge the federal government to
31 support the development and continuation of virtual platforms for crisis response teams.

32
33 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

34
35 **Resolution on Addressing Toxic Exposure for Veterans**

36
37 **Issue:** Approximately 3.5 million veterans have been exposed to burn pits that spewed toxic fumes and
38 carcinogens into the air, but most struggle to prove the direct service connection necessary to be eligible
39 for VA benefits to cover the associated diseases. The result is a delay in critical medical care and other
40 supports for former servicemembers, an increase in the workload of resource-strapped County Veteran
41 Service Officers tasked with connecting veterans to federal benefits, and the potential to shift the
42 responsibility of providing healthcare and other services to county systems.

43
44 **Policy:** NACo calls for Congress to pass legislation ensuring veterans who served near burn pits receive
45 VA health coverage and disability benefits for associated medical conditions by eliminating or easing the
46 direct service connection requirement and investing in additional research.

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2
3 **Resolution on Support for Supporting and Improving Rural Ems Needs (SIREN) Act**

4
5 **Issue:** Rural fire and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies currently struggle to fund their EMS
6 operations. As a result, many agencies experience difficulties recruiting personnel, providing EMS
7 licensure classes, and obtaining sufficient medications and medical supplies.

8
9 **Policy:** NACo urges Congress to appropriate \$20 million for the SIREN grant program in FY 2022. The
10 SIREN grants provide funding for rural fire and EMS agencies to recruit personnel, procure emergency
11 medical supplies, and provide EMS training classes.

12
13 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

14
15 **Resolution Supporting Amendment to 42 CFR Privacy Provisions**

16
17 **Issue:** To support the development of protocols and systems among law enforcement, mental health,
18 substance abuse, housing, corrections, and emergency medical service operations to provide coordinated
19 assistance to high utilizers. A high utilizer: (a) manifests obvious signs of substance abuse, mental illness,
20 or has been diagnosed by a qualified mental health professional as having a mental illness; and (b)
21 consumes a significantly disproportionate quantity of public resources, such as emergency, housing,
22 judicial, corrections, and law enforcement services.

23
24 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports amending 42 Code of Federal
25 Regulations (CFR) Part 2 privacy provisions to improve care coordination for patients undergoing
26 treatment for substance use disorder (SUD) by aligning the privacy requirements for SUD patient records
27 as governed by 42 CFR Part 2 with those in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
28 1996 (HIPAA) for medical care. This would explicitly allow information sharing between substance use
29 disorder treatment providers, behavioral health providers and medical care providers for the purposes of
30 health care treatment, payment, and operations (TPO).

31
32 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

33
34 **Resolution to Amend the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Federal Tort Claims Act**
35 **Health Center Policy Manual**

36 **Issue:** Federally Qualified Health Centers were provided malpractice-like insurance via the Federally
37 Qualified Health Clinic Assistance Act. The guidance for submitting claims is provided through a manual
38 that is updated via a regulatory process last updated in 2014. The manual clearly states, “the covered
39 entity and covered individuals will not be financially liable for any claims arising from their covered
40 activities,” yet HRSA does have a history of denying claims brought by victims (or their estates) of
41 crimes perpetrated by court-ordered patients.

42 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports regulatory action to amend the Tort Claim
43 Act Health Center Policy Manual to clarify that an individual court-ordered into treatment at an FQHC is
44 a patient of the entity and that claims arising from the actions of such patients are covered activities.

45
46 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1
2 **Resolution Supporting a Joint State, Local, Tribal, Territorial, and Federal Covid-19 Pandemic**
3 **After-Action Report**
4

5 **Issue:** The emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic demands a comprehensive analysis of our
6 public health system and response to the crisis to recommend policy action.
7

8 **Policy:** NACo urges Congress and the President to charter a commission to prepare a complete account of
9 the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to:

- 10
- 11 1. The condition of state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal public health agencies prior to the
12 emergency.
 - 13 2. A comprehensive and coordinated analysis on preparedness and response to the emergency by
14 each level of the system.
 - 15 3. Recommendations to legislative and executive policymakers and staff to improve response to
16 future crises and effectiveness of the system overall.
17

18 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
19

20 **Resolution on Declaring Gun Violence as a National Public Health Crisis**
21

22 **Issue:** Public Health Awareness raises awareness of the relationship between the health of individuals and
23 the health of their communities. There has been a rise in gun violence throughout major metropolitan
24 areas in the United States.
25

26 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Government to work with local
27 community and government agencies in identifying specific activities to: (1) decrease gun violence
28 among the youth (2) increase funding to the programs specific to reducing gun-violence; (3) Work with
29 local law enforcement agencies to create strategies to reduce the amount of illegal firearms in the United
30 States (4) work with marginalized populations to provide education on gun violence, issues and
31 solutions(5) Advocate for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and (6) support
32 local, State, and Federal programs that advance anti-gun violence initiatives.
33

34 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
35

36 **Resolution on Declaring Racism as a National Public Health Crisis**
37

38 **Issue:** Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the social and economic challenges
39 facing counties across the country, and this disproportionality is rooted in individual, systemic, and
40 institutional racism.
41

42 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Government to: (1) Assert that
43 racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire country (2) leverage a racial equity lens in evaluating
44 federal policy; (3) Develop relevant policies aimed at improving health and economic opportunity in
45 communities of color, and (4) support local, state, and Federal initiatives that advance social justice.
46

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2
3 **Resolution to Increase Resources for Suicide Prevention**

4
5 **Issue:** Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of
6 death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34.

7
8 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the strengthening of services through
9 additional funding and resources for those suffering from Serious Mental Illness (SMI) who may be
10 contemplating suicide.

11
12 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

13
14 **Resolution to Lift and Reform the Medicaid IMD Exclusion**

15
16 **Issue:** The federal Medicaid statute prohibits federal Medicaid payments to states for services provided in
17 institutions for mental disease (IMDs), which are defined as hospitals, nursing facilities, or other
18 institutions of more than 16 beds that are primarily focused on treating mental illness, including substance
19 use disorder. The IMD payment exclusion has resulted in unintended consequences, including
20 undermining mental health parity for Medicaid beneficiaries and contributing to critical treatment bed
21 shortages.

22
23 **Policy:** NACo urges Congress to amend the Medicaid statute to allow states that have a plan for
24 providing appropriate outpatient care to receive federal Medicaid payments for services provided in IMDs
25 for people with severe mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorder (SUD).

26
27 Additionally, due to the unprecedented strain placed on public behavioral health systems during the
28 pandemic, NACo urges Congress to temporarily allow states to receive federal Medicaid payment for
29 services provided in IMDs during the COVID-19 public health emergency and for 180 days after the
30 emergency ends.

31
32 Until permanent IMD reform legislation can be enacted and implemented, NACo urges the U.S.
33 Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to work
34 with states and counties to waive the IMD exclusion (including waiving state-wideness) for states and
35 counties that have a plan for providing appropriate outpatient care.

36
37 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

38
39 **Resolution to Amend the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy in the**
40 **Federal Social Security Act**

41
42 **Issue:** The Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy forces local taxpayer dollars to be used for providing health
43 services to pre-trial detainees who are eligible for Medicaid through their Constitutional rights.

44
45 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend the Medicaid Inmate
46 Exclusion Policy in the Social Security Act, allowing pre-trial detainees to access Medicaid services while
47 awaiting trial.

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Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution Encouraging Congress to Fund Creative Arts Therapies for Treating Veterans

Issue: The U.S. House defense appropriations bill includes language to support increased support for creative arts therapies for treating U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) service members with traumatic brain injuries and psychological health conditions. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appropriations bill also has language to support creative arts therapies for military veterans and includes \$5 million for creative arts therapies in treating veterans through the VA’s Whole Health initiative.

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to fund creative arts therapies for treating service members and veterans with traumatic brain injuries and psychological health conditions within the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) appropriations bill and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appropriation bill. NACo supports the first-time funding of \$5 million for creative arts therapies in treating veterans through the VA’s Whole Health initiative, and further, building upon FY 2020 language and appropriations, supports the expansion of DOD and VA programs to provide clinical services and other care to service members and veterans in all counties, parishes and boroughs.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution Regarding the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program

Issue: County jails are not eligible for designation as health professional shortage areas for the purpose of the National Health Service Corps.

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan repayment program to allow County and municipal jails to be eligible for the program. Current U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) regulations only permit medium and maximum-security state and federal prisons from being designated as correctional health professional shortage areas (HPSAs), excluding county and other local jails. NACo urges Congress to clarify that county and municipal jails may be designated as correctional HPSAs and be eligible work sites for NHSC loan repayment.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution Supporting Improved Compliance through Better Regulation in Nursing Homes

Issue: Better regulation is needed to support improved compliance while ensuring unnecessary regulatory burdens do not take precedence over care, treatment, and outcomes.

Policy: Encourage and strengthen efforts by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve compliance through collaborative efforts with healthcare providers and stakeholders and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, increase effective and efficient conformity with regulations and

1 improve the beneficiary experience by removing regulatory obstacles that diminish the ability to put
2 patients/residents first over paperwork.

3
4 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

5
6 **Resolution Supporting Better Staffing in Nursing Homes**

7
8 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend federal law to allow
9 disapproval for nurse aide training programs to be discretionary rather than mandatory and support the
10 Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act.

11
12 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

13
14 **Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Suspend, Instead of Terminate, Medicaid Coverage**
15 **for Incarcerated Individuals**

16
17 **Issue:** Medicaid benefits may be withdrawn when an individual is incarcerated as opposed to convicted.

18
19 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass legislation that: a) amends
20 federal law to prohibit states from terminating eligibility for individuals who are inmates of public
21 institutions or residents of Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD) based solely on their status as inmates or
22 residents; and b) requires states to establish a process under which an inmate or resident of an IMD
23 facility, who continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements, is placed in a suspended status so
24 that the state does not claim Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for services the individual receives, but
25 the person remains on the state’s rolls as being eligible for Medicaid; and c) once release or discharge
26 from the facility is anticipated, require states to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that an
27 eligible individual is placed in payment status so that he or she can begin receiving Medicaid covered
28 services immediately upon leaving the facility.

29
30 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

31
32 **Resolution Supporting Mental Health Funding and Programs**

33
34 **Issue:** Robust funding for mental health programs is needed now more than ever as the COVID-19
35 pandemic has had a negative impact on many Americans’ mental health and well-being since its onset.

36
37 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Administration to
38 prioritize mental health care “that enhances counties’ ability to provide local systems of care” by: (1)
39 increasing federal funding for mental health programs under the Department of Health and Service’s
40 (HHS’s) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Department of Veterans
41 Affairs (VA) and (2) supporting a set-aside mental health fund for state, county, and other local
42 governments in addition to regularly appropriated funding for the aforementioned mental health programs
43 to specifically address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and substance abuse
44 within their jurisdictions.

45
46 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

2
3 **Resolution Supporting Full Funding of Title I and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

4
5 **Issue:** For over 50 years, the federal government has significantly underfunded both Title I of the
6 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, denying
7 adequate resources to our most at-risk youth.

8
9 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative efforts to require Congress to
10 fiscally meet its obligation to fully fund Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and
11 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) over the next ten years.

12
13 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

14
15 **Resolution Supporting Legislation on Early Childhood Development**

16
17 **Issue:** Children ages birth to 3 need a healthy start consisting of comprehensive, nurturing and supportive
18 services to help them reach their full potential for success in life.

19
20 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation that would protect and
21 increase investments in early childhood development to ensure that needed educational, nutritional and
22 social services are available to children in the critical years of development between birth and age three.

23
24 These investments include greater coordination among pre-school programs in schools and county-run
25 programs such as home visiting programs, child wellness, Head Start, Early Head Start and quality
26 childcare, including the support of the early childhood workforce. Collaboration with highly trained and
27 motivated partners who build exceptional early childhood ecosystems are pivotal in providing a
28 generation of young people who enter school ready to learn. By investing in and demonstrating leadership
29 in these early childhood development programs, we can begin to bring about successful educational
30 outcomes to fight poverty and reduce inequality across our nation.

31
32 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

33
34 **Resolution to Update the Thrifty Food Plan Used to Calculate Benefits for the Supplemental**
35 **Nutrition Assistance Program**

36
37 **Issue:** Serving as the foundation for calculating Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
38 benefits, the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) is used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to portray
39 what a “minimal cost,” nutritionally adequate food plan entails for different households, reflecting age
40 and gender. It is based on assumptions about dietary needs, actual consumption patterns, and food prices.
41 While benefits are tied to inflation adjustments, the underlying TFP has not been revised since 2006.

42 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a thorough review and updates to the U.S.
43 Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) to account for the cost of food more
44 accurately, dietary needs, purchasing patterns and regional differences in food costs, housing and medical
45 care, which affect the purchasing power of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2
3 **Resolution to Fully Fund and Update the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**
4 **Program**

5
6 **Issue:** The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program expires on September 30, 2021.

7 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a reauthorization of the Temporary
8 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to provide greater state and county flexibility to create
9 and provide services that support families and help move them off welfare, including allowing more
10 flexibility in TANF program design, such as allowing higher education to count as work; realistic time
11 limits on education and allowing states to use TANF funds to support post-secondary education expenses.

12
13 NACo urges Congress to retain and enhance state flexibility to use TANF funds for subsidized
14 employment. Given the demonstrated success of TANF subsidized employment programs, NACo urges
15 Congress to increase funding for those programs but not at the expense of existing funding for the TANF
16 block grant or contingency fund. Given that Congress has not increased the \$16.5 billion TANF
17 appropriation since its enactment in 1996, NACo urges Congress to ensure that a reauthorization includes
18 a provision increasing TANF funds annually commensurate with inflation.

19
20 NACo supports continuing the ability of states to transfer up to ten percent of their TANF block grant to
21 the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) in order to address locally identified needs. NACo further
22 supports continued ability of states to use TANF for childcare expenses. Additionally, NACo urges
23 transparency regarding the use of TANF and state “maintenance of effort” (MOE) funds.

24
25 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

26
27 **Resolution to Guarantee Access to Federal Child Nutrition Programs**

28
29 **Issue:** Current federal child nutrition programs do not adequately meet the needs of children experiencing
30 food insecurity, which negatively impacts their learning, physical health and overall wellbeing.

31
32 **Policy:** To remove administrative and resource barriers that block children in accessing the nutrition they
33 need to thrive, NACo urges Congress to pass legislation that would guarantee all children have access to
34 breakfast, lunch and snacks at school, in childcare and during the summer months at no cost. Congress
35 must ensure that Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and participating childcare providers receive
36 adequate funding and reimbursement to implement this program and meet rigorous nutrition standards.
37 We encourage Congress to additionally promote partnerships with local agricultural producers to
38 incorporate healthy ingredients into school meals.

39
40 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

41
42 **Resolution to Enact the American Dream and Promise Act or Similar Legislation**

43
44 **Issue:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) should support the American Dream and Promise
45 Act or similar legislation.

46

1 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls upon Congress and the president to enact the
2 American Dream and Promise Act or similar legislation that, without imposing costs on counties, would
3 allow certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country as children and/or for humanitarian
4 reasons to attain legal status if they pass background checks, demonstrate good moral character and meet
5 education requirements.

6
7 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

8
9 **Resolution Encouraging Congress to Provide the Resources Necessary for Developing and**
10 **Expanding Arts and Cultural Programming in Counties**

11
12 **Issue:** The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is the only arts funder in America, public or private,
13 that supports the arts in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Most counties across the
14 country benefit from an NEA grant. The Challenge America funding category specifically offers support
15 for projects that extend the reach of the arts to populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are
16 limited by geography, economics, or disability. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY 2021
17 provided a \$5.25 million increase to the National Endowment for the Arts for national grant making as
18 well as waiver language that allows FY 2019 and FY 2020 grants to be used for general operating
19 support, as requested by arts advocates.

20
21 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to continue to
22 provide the resources necessary for developing and expanding arts and cultural programming in counties,
23 parishes and boroughs throughout the U.S. NACo supports funding in Fiscal Year 2022 at \$167.5 million
24 or above for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to ensure that counties can continue to access
25 these important federal funds. Counties also propose maintained or increased funding for the National
26 Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Corporation
27 for Public Broadcasting and Arts Education grant program within the U.S. Department of Education.

28
29 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

30
31 **Resolution to Minimize the Negative Impacts of Immigration Enforcement on Families and**
32 **Children**

33
34 **Issue:** The need to carry out enforcement of immigration law in a humane manner that does not increase
35 reliance on local social safety-net services or increase administrative costs for counties.

36
37 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to carry out its
38 enforcement of immigration law in a humane manner that minimizes negative impacts on families and
39 children, including possible separations, and does not increase reliance on local social safety-net services
40 or create new demands and administrative costs for counties without adequate resources and funding from
41 the federal government.

42
43 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

44
45 **Resolution to Maintain Current Levels of Legal Migration**

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

3
4 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislative or regulatory proposals that at
5 least maintain current statutory legal immigration levels and opposes any efforts that would significantly
6 reduce legal immigration to the United States.

7
8 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

9
10 **Resolution Supporting Two-Generation Efforts to Reduce Poverty**

11
12 **Issue:** Poverty is a national problem and requires a national solution. In order to combat the harmful
13 impacts of intergenerational poverty, federal, state and local partners should promote new methods of
14 addressing these issues.

15
16 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages the federal government to pursue
17 policies that support and enable state and local jurisdictions to coordinate a two-generation approach to
18 combat poverty. Federal efforts to reform public assistance must recognize that poverty is influenced by
19 national economic factors that are not within the control of local or state governments, and that local and
20 state governments are best positioned to help their citizens when federal programs are flexible and support
21 all generations within a family.

22
23 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

24
25 **Resolution to Support the Development of Pilot Programs for Innovative Delivery of Federal Social**
26 **Services Programs that are Offered through Local Governments**

27
28 **Issue:** Local governments are responsible for delivering several federal health and human services
29 programs. These crucial social services programs help low-income families buy food, afford utility
30 payments, and provide job training opportunities. Local governments have separate offices spread across
31 cities and counties to deliver specific federal programs. This decentralized system is oftentimes inefficient
32 and overly complicated, leading to lower program enrollment and less support for vulnerable populations.

33
34 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the administration to support
35 legislative and regulatory efforts that would provide additional resources to create, support the
36 development of, and fund pilot/demonstration programs for innovative delivery of federal social services
37 and workforce training programs that are offered through local governments. Further, NACo urges that
38 this funding would go directly to local governments, which are responsible for operating programs that
39 increase the efficiency of delivery of federal social services programs through the use and adaption of
40 technology and centralized community resource centers, which allow for citizens to apply for several
41 federal social services in a single location, reducing the burden on the constituents and ensuring cost-
42 effective allocation of federal resources.

43
44 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

45

1 **Resolution to Address Sexual Abuse in Families**

2
3 **Issue:** A need for additional resources and education to prevent sexual abuse in families.

4
5 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human
6 Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Children's Bureau to support
7 programs, research and monitoring systems that prevent child abuse and neglect in families while
8 ensuring that children who are victims receive treatment and care.

9
10 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

11
12 **Resolution Urging Congress and the Administration to Maintain County Child Welfare Flexibility**
13 **and Funding**

14
15 **Issue:** In February 2018, President Trump signed into law the Family First Prevention Services Act
16 (FFPSA). The law provides new federal entitlement funding for foster care prevention services meeting
17 federally-approved best practice benchmarks and creates new federal congregate care requirements that
18 may reduce federal IV-E reimbursement and shift costs to states and counties.

19
20 The COVID-19 pandemic made protecting children and families even more challenging. The shift of
21 resources and attention to the public health emergency slowed FFPSA implementation planning in many
22 states and counties. Months before the public health emergency was declared, Congress appropriated
23 \$500 million in December 2019 through the Family First Transition Act to assist states in planning for
24 FFPSA implementation, but allocating those funds was delayed. The Transition Act also extended federal
25 IV-E waivers through September 30, 2021.

26
27 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human
28 Services (HHS) to provide administrative flexibility in the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
29 to minimize the anticipated cost-shifts to states and counties that will occur by denying FFPSA Title IV-E
30 eligibility to children who would remain eligible for state or county-funded foster care and adoption
31 assistance.

32
33 NACo further urges that Congress amend and/or HHS mitigate the law's proscriptive provisions intended
34 to reduce the use of congregate care so that states and counties already proceeding with similar efforts
35 may continue to do so. Due to the impact of COVID-19, NACo urges Congress to extend the FFPSA
36 implementation deadline at least one additional year to enable state and county child welfare agencies
37 who have focused on delivering services during COVID and were delayed in planning FFPSA
38 implementation. Additionally, Congress should extend federal IV-E waiver authority through September
39 30, 2024, unless comprehensive child welfare finance reform that reflects NACo's priorities is passed and
40 implemented before waivers expire.

41 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **Resolution to Support Working Families by Permanently Increasing the Earned Income and Child**
2 **Tax Credits**

3
4 **Issue:** The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are important tax policies
5 supporting working families and their children. Tied to income, the EITC and CTC help increase
6 employment and earnings. Consequently, the tax credits assist in increasing the economic independence
7 of low- to middle-income working families.
8

9 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation to make permanent the
10 American Rescue Plan Act’s (ARPA; P.L 117-2) increase and expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit
11 (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). Those provisions included, but are not limited to, increasing the
12 EITC and lowering the age of eligibility for single individuals who are not raising their dependent child,
13 thus increasing the noncustodial parent’s incentive to work and income for their child; and reforming the
14 CTC to include, among other provisions, increasing the credit, providing monthly payments, and making
15 it fully refundable so all families may benefit from it.
16

17 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

18
19 **Resolution to Support Increased Federal Funding for Civics Education**

20
21 **Issue:** State and federal resources for civic education have declined over time, negatively impacting civic
22 knowledge and literacy as well as civic engagement. More robust civics education can help the next
23 generation of Americans become more engaged and better versed in local government, supporting
24 communities where residents thrive.
25

26 **Policy:** NACo urges Congress to pass legislation increasing funding for federal civics education grant
27 programs, including but not limited to those that serve state education agencies, institutions of higher
28 education, non-profit organizations, research and education workforce development.
29

30 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

2
3 **Resolution Supporting Increases to the Emergency Management Performance Grant**

4
5 **Issue:** The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is the sole all-hazards grant currently
6 extant and the most demonstrably successful Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant program for
7 local governments. NACo has long supported the EMPG program and advocated for some increase to this
8 critical grant. In 2019, Congress increased EMPG funding for the first time in nearly a decade, for which
9 NACo is appreciative. During the COVID Pandemic, Congress appropriated additional EMPG funding –
10 first with a COVID tie-in requirement and later a second addition for all hazards. The 2021 EMPG
11 amount totaled \$455 million.

12
13 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) joins with our partners at the National Emergency
14 Managers Association (NEMA) and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) in
15 urging Congress to maintain the 2020 increase to the EMPG tied to all hazards and provide no less than
16 \$455 million for the EMPG program. NACo further requests that Congress provides for an inflationary
17 increase in the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) going forward.

18
19 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

20
21 **Resolution Supporting the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program**

22
23 **Issue:** The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is the sole all-hazards grant currently
24 extant and the most demonstrably successful DHS grant program. However, in light of state funding
25 shortfalls, many state Emergency Management Agencies have reduced the amounts of EMPG funding
26 passed through to local government in many places, often with little or no input from or notice to
27 counties. On several occasions, the President and/or Congress has proposed reductions to or elimination
28 of the EMPG as a whole or incorporation of EMPG into other programs.

29
30 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) requests that Congress guarantee that the
31 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program continue and that it remain a separate
32 program, separately funded from all other grants that specifically address terrorism or other specific issues
33 (remaining, then, a truly all-hazards program), at or above current funding levels. NACo requests that
34 Congress require that a minimum of 70 percent of EMPG funds be passed through to local government
35 while continuing the 50-50 local match requirement.

36
37 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

38
39 **Resolution Urging Congress and FEMA to Ensure County Involvement in the Implementation of**
40 **Changes to Public Assistance and FEMA Strategic Policy**

41
42 **Issue:** FEMA policy and strategy include a concept for coping with the rising cost of major disasters and
43 emergencies and the limited capacity of the agency to adequately manage all emergencies. The FEMA
44 strategy does not, however, detail any partnership between FEMA and local government in the policy,
45 prevention, planning, response, and mitigation and recovery realms.

1 Changes in the Public Assistance (PA) program and the Presidential Declaration of Disaster process are
2 required under the DRRRA. However, FEMA’s proposals will adversely affect the ability of most US
3 Counties to receive PA in most cases. These adverse effects will impact all local jurisdictions but will
4 have a disproportionate impact on those counties in the American interior least able to cope with the
5 aftermath of disaster – and a disparate impact on poorer communities and communities of color.
6

7 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes drastic, sudden, or dramatic changes to
8 the disaster Public Assistance qualification rules until the COVID-19 crisis and recovery are completed.
9 NACo urges the President to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to involve
10 local and state Emergency Management subject matter experts in the development of future necessary
11 changes to the Public Assistance eligibility calculations. This involvement must be during the formation
12 of the proposed policy rule change if the change requires local and state government to significantly
13 change their operating methods or fiscal responsibilities in disasters.
14

15 NACo urges Congress and the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA actively consults
16 with and involves counties in the initial and ongoing development, analysis and implementation of FEMA
17 strategy and national emergency management policy and procedures to ensure that “state management” of
18 emergencies and disasters is carried out with transparency and due attention to the needs of local
19 government and that Public Assistance for disasters remain available in an equitable fashion. NACo also
20 urges that Congress ensure that due attention is given to the development of adequate local capacity to
21 execute appropriate emergency management activities in the counties.
22

23 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

24
25 **Resolution to Support National Standards for Emergency Management Programs and the**
26 **Emergency Management Accreditation Program**
27

28 **Issue:** Since 2001, Congress has sought metrics for understanding the capabilities and capacities of local
29 government to respond to and be resilient in the face of terrorism and other emergencies and disasters.
30 NACo recognizes that the capacities and resources of county programs for emergency management will
31 always vary. However, NACo has long invested time and effort into the development and maintenance of
32 national standards for county emergency management programs through involvement with the Emergency
33 Management Accreditation Program Commission and the Emergency Management Standard.
34

35 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the use of the Emergency Management
36 Accreditation Program (EMAP) Emergency Management Standard administered through the Emergency
37 Management Accreditation Program as the national standard for assessment of the capability of county
38 emergency management programs. Additionally, NACo supports the current processes and procedures the
39 EMAP Commission uses to update and evaluate the Standard. The Standard should be free from
40 requirements not supported in the ANSI standard setting guidelines or the EMAP Commission
41 management process.
42

43 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

44
45 **Resolution on Fair Restructuring of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grants**
46

1 **Issue:** Consolidation or elimination of existing Homeland Security and Emergency Management grants,
2 particularly if these grants are changed such that administration of the grants is controlled solely by the
3 states, will decrease local resilience and negatively impact national preparedness for disasters and
4 emergencies of all types.

5
6 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) continues to oppose efforts to consolidate existing
7 Homeland Security and Emergency Management grant programs without significant involvement of
8 county Emergency Managers in the development of grant policies before such policies are released.
9 NACo continues to oppose attempts to cede decisions on these grants solely to the states. NACo requests
10 that Congress mandate that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency
11 Management Agency (FEMA) actively include county Emergency Managers in creating alternatives that
12 will better address the needs of all levels of government and that does not discard the advances gained
13 through past grants. NACo asks that Congress preserve, maintain, and enhance the Emergency
14 Management Performance Grant as a program separate from other homeland security grant programs and
15 fully fund “all-hazards” and mitigation programs separate from grants directed at terrorism-related issues.

16
17 NACo asks that Congress works with DHS and FEMA to ensure that Homeland Security and Emergency
18 Management grant programs address realistic risks from all hazards, including, but not limited to,
19 terrorism. State Administrative Agencies must make grant-related prioritization decisions in transparent
20 consultation and with the consent of local governments, and Congress should continue to require that
21 funds be passed to local governments in each state based on their realistic risk.

22
23 NACo asks Congress to require DHS to maintain the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) specific
24 funding to at least 35 urban areas at greatest risk of disastrous event from all hazards including, but not
25 limited to, acts of terrorism. In light of the significant populations, density, infrastructure and economic
26 drivers of these areas and the fact that the populations of large urban counties and cities are often least
27 able to financially address these risks without federal assistance. The UASI program should remain jointly
28 administered by the State Administrative Agency and the existing UASI organizational units and continue
29 to require that no less than 80 percent of these funds be passed through to the Urban Areas. NACo will
30 work with Congress and the other stakeholders to prepare updated legislative language to accomplish
31 these goals.

32
33 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

34 35 **Resolution on Nationwide Approach to FEMA Implementation of NMFS Biological Opinion**

36
37 **Issue:** The impacts of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the National Flood Insurance Program
38 (NFIP) have the potential to be profound for counties nationwide.

39
40 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Federal Emergency Management Agency
41 (FEMA) to ensure that any approach to Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance undertaken by FEMA
42 for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is narrowly tailored to FEMA’s authority and receives
43 extensive input from impacted local and state governments, including consideration of local land use laws
44 and ordinances that are already in place to promote and protect water quality, flood storage and riparian
45 habitat.

46

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2

3 **Resolution Encouraging Congress to Fund the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Incentive**
4 **Grants at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

5

6 **Issue:** Both the U.S. House and Senate bills include language calling on the Department of Justice,
7 Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) to include arts-based juvenile justice
8 programs among its strategies.

9

10 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide \$61.5 million funding
11 to the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) for the
12 purposes of including arts-based juvenile justice programs among its strategies and expanding existing
13 programming for justice-involved youth in all counties, parishes and boroughs.

14

15 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

16

17 **Resolution on Reforming Pretrial Monetary Bail**

18

19 **Issue:** Seeking alternatives to existing bail structure that lessen the financial burden of pretrial detainees.

20

21 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Administration to put forth
22 legislative and regulatory proposals that would provide alternatives to the existing monetary bail structure
23 to reduce mass incarceration and lessen the disproportionate impact this current system has on individuals
24 who await trial but cannot afford to pay bail. NACo encourages the federal government’s support to
25 counties through funding and technical assistance for data collection and exports the viability of monetary
26 bail alternatives such as a pretrial safety assessment (PSA) release option.

27

28 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

29

30 **Resolution in Support for Deflection Initiatives**

31

32 **Issue:** Communities across the country are facing a behavioral health crisis related to substance abuse and
33 mental health. To provide the resources needed to combat the devastating impacts of the crisis, law
34 enforcement agencies are implementing deflection programs. These innovative programs are intended to
35 divert non-violent individuals experiencing addiction, substance use and mental health disorders from
36 jails into community treatment programs while protecting public safety and connecting individuals
37 directly to needed services.

38

39 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to increase financial support for
40 measures that maximize the ability of counties to develop and support programs that deflect non-violent
41 individuals experiencing behavioral health crises into treatment driven by a complete, integrated and
42 accessible continuum of care. NACo encourages federal legislative action to expedite the creation of
43 collaborative deflection initiatives that offer immediate pathways for non-violent individuals to treatment
44 and other services as an alternative to traditional involvement in the criminal justice system.

45

46 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1
2 **Resolution Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Community Violence**
3

4 **Issue:** Examining the adverse impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on community violence.
5

6 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to direct the Centers for Disease
7 Control and Prevention (CDC), in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
8 (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), to provide a comprehensive joint study to
9 Congressional Committees of jurisdiction on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on community
10 violence including the collection and analysis of gun sales as well as intimate partner and domestic
11 violence data. NACo also reaffirms its call to Congress for continued funding to collect community
12 violence data to better understand the causes of community violence and development of prevention
13 strategies to limit community violence.
14

15 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
16

17 **Resolution on Federal Assistance Eligibility Based on Cross-Jurisdictional Boundaries**
18

19 **Issue:** Considerations need to be provided when determining if a County receives Federal Disaster
20 Assistance in instances in which the disaster occurs across state lines, impacting multiple counties during
21 a localized event.
22

23 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) recognizes that localized disasters can impact
24 neighboring counties divided by a State line. NACo also recognizes that no inter-state language is
25 included in the Stafford Act or Federal regulation providing consideration in granting federal resources or
26 support to counties fairly during a localized disaster event in which one County receives assistance, and
27 the other equally impacted does not.
28

29 NACo recommends a federal study be completed on potential disparities in resources and support when
30 one state is provided federal assistance and a neighboring county that is responding to the same
31 emergency does not. Based on the result of the study, language shall be included where appropriate,
32 accommodating this consideration and ensuring equal support. One potential focus point is in relation to
33 per capita impact indicator and project thresholds for FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) and Public
34 Assistance (PA) for those neighboring counties divided by a state line.
35

36 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
37

38 **Resolution Directing the U.S. Department of Justice to Provide Increased Funding to Local Law**
39 **Enforcement for the Procurement of Body Cameras**
40

41 **Issue:** In light of recent and historical events, increased transparency into the operations of police officers
42 and departments has become necessary for the safety of both the alleged offender and officer. Especially
43 in heavily policed communities, body cameras can increase the accountability of police officers, as well
44 as protect officers from false allegations. While the majority of law enforcement agree that body cameras
45 are a helpful tool that can be used to promote equity, procuring this equipment can be a challenge due to
46 local funding constraints.

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Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports increased funding through the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to local law enforcement for the procurements of body cameras.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution to Maintain Local Control and Public Safety Priorities Under Federal Immigration Laws

Issue: Maintain local control and flexibility under federal immigration laws.

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the autonomy of counties in decisions related to the allocation of local law enforcement resources and setting of public safety priorities under federal immigration laws, as well as reimbursements to counties for any costs incurred while complying with federal immigration policies.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution on National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization and Program Improvements

Issue: Including county priorities in the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges congressional committees of jurisdiction to include local and state stakeholders in the process of drafting legislation for the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. We urge Congress to inform reauthorization legislation in the context of the upcoming Risk Rating 2.0 and enact legislation that:

- Provides long-term reauthorization with a focus on affordability, efficiency, fairness, accountability and sustainability of the program.
- Invests in mitigation, reforms the administration and claims processes, and bolsters NFIP solvency.
- Modernizes flood mapping and flood risk accuracy.
- Increases accountability and consumer protections in the NFIP and private markets.

We also strongly urge the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to engage local stakeholders and county governments as they release Risk Rating 2.0.

Specifically:

- **Affordability** – Limit rate increases to no more than five percent per year on any policy, inclusive of any surcharges and fees, especially given potential rate increases due to FEMA’s Risk Rating 2.0 initiative. Preserve grandfathering. Place a hard cap on annual premiums of one percent of the total coverage of the property. Rates should be maintained as affordable for all policyholders. Allow for monthly payment of premiums.

- 1 • **Mitigation** – Increase federal investment in property and community mitigation, not only through
2 loans, however; provide mitigation credits to residential property owners for proven floodproofing
3 methods beyond elevation; oppose unfunded mandates on local governments for mitigation
4 efforts; modernize Increased Cost of Compliance to encourage mitigation.
- 5 • **Mapping** – Improve transparency, use the most effective technology, and include input from local
6 governments; develop a method to pay for elevation certificates.
- 7 • **Solvency** – Further address repetitive loss properties; limit NFIP payments to Write Your Own
8 (WYO) companies; increase the pool of policyholders through enforcement and expansion of the
9 preferred risk policy; forgive the NFIP debt and reallocate interest payments to mitigation and
10 solvency.
- 11 • **Consumer Protection** – Create a policy review process; regionalize Flood Insurance Advocates;
12 amend force-placing provisions to keep policyholders in NFIP instead of a surplus line.
- 13 • **Privatization** – Require private insurers to cover the entire spectrum of risk (i.e., no cherry-
14 picking of preferable policies); allow consumers that leave NFIP for the private market to re-enter
15 NFIP; ensure private insurance market development does not undermine community flood
16 mitigation through the Community Rating System.

17
18 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **PUBLIC LANDS**

2
3 **Resolution on Amending the Recreation and Public Purposes Act**

4
5 **Issue:** Support congressional action to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to require the
6 Department of the Interior to establish a Pilot Program that authorizes commercial recreation concessions
7 on land patented or leased under the act.

8
9 **Policy:** Support legislation which would allow counties which have federal lands within their park system
10 the opportunity to offer concessions operated by third-party vendors. This would increase public
11 recreational opportunities and enjoyment of these lands operated by counties.

12
13 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

14
15 **Resolution on the Removal of Salt Cedar**

16
17 **Issue:** Support congressional action to address the permitting process and funding for the removal of
18 invasive species from many of the rivers throughout the southwest.

19
20 **Policy:** Support federal legislation and/or regulatory policies that would allow county governments to
21 comprehensively remove the salt cedar from rivers within their jurisdictions.

22
23 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

24
25 **Resolution Supporting Robust Remediation of Abandoned Uranium Mines as a Critical Priority**
26 **for the United States**

27
28 **Issue:** Throughout numerous counties across the nation, including the Navajo Nation and northern
29 Arizona, abandoned uranium mines continue to jeopardize public safety and the environment. Uranium
30 mining has resulted in elevated uranium and radon radiation levels at over 400 locations on the Navajo
31 Nation.

32
33 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact legislation for the
34 aggressive treatment of abandoned uranium mines across the United States to protect public health and
35 the environment.

36
37 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

38
39 **Resolution Supporting the Use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster**
40 **Mitigation Grant Funding to Engage in Forest Thinning and Restoration Activities on Public and**
41 **Private Lands**

42
43 **Issue:** The need for adequate, robust, and timely forest restoration to mitigate the threat of future
44 catastrophic crown fires and reduce the risk associated with post-wildfire flooding and debris flow events
45 is critical to reducing the threat to public safety that many western forested counties confront.

1 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on Congress to pass legislation increasing
2 appropriations for and allowing the use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pre-disaster
3 mitigation grant funding for forest thinning and restoration activities, including using FEMA flood
4 mitigation assistance for forest restoration to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire, post-wildfire flooding,
5 and debris flows.

6
7 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

8
9 **Resolution Supporting Federal Funding to Promote and Expedite Building Private Forest Industry**
10 **in Regions with Low to No-Value Trees**

11
12 **Issue:** The wood products industry is a valued partner in restoring our forests and reducing the threat of
13 catastrophic wildfire. Without a viable wood products industry that can consume the forest products that
14 are removed from the forest through various restoration activities, communities will continue to face an
15 elevated threat of catastrophic wildfire.

16
17 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal funding, financial incentives, and
18 the removal of administrative roadblocks to attract, promote and expedite the private wood products
19 industry in regions with low to no-value trees to allow consumption of forest products, including biomass
20 as a pathway to forest restoration and reduction of the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

21
22 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

23
24 **Resolution Supporting Additional Law Enforcement on Public Lands**

25
26 **Issue:** Public lands are being used now more than ever. Due to the shortage of federal law enforcement on
27 public lands, including the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Forest Service, the
28 onus to respond to law enforcement issues and emergencies falls on counties, which are unable to keep up
29 with the calls for services on public lands.

30
31 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide necessary funding and
32 resources to federal agencies and county governments to hire/rehire law enforcement, so they routinely
33 patrol and respond to law enforcement issues and health and safety concerns on federal land. Further,
34 since the County Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer in the county, it is important to have a
35 cooperative and collaborative working relationship and develop a written cooperative agreement.

36
37 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

38
39 **Resolution Supporting a Coordinated Effort Between Federal, State and County Officials to**
40 **Eradicate the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an Invasive Species Plaguing the Mid-**
41 **Atlantic States**

42
43 **Issue:** The spotted lanternfly was accidentally introduced to Berks County, Pennsylvania in September
44 2014 through an international shipment from Asia. Since then, the invasive species has caused
45 significant agricultural, environmental and economic damage, especially harming the grape industry and
46 other businesses in the Mid-Atlantic United States. Because the spotted lanternfly is attracted to and

1 takes nourishment from the “Tree of Heaven” (*Ailanthus*) in order to procreate – an invasive plant
2 found in nearly 90 percent of the United States—most of the nation is threatened by this invasive insect.

3
4 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports a coordinated effort between the federal,
5 state and local governments to eradicate the spotted lanternfly, an invasive species that targets important
6 agricultural and forest commodities as well as quality of life issues. NACo also calls on the federal
7 government to provide significant financial resources to assist the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and
8 county governments in combating the spread of this invasive species.

9
10 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

11
12 **Resolution on Opposing any Bill in the 117th Congress That Tries Again to Designate “Red Rock
13 Wilderness” in the State of Utah**

14
15 **Issue:** On May 10, 2021, S. 1535, the *America's Red Rock Wilderness Act*, was introduced again in the
16 117th Congress. This legislation would lock up approximately 8.4 million acres of federal land within
17 Utah as wilderness. Past versions of S. 1535 failed to pass Congress numerous times due to opposition
18 from Utah’s congressional delegation, governor and county officials.

19
20 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on Congress to oppose S. 1535 because
21 wilderness legislation should be driven by elected local leaders and residents.

22
23 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

24
25 **Resolution on Supporting the Legal Validity of the Presidential Proclamation of 2017 that
26 Downsized the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Applauding the Benefits that Have
27 Resulted from that 2017 Downsizing, and Opposing Any Efforts to Reverse that 2017 Downsizing**

28
29 **Issue:** The validity of the 2017 Presidential Proclamation that downsized the Grand Staircase-Escalante
30 National Monument, the benefits that resulted from that 2017 downsizing, and the poorly guided threats
31 to reverse that 2017 downsizing.

32
33 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the President’s December 4, 2017 valid
34 legal exercise of authority to downsize the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM)
35 from approximately 1.9 million acres to just over one million acres and to order a new management plan
36 for the reduced monument, because (a) the governments of the State and affected counties requested and
37 supported the 2017 downsizing, (b) the 2017 downsizing conformed to the Antiquities Act standard that
38 the land comprising the national monument be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper
39 care and management of the objects of historic or scientific interest to be protected, and (c) the new
40 management plan for the reduced monument has produced substantial land management benefits and
41 benefits for the local communities.

42
43 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **Resolution Prohibiting New Wilderness Designations Without the Approval of the Governing**
2 **Bodies of the Counties of Jurisdiction**

3
4 **Issue:** Oftentimes, wilderness designations are made without the support of the elected officials within
5 the impacted counties.

6
7 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the prohibition of new wilderness
8 designations without the approval of the governing bodies of the counties of jurisdiction.

9
10 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

11
12 **Resolution Supporting Increasing Timber Harvests and Forest Restoration from National Forest**
13 **System Lands to Maximum Sustainable Levels**

14
15 **Issue:** Reduced timber harvests and other management activities have left 80 million acres of
16 National Forest System (NFS) land at risk of wildfire, insect or disease infestation. This negatively
17 affects community security, public health and economic opportunity.

18
19 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on federal land agencies to use all available
20 tools—including stewardship contracting, Good Neighbor Agreements and other collaborative efforts to
21 increase timber harvest levels to the maximum sustainable levels to reduce the threat of wildfire and
22 insect and disease infestation while spurring economic opportunities for public lands counties.

23
24 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

25
26 **Resolution Supporting No Net Increase in Public Land or Water Ownership Without the Approval**
27 **of the Governing Bodies of the Counties of Jurisdiction**

28
29 **Issue:** County governments have limited opportunities to influence proposed federal land and water
30 acquisitions, which decrease tax revenues and can reduce economic opportunities for counties.

31
32 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges federal land management agencies to
33 coordinate with and receive the written approval of the governing bodies of the counties of jurisdiction
34 before a federal land or water acquisition resulting in a net decrease in privately owned acreage within
35 or a net loss in tax revenue to the counties can move forward.

36
37 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

38
39 **Resolution on the Council of Environmental Quality’s National Environmental Policy Act**
40 **Implementing Regulations**

41
42 **Issue:** The Council of Environmental Quality (“CEQ”) published its final rule regarding the
43 National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) implementing regulations on July 16, 2020.

44
45 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the revised NEPA implementing
46 regulations to require federal agencies to regularly provide meaningful opportunities for states and

1 counties to be involved in the NEPA process for planning and projects on federal lands that may affect the
2 economy, society and culture of constituents. NACo encourages the Administration and its agencies to
3 work closely with state and local governments to retain components as possible of the final rule that
4 bolster local government’s ability to effectively participate in the federal decision-making process.

5
6 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

7
8 **Resolution on U.S. Forest Service Workforce Capacity and Infrastructure**

9
10 **Issue:** The U.S. Forest Service lacks the personnel and infrastructure capacity necessary to properly
11 manage, conserve and restore the National Forest System.

12
13 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the findings and conclusions set forth in
14 the National Association of Forest Service Retirees’ report, entitled “Increasing Workforce Capacity to
15 Increase the Pace and Scale of Restoration on National Forest System Lands” and will work with the
16 administration and Congress toward implementing the report’s recommendations and toward policies that
17 add, repair and maintain needed infrastructure with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of
18 Agriculture and other appropriate entities.

19
20 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

21
22 **Resolution on Inclusion of Full Payments In-Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools and**
23 **Community Self-Determination Act Funding in the President’s Annual Budget**

24
25 **Issue:** The annual appropriations cycle leaves funding for Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and
26 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) subject to potential cuts or
27 elimination on an annual basis.

28
29 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on the U.S. Department of the Interior
30 (DOI), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget
31 (OMB) to include proposals for full, permanent funding of Payments In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and full
32 funding of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) until a long-term
33 sustainable funding solution for national forest counties is agreed to.

34
35 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

36
37 **Resolution to Repair and Maintain the Public Land Survey System**

38
39 **Issue:** The Public Land Survey System (PLSS) is in a varying degree of deterioration nationwide due to
40 the lack of resources provided to counties.

41
42 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide additional funding to
43 counties to support the existing Public Land Survey System (PLSS). NACo further urges the federal
44 government to enforce existing guidelines and rules for the PLSS.

45
46 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1
2 **Resolution Urging Congress to Amend and Update the Endangered Species Act of 1973**
3

4 **Issue:** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 has not been significantly modified in 40 years.
5

6 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Congress of the United States to amend
7 the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to reflect its intended purpose "to protect endangered species and the
8 ecosystems on which they depend" and to ensure that the rights of people are also protected.
9

10 The ESA needs to be amended in the following manner:

- 11 1. Favor decisions to list plant or animal species as threatened or endangered (T&E listing
12 decisions) that are made through best available science with increased transparency and timelines
13 for decisions.
- 14 2. In states where the proposed Federal land use plan amendment and the state species
15 management plan are inconsistent, postpone T&E listing decisions for a period of at least six
16 years or until the plans become consistent.
- 17 3. Encourage or direct the Secretary of Interior (Secretary) to share critical data, research
18 and scientific information to assist such states and counties in their conservation efforts,
- 19 4. Direct federal land management agencies to amend their land use plans to comply with state
20 and county-based conservation efforts.
- 21 5. Strengthen the influence of local participation so that local coordination processes
22 and recommended species management policies are not overridden.
- 23 6. Authorize the ESA to recognize and allow consideration of the predation of threatened or
24 endangered species by natural events (such as predator impacts, weather-related events
25 and physical health threats) as well as human activities.
- 26 7. Revise "taking" definition to protect private property rights in conformance with the United
27 States Constitution.
- 28 8. Provide full compensation to individuals for current and long-term takings. Require mandatory
29 costs-benefits analysis for all adverse socio-economic and cultural impacts on the affected
30 human population.
- 31 9. Require that the science used to make any determination be subject to independent and
32 objective third-party review.
- 33 10. Mandate that a listing of endangered species be reviewed every seven years to determine if
34 a listing is still warranted.
- 35 11. Require all parties pay their own attorney's fees involving any legal action associated with
36 the ESA.
- 37 12. Transfer critical habitat designations and recovery planning to the states.
- 38 13. Require Congress to approve a listing within one year, and if such approval is not timely
39 given, the species shall be removed from the list.
- 40 14. Empower and support local management solutions at the state and county level for
41 interstate species.
- 42 15. Prohibit ESA listings of candidate species found residing exclusively within a single state.
43

44 Postpone the listing and/or federal protection of a species that has recently been determined by USFWS to
45 be threatened or endangered and which are located in states or counties that have developed and/or
46 implemented a good faith conservation management plan for said species.

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

2
3 **Resolution Regarding Wildland Fire Regulations and Policies**
4

5 **Issue:** Federal agencies, including the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land
6 Management (BLM), have regulations, policies, and guidelines that allow lightning-caused fires to burn
7 on Federal lands at all times and that permit the use of prescribed fires, regardless of ignition source, on
8 Federal lands at all times. (See, e.g., Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy & Program Review,
9 December 18, 1995 and Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy,
10 February 13, 2009).

11
12 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports greater coordination between federal
13 land management agencies and local governments in implementing wildland fire suppression policies
14 and strategies, with the understanding that a blanket, one-size-fits-all policy is untenable on diverse
15 landscapes. Federal agencies must work with local governments to accomplish their (Federal agencies)
16 land management goals, including wildfire suppression and risk reduction, and ensure such efforts do not
17 jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of local residents.
18

19 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

20
21 **Resolution on the Use of Targeted Grazing for Wildland Fire Management**
22

23 **Issue:** Targeted grazing can offer an alternative method of fuel load management on our
24 nation's public lands to reduce the growing threat of wildland fire.
25

26 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on the federal government to establish a
27 program to target livestock grazing in and adjacent to areas at high risk of wildland fire. Such a program
28 should compensate livestock owners for the cost of establishing these efforts to reduce wildfire fuel
29 loads on public lands.
30

31 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

32
33 **Resolution on Amendments to PILT Side B Funding - Establishing a Minimum**

34 **Issue:** Counties, Boroughs, Townships, and Parishes with large Federal entitlement acreage and
35 small populations have monetary caps within the PILT formula that place them in an unfavorable
36 position in relation to the majority of all other Counties.

37 **Policy:** NACo supports amending the PILT formula to establish a base funding to all counties by setting
38 the per-acre variable on the Alternative B to a minimum funding level adjusted by the CPI every year.
39 The maximum payment to counties would not be adjusted. The current population threshold would
40 remain at 50,000.
41

42 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

43
44 **Resolution Supporting Increased Federal Public Lands Agency Funding**
45

1 **Issue:** Federal public land agency operating budgets have a substantial impact on county economies.
2 Proposed increases in these budgets will help counties dependent on recreation for jobs and revenue.

3
4 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fully fund federal public lands
5 agency budgets to ensure the greatest amount of recreational access to federal public lands and to support
6 gateway communities economically reliant on tourism and recreation.

7
8 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

9
10 **Resolution Urging the Biden Administration to Further Engage with Impacted Counties When**
11 **Developing the Implementation Strategy to Conserve Thirty Percent of the Lands and Waters in**
12 **the United States by 2030 (“30 by 30”)**

13
14 **Issue:** Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, directs federal agencies
15 to develop a strategy to conserve thirty percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030,
16 known as “30 by 30.”

17
18 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Biden Administration to further engage
19 with impacted counties, especially those with large tracts of federal lands within their jurisdiction, in
20 developing an implementation strategy for 30 by 30. Conservation efforts under 30 by 30 must be
21 focused on voluntary and locally-led programs with federal agencies primarily providing support
22 through funding and technical assistance to state, local and tribal governments, as well as private land
23 and forest owners. Federal agencies should coordinate resource and forest management plans with
24 elected officials from natural resource reliant counties, especially those with large tracts of federal public
25 lands within their jurisdiction, and agricultural communities and other private landowners on the
26 implementation timeline and economic impacts of this proposal. Conservation must be treated as a
27 broad, collaborative set of principles and ideas designed to ensure the wisest use of our natural
28 resources. Conservation includes the preservation of pristine wilderness areas, active forest management
29 projects to reduce the threat of wildfire and create timber jobs, voluntary species conservation
30 agreements and programs to keep private working lands productive in ways that meet specific, local
31 environmental needs. Federal agencies must also ensure federal lands under a multiple-use mandate
32 remain productive to generate revenues to support voluntary conservation programs and ensure 30 by 30
33 does not lead to large increases in federal land acquisitions.

34
35 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

36
37 **Resolution in Support of Resuming Onshore Petroleum Leasing on Federal Lands**

38
39 **Issue:** Onshore oil and gas leasing on federal lands supports local economies and provides important
40 revenue streams to all levels of government for resource conservation, recreation, restoration and
41 protection programs.

42
43 **Policy:** NACo supports the resumption of onshore leasing on federally owned lands where appropriate to
44 maximize the royalty revenue streams for natural resource conservation, recreation, restoration and
45 protection programs.

46

1 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY**

2
3 **PLATFORM CHANGES**

4
5 **Platform Change to Section A: Encouraging Competition and Development of New Technologies**
6 **Section**

7
8 **ENCOURAGING COMPETITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES:**

9
10 Competition among internet service providers (ISPs) has a direct and lasting benefit to consumers as
11 ISP’s race to provide a competitive price point for their quality of service. Additionally, an array of
12 technologies – including fiber, cellular and satellite – is necessary to address the unique factors
13 contributing to the digital divide. Federal, state, and local resources should promote competition among
14 communications and technology providers and to support the development of new technologies for
15 government and public use.

16
17 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

18
19 **Platform Change to Section G: Rights-of-Way**

20
21 **RIGHTS-OF-WAY:**

22
23 Counties own substantial amounts of public rights-of-way, which many communication providers use
24 extensively to construct their own communications networks. These are valuable local government real
25 estate assets worth billions of dollars that are held in trust by local governments to benefit the local
26 community.

27
28 Federal and state governments must recognize the authority of local governments to protect the public
29 investment, to balance competing demands on this public resource and to require fair and reasonable
30 compensation from communications providers for use of the public rights-of-way on a nondiscriminatory
31 (but not necessarily identical) basis. Rights-of-way disputes between communications companies and
32 local governments should be resolved in local jurisdictions.

33
34 In order to use the right-of-way, private communications companies should be required to enter into an
35 agreement with local government that sets the terms and conditions of such use/access. Local
36 governments must be able to require universal services that include nondiscriminatory pricing and equal
37 access to all its citizens as a requirement. Like services should be treated alike.

38
39 Because disruption to streets and businesses can have a negative impact on public safety and industry,
40 local governments should have control over allocation of the rights-of-way and be able to ensure that
41 there is neither disruption to other “tenants” or transportation nor any diminution of the useful life of the
42 right-of-way. Local governments must have the right to analyze the legal, financial, and technical
43 qualifications of any communications provider wanting to use the public right-of-way and shall have the
44 right not to issue a franchise to an unqualified applicant.

1 The ongoing construction of public property and rights-of-way also provides an opportunity for federal,
2 state, and local governments to assist with the future deployment of fiber-based broadband networks
3 through effective dig-once policies and practices. To ensure the scalability of these efforts, conduit should
4 be able to accommodate fiber lines with a minimum 432 strand fiber bundle and should be of multi-duct
5 variety to ensure adequate separation of provider assets. Any dig-once policy imposed on local
6 governments should also be supported by federal and state resources to ensure local governments are not
7 held solely responsible for the costs associated with the construction. Additionally, federally funded
8 transportation projects should also require the incorporation of state and local broadband plans prior to
9 construction. When providers are not interested in installing conduit when municipalities are performing
10 street work, the agency itself should look to install municipally-owned conduit, which can be leased back
11 to providers in the future.

12

13 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

14

15 **Platform Change to Section J: Broadband Deployment and Adoption**

16

17 **BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND ADOPTION:**

18

19 **Broadband Deployment and Adoption:** NACo strongly supports legislation and administrative policies
20 that help counties rapidly expand public-private partnerships and to attract affordable, abundant,
21 redundant and reliable high-speed broadband services that meet or exceed federal broadband speed
22 definitions regardless of population or technology used. NACo supports legislation and/or policy that:

23

- 24 • Streamline federal ROW and permitting processes for structures on lands controlled by any federal
25 agency;
- 26 • Provides access to federally owned dark fiber for use by government or quasi-governmental
27 organizations;
- 28 • Creates location maps and open access to broadband infrastructure deployed with public funds;
- 29 • Mandates middle-mile broadband systems to be open networks;
- 30 • Enforces a fair refusal of service process requiring incumbent providers to provide service within 180
31 days at the same level as a new deployment or release the rights to the proposed service area;
- 32 • Requires coordination between local governments and ISPs with an emphasis on locally collected and
33 verified data;
- 34 • Encourage the utilization of fiber optic broadband infrastructure, where practical, where public funds
35 are used by implementing a sliding scale of awarded grant funds with fiber projects receiving the
36 most;
- 37 • Demands a minimum broadband speed requirement of 25Mbps down and 3Mbps up but incentivizes
38 1gbps symmetrical network by implementing a sliding scale of awarded grant funds with Gigabit
39 networks receiving the 100% funding;
- 40 • Provides tax credits to telecommunications providers that develop broadband in rural and underserved
41 communities;
- 42 • Provides for broadened eligibility and additional federal agency loan authority to deploy broadband in
43 rural communities;
- 44 • Creates a graduated distribution model for federal grants/loans/subsidy programs based on
45 performance (speed, need, latency, and cost).
- 46 • Allows for local control of franchise agreements for providers operating within their communities to
47 ensure that customer service standards are upheld and that access to service is consistently available.

1
2 NACo believes all levels of government should work cooperatively with the private sector, nonprofits,
3 and academia to develop robust awareness, adoption, and use programs for broadband. Additionally,
4 broadband is as essential to our health and wellbeing as water or electricity. Therefore, NACo believes
5 broadband should be classified as a Title II Utility allowing the Federal Communication Commission to
6 ensure common carriers provide affordable and reliable service by preventing price gauging and
7 discriminatory deployment practices. Unbundling local networks and price regulations would open access
8 and allow other service providers to provide competitive and affordable service alternatives to residents.
9

10 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

11
12 **Platform Changes to Section N: Geospatial Information Systems**

13
14 **GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS:**

15
16 Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) are critical tools and infrastructure for county officials to make
17 appropriate land-use decisions, manage existing infrastructure, and maintain adequate linkages between
18 the county’s land base and its government and maximize the use of resources as first responders to
19 homeland security threats and events. NACo encourages member counties, other local governments,
20 states, tribal entities, and the private sector to engage in a coordinated effort that will lead to standardized
21 best practices and land record modernization as well as a solid digital infrastructure, in particular cadastral
22 data.

23
24 NACo supports the effort of the federal government to coordinate the collection and dissemination of GIS
25 data (based on common interoperable data standards) by the federal, state, local, and tribal governments
26 through programs. The common data standards should be designed to:

- 27
28 • maximize the degree to which unclassified GIS data from various sources can be made
29 electronically available; and
30
31 • promote the use of GIS for better governance due to increased data sources and sharing of
32 geographic data by all levels of government. Congress should provide funding to facilitate this
33 effort
34

35 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

36
37 **Platform Changes to Section O: Cybersecurity**

38
39 **CYBERSECURITY:**

40
41 NACo recognizes the evolving and continuous cyber threats that our nation faces from multiple sources.
42 The threats are ever-increasing in sophistication and, in turn require costly proactive measures to
43 minimize the potential loss of data and/or damage to our nation’s critical infrastructure. Understanding
44 this, local governments carry a significant burden of responsibility in ensuring that our citizens’ personal
45 information, priceless historical records, and critical infrastructure are adequately protected, recoverable,

1 and secured in the event of any potential breach. In efforts to ensure that local governments provide the
2 stability, integrity, and security expected of protecting such critical infrastructure and digital assets, NACo
3 supports the following:

- 4
- 5 • Funding assistance in any form deemed necessary to provide for critical cybersecurity tools and
6 resources required to adequately protect the county security infrastructure at all levels;
- 7 • Implementation of MFA, DMARC, DotGov, Monitoring tools, IT Assessments, certification of
8 third party providers, regional IT expertise, end-user education and cybersecurity incident policy
9 and procedure development;
- 10 • Funding assistance for basic security awareness training of employees and advanced security
11 training for information technology professionals within local government, including assistance in
12 the completion of advance certification and degree programs;
- 13 • Cooperative efforts in information sharing among all federal, state, and local governments in
14 addition to private sector organizations regarding breaches, potential threats, threat levels, and any
15 techniques that would assist in the prevention or mitigation of cyber-related threats;
- 16 • Collaborative efforts in the form of committees or task forces that are inclusive of local
17 government membership with federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and
18 subprograms such as NCC, US-CERT, MS/EI-ISAC, CISA and ICS-CERT;
- 19 • Creation of programs and initiatives that designate local government Cybersecurity liaisons and/or
20 representatives that serve in conjunction with federal agencies such as the Department of
21 Homeland Security.

22
23 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

24 25 **RESOLUTIONS**

26 27 **Resolution to Ensure the Participation of County Governments in the Development and** 28 **Implementation of Broadband Expansion Efforts**

29
30 **Issue:** Members of the National Association of Counties (NACo) are uniquely positioned to advise and
31 help facilitate digital connectivity for urban, rural, and tribal jurisdictions for which long-standing
32 connectivity inequities have been made more acute by the COVID-19 pandemic. The expansion of
33 broadband internet will require resources from all levels of government, but foremost will require the
34 integration of local government in establishing the programmatic components that will successfully
35 implement connectivity for all communities.

36
37 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties urges Congress and involved Federal agencies to commit to
38 the inclusion and engagement of NACo members in the earliest phases of the strategic planning and
39 expansion of broadband services and access.

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41 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **Resolution Calling for The Federal Communications Commission to Address the Lack Of Cellular**
2 **Phone Coverage For Unserved And Underserved Areas Of The United States**
3

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

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

13 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
14

15 **Resolution in Support of Empowering Counties to Be Active in the Deployment and Operations of**
16 **High-Speed Internet**
17

18 **Issue:** High-speed internet is an essential element of modern commerce, but local governments in many
19 states are prohibited from being active participants in the deployment of these services.
20

21 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the removal of barriers to counties
22 supplying infrastructure to the private sector, partnering with the private sector or operating internet
23 services as a public utility when no commercial service is available.
24

25 **Approved | July 12, 2021**
26

27 **Resolution Encouraging Congress to Undertake a Systemic Rewrite of the Telecommunications Act**
28 **of 1996**
29

30 **Issue:** The Federal Telecommunications Act has not been updated by congress since 1996. Since that time,
31 there have been substantial changes in not only the telecommunications technology in use but also the
32 manner it is used in daily life. The lack of congressional attention to this matter has placed an inordinate
33 burden on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to set policy that is better suited to our elected
34 representatives.
35

36 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) believes that the time has come for Congress to
37 engage in a systemic rewrite of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. We believe this action is necessary
38 to realign the telecommunications policies of the United States to match current and developing
39 technologies. Such a systemic review should occur periodically and in a timely manner.
40

41 Additionally, we believe that NACo can be a valuable resource during this process due to our unique
42 relationship with this issue. NACo and its members are not only critical users of these
43 Telecommunications systems, elected representatives of the consumers of these systems, facilitators
44 of deployment of these systems but also, in some states, regulators of these systems.
45

46 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

1 **Resolution Encouraging Congress to Pass Legislation That Would Ensure Local 911 Service Fees**
2 **Are Only Used for Emergency Communications**

3
4 **Issue:** Funding for 911 comes from a variety of sources, including monthly fees that are set by the state
5 and paid on consumers’ telephone bills. Yet this rate may vary by phone type within a state. As consumers
6 shift their telecommunications preferences from wired to wireless phones, some states have seen a
7 dramatic decrease in dedicated 911 funding as existing statutes have not been updated to account for these
8 shifts. Subsequently, it is not uncommon for the revenue from 911 fees to fall short of the cost of running
9 a 911 call center, also known as a public safety answering point (PSAP). Additionally, many states collect
10 911 fees and remit the revenues to local governments. However, in 2015 over \$220 million in 911 fees
11 were diverted by states throughout the country for purposes other than maintaining and upgrading PSAPs.
12 As counties receive less in dedicated 911 revenue due to both states withholding funds and shifts in
13 telecommunications preferences, they must turn to general fund money.

14
15 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages Congress and the Federal
16 Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt legislation or take regulatory action that ensures that fees
17 collected for local 911 services are only used to repair, replace or improve 911 communications
18 technology and services at our nation’s public safety answering points or call centers.

19
20 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

21
22 **Resolution Encouraging Congress to Pass Legislation to Formalize the Process Through Which**
23 **Data Gathered by the TestIT App is Used to Modify the Broadband Coverage Maps**

24
25 **Issue:** The National Association of Counties (NACo), through efforts from NACo’s
26 Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee and the Rural Action Caucus (RAC), is at the
27 forefront of the issue of creating accurate broadband coverage maps. The current maps tend to inflate the
28 availability of service across the nation but particularly in more rural areas. These maps are an important
29 source document in the development of national broadband deployment policy and the deployment of
30 federal funds for broadband development. Having accurate coverage maps is essential to the
31 development of good federal policy on broadband deployment.

32
33 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages Congress and the Federal
34 Communications Commission (FCC) to create a formal process by which crowd-sourced data gathered by
35 applications such as the TestIT app can be used to create new or update the existing FCC broadband
36 coverage maps. Further, NACo believes that such legislation should require the FCC to test and certify
37 the accuracy of these crowd-sourcing applications.

38
39 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

40
41 **Resolution to Support Federal Solutions to the “Homework Gap”**

42
43 **Issue:** Given the ever-increasing need for digital connectivity for children to successfully complete their
44 schoolwork, the “homework gap” is leading to inequities in education in counties across America, which
45 negatively impacts child development, the success of our economies and the quality of living in our
46 communities.

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Policy: To address internet affordability and adoption issues in K-12 education known as the “homework gap,” NACo urges Congress to establish a permanent program providing high quality, subsidized and discounted internet and computer access to low-income K-12 students through a shared cost formula spread between providers, families, and the federal government.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution to Support a Permanent Federal Broadband Assistance Program

Issue: The digital divide disproportionately impacts low-income households, who, due to affordability issues, have lower rates of technology adoption and access to broadband internet at home. This disparity creates additional barriers to accessing public benefits, employment opportunities, digital learning, telehealth services and opportunities for civic engagement, negatively impacting county economies, health outcomes and quality of life.

Policy: NACo urges Congress to establish a permanent program that helps low-income families afford internet service. A permanent broadband benefit program must include measures holding Internet Service Providers accountable to increasing access and providing affordable service to qualifying households. Additionally, such a program should incorporate relevant data, best practices and any key policy lessons learned during the Federal Communications Commission’s implementation of the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program established under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Approved | July 12, 2021

Resolution Calling on Congress to Actively Engage Counties Prior to Developing 5G Wireless Infrastructure

Issue: As Congress works on legislation to help grow our nation’s wireless broadband infrastructure, it is imperative that they engage local leaders to ensure that new wireless infrastructure built on locally owned property is done so with the prior approval of the governing jurisdiction, and does not preempt or limit local zoning authority.

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to work with local officials when drafting legislation that would encourage the use of state or county owned land, including public rights-of-way, to build new wireless infrastructure, including fifth (5G) wireless networks, to expand service to rural areas, or to promote digital equity. NACo has long advocated for universal access to reliable wireline and wireless high-speed broadband service – as crucial for education, employment, and economic development – and NACo further urges Congress to oppose any legislative or regulatory proposals that would limit or preempt local zoning authority or the ability of local governments to charge reasonable fees for the use of publicly owned land to build wireless infrastructure.

Approved | July 12, 2021

1 **TRANSPORTATION**

2
3 **PLATFORM CHANGES**

4
5 **Platform Addition to Coordination and Connectivity Section**

6
7 **F. Local Hire:** NACo supports the U.S. Department of Transportation’s 2021 reinstatement of the Local
8 Labor Hiring Preference Pilot Program that will enable counties to evaluate the impacts of utilizing
9 certain local contracting requirements on the competitive bidding process.

10
11 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

12
13 **Platform Addition to Coordination and Connectivity Section**

14
15 **G. Safe Street Designs for Pedestrians/Cyclists:** NACo supports a process that gathers local input in a
16 strategic review to modernize the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) with needed
17 design improvements that prioritize the safety and comfort of all users of America’s streets, including
18 pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders.

19
20 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

21
22 **Platform Addition to Coordination and Connectivity Section**

23
24 **H. National Voluntary Registry of Persons with Invisible Disabilities:** The National Association of
25 Counties (NACo) urges the federal government to support a nationwide, individual state driven model
26 that allows persons with hidden disabilities to voluntarily register that they have such a disability when
27 applying for a government issued identification card and/or driver’s license.

28
29 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

30
31 **Platform Addition to Public Transportation Section**

32
33 **F. Federal Assistance for Transit Expansion:** NACo supports the inclusion of new and existing funding
34 mechanisms in any future federal transportation and infrastructure package, including incentives for
35 private investment, such as public-private partnerships, to state and local governments for purposes of
36 expanding, installing, and maintaining transit systems; including but not limited to Bus Rapid Transit
37 (“BRT”), Heavy Rail, and Light Rail systems.

38
39 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

40
41 **RESOLUTIONS**

42
43 **Resolution to Amend Federal Law Regarding the Use of Federal Highway Administration**
44 **Emergency Relief Funds**

1 **Issue:** Current law governing the use of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief
2 (ER) funds does not allow enough time for Counties with projects to repair roads damaged in federally
3 declared disasters to advance to the construction stage.
4

5 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to amend federal law, specifically
6 23 CFR 668.105(h), to allow entities receiving FHWA ER funds six years after a disaster occurrence to
7 advance projects to the construction obligation stage, as opposed to two in current law. Additionally,
8 NACo urges FHWA to suspend its recent practice of rejecting extensions to the two-year rule while
9 Congress debates a change to current law.
10

11 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

12
13 **Resolution Urging Congress to Enact Legislation Creating a National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) to**
14 **Finance Urgently Needed Infrastructure Projects**
15

16 **Issue:** According to the American Society of Civil Engineers and the U.S. Congress, there is a budget
17 shortfall of over \$2 trillion needed to finance urgently needed infrastructure programs. Current budget
18 estimates cut discretionary funding. Also, this does not include much-needed programs such as
19 broadband, passenger transit systems, high-speed rail, clean water supply projects, flood control systems,
20 energy distribution systems and power grid upgrades. Therefore, the real financing need is well over \$4
21 trillion. The National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) would finance projects within all regions of the U.S. In
22 the past, the United States has employed four National Banking systems to build out the infrastructure,
23 and the proposed new legislation follows in that successful model and tradition.
24

25 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact legislation to create a new
26 National Infrastructure Bank system in the tradition of George Washington, John Quincy Adams,
27 Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt. This proposed bill has the following critical points:
28

- 29 1. It would create a new National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) by exchanging existing Treasury debt
30 for preferred stock in the bank. The proposal is to raise \$500 billion, out of the \$23 trillion in
31 Treasury debt, and put it in the Bank. This would require no new federal debt.
- 32 2. The NIB would pay 2 percent interest above the Treasury yield to the investors, with all
33 transactions being federally insured. The 2 percent would be included in the U.S. budget and not
34 go through appropriations. This model has been used in the past, initiated by the first Treasury
35 Secretary, Alexander Hamilton.
- 36 3. The NIB would perform as a traditional commercial bank and be able to provide financing in the
37 form of loans. The Bank would loan out \$4 trillion to states, cities, counties, authorities, and multi-
38 state entities to address the infrastructure crisis in the nation. Loans would be long-term, at
39 Treasury rates, and for infrastructure projects only.
- 40 4. There would be a Board of Directors composed of mainly engineers and infrastructure experts;
41 also a few state, local and county officials with experience in infrastructure construction to assist
42 in the implementation of the projects. The Bank would report all banking transactions to Congress
43 on a regular basis.
44

1 5. The NIB would create 25+ million new high-paying jobs, which would increase the tax base and
2 increase the productivity of the entire economy. Previous such entities have increased real GDP by
3 3-5 percent per year, and payback multiples have been anywhere from 2-10 times the investment.
4

5 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

6
7 **Resolution in Support of Eliminating Regulatory Impediments for Effective Delivery of Federal**
8 **Aid Projects**
9

10 **Issue:** Elimination of Regulatory Impediments to the Effective Delivery of Federal Aid Projects
11

12 **Policy:** NACo urges the President and Congress to implement measures that would eliminate regulatory
13 impediments on local and state sponsored federal aid projects to achieve our shared goals of strengthening
14 transportation networks, improving public safety and advancing our economic competitiveness.
15

16 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

17
18 **Resolution Directing Federal Policymakers to Include Direct Funding to Improve the Evacuation**
19 **Routes Along the Gulf Coast and East Coast Coastal Communities**
20

21 **Issue:** During the need for evacuating counties and/or parishes, especially during active hurricane season,
22 traffic is often congested and moves slowly to evacuate citizens out of the impacted areas
23

24 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the improvement of existing evacuation
25 routes and the possibility of including state routes as designated routes as well the prioritization and
26 designation of funding for improvements to local counties and parishes evacuation routes.
27

28 **Approved | July 12, 2021**

29
30 **Resolution in Support of Direct Federal Funding to Local Governments for the Improvement and**
31 **Maintenance of Local Roads in America**
32

33 **Issue:** Include direct federal funding for roads owned and operated by local governments to address
34 America’s rapidly deteriorating transportation network and create jobs.
35

36 **Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the president and Congress, through any
37 proposed transportation infrastructure spending bill or reauthorization, to create dedicated federal funding
38 allocated directly to local governments for the improvement and maintenance of local road and bridge
39 infrastructure in America.
40

41 **Approved | July 12, 2021**