**NACo Board approves legislative priorities for 2020**

by Charlie Ban  
senior writer

The NACo Board of Directors adopted 10 legislative priorities for 2020 and identified 36 policies it plans to target at its fall board meeting last month in Douglas County, Neb. The national policy priorities are:

- **Restore the balance of Federalism and optimize intergovernmental partnerships:** NACo supports efforts that recognize and respect the unique roles and responsibilities of counties as essential partners — not just stakeholders — in the nation’s intergovernmental system of federal, state, local and tribal government officials.

- **Promote county infrastructure priorities:** NACo supports efforts by the Administration and Congress to increase the nation’s infrastructure investments to help promote economic development, public safety and overall mobility through a comprehensive infrastructure package, surface transportation reauthorization and other substantial investments. The NACo Board of Directors adopted a new articulation of the county infrastructure priority in its 2018 resolution on increasing Investment in Infrastructure.

- **NACo Board approves legislative priorities for 2020**

**Appalachian counties eye leadership role in opioid fight**

by Charlie Ban  
senior writer

In the years since opioid addiction started barreling through Appalachia on the way to becoming a national epidemic, local leaders there have licked their wounds with an eye on revenge.

As addiction treatment specialists, various social service providers, law enforcement personnel and county leaders have seen incident after incident, they’ve come away knowing their enemy a little bit better. And they want to be the ones that lead the rest of the country out of a mess of human and economic carnage.

A lot of the strategies for taking communities back from addiction were part of NACo’s yearlong collaboration with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a federal-state partnership that includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states. The

**Orange County, N.Y. brings filmmaking to county level**

by Rachel Looker  
staff writer

Keep calm and make movies. The phrase can be seen hanging on a poster in the entrance of Umbra Soundstages, one of five certified soundstages for filmmaking in Orange County, NY.

With films and shows including the HBO feature “I Know This Much is True” with Mark Ruffalo; “The Irishman” directed and produced by Martin Scorsese; NBC’s “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and NBC’s “Blindspot” shot in the county, Orange County attracts filmmakers from across the country. Located 50 miles north of Manhattan, Orange County has become a filmmaking hub using both its county and privately-owned

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See OPIOIDS page 2  
See FILMS page 6
Opioid addiction requires ‘whole of society approach’ for solution

From OPIOIDS page 1

two organizations presented their joint report at a Jan. 7 event in Washington, D.C. featuring two panel discussions among state and county officials.

“We know that top-down approaches are not going to work universally, if at all,” said Tim Thomas, the ARC’s federal co-chair. “I believe Appalachian communities can also lead the way in solutions.

“It’s critical that local leaders have the tools and the facts in hand because they are the ones making the policy decisions and directing the resources that are the most impactful on this issue,” he said.

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) acknowledged as much, pointing to the county genesis for several facets of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act.

“Our experience has been that the best solutions to the problem are from the group up, they’re not generated in (the Senate),” she said, noting Cabell County, West Virginia’s crisis response teams and Mercer County’s Handle with Care program, which prompts law enforcement to notify school administrators if a child’s home life is disrupted by a drug-related intervention.

“These are the kinds of solutions that we see coming from our different counties,” she said.

Panelists seized on the need for a holistic approach to recovery, not just around the person fighting addiction, but their entire community.

“Employment supports and sustained recovery, we have been told time and time again,” Thomas said.

“Employment supports,” he added, “are the most impactful on this issue.”

The NACo-ARC report contains five recommendations for local action, along with key actions within each recommendation and county case studies. They include:

1. Exercise strategic local leadership
2. Create and strengthen preventive and educational initiatives
3. Expand access to addiction treatments
4. Implement a criminal justice response to illegal opioid sales and provide treatment and services to justice-involved individuals with opioid use disorders, and
5. Mitigate local economic impacts and consider new economic development strategies.

The battle against the stigma of drug addiction

The kind of leeway and second chances that are necessary to keep people in addiction recovery in their homes and jobs takes a change in attitudes from those landlords and employers when it comes to drug addiction, and battling...
the stigma of addiction is a crucial step to getting there. "Too often stigma can serve as a roadblock that hurts us as well as them," Thomas said, noting that willing workers have less of an economic impact if they can’t get or keep jobs.

"It’s important that we treat addiction as a brain disease and necessarily not a cultural failing," Puckett said. "As long as we understand that and try to educate our community better on that, we have a greater opportunity to overcome the problems related to stigma."

"I think one of the silver linings of the opioid crisis is the fact that it didn’t discriminate," said David Connor, executive director of the Tennessee County Services Association. "This is not a drug problem that was in that community or that group of people or the troubled youths or those teenagers, this is now an addiction problem that it’s (now) a farmer who fell off his tractor and has back issues and he started on prescription painkillers move onto heroin, for outbreaks of HIV and Hepatitis C. Cabell County, W.Va. has already seen a recent HIV outbreak in the intravenous drug community. Although needle exchanges are proliferating, they don’t serve everyone.

"Make sure your community knows that you care, you’re out there and you’re working as hard as you care," he said.

Like Connor, Puckett and Snyder said they saw something good come from how counties and regions have reacted to the opioid epidemic, noting the agencies, police and schools that have come together to train, communicate and collaborate on solutions.

Capito recounted fighting for $50 million in appropriations that would enhance the paltry funding that smaller states like West Virginia ($7 million), New Hampshire and Vermont would receive through formula funding.

"When I (ask) my large state friends ‘is this fair?’ This is fair because if we don’t solve this problem in Appalachia and we don’t learn what works and what doesn’t work," she said.

"When it comes — because it will come to your state — you’re not going to have the solutions to fight this. That’s why it’s important to drive the funding where it’s needed the most."

Puckett sees remaining vulnerabilities in southern West Virginia, as people addicted to prescription painkillers move onto heroin, for outbreaks of HIV and Hepatitis C. Cabell County, W.Va. has already seen a recent HIV outbreak in the intravenous drug community. Although needle exchanges are proliferating, they don’t serve everyone.

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NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson welcomes NACo Board members to Douglas County, Neb., at the fall Board meeting. Photo by Hugh Drake

NACo Board adopts priorities for 2020

From PRIORITIES page 1

and water resources bill.

Promote mental health and substance use treatment and address essential criminal justice reforms: NACo supports sensible measures that promote and advance the overall safety of the public and enhances federal, state and local partnerships to provide evidence-based treatment services to justice-involved individuals suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders.

Boost advanced broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local decision-making: NACo supports the deployment and availability of emerging technologies, such as small cell 5G, to all areas of the nation to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities for all.

Support full funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs: NACo supports restoring full mandatory funding for the PILT program, which compensates public lands counties for tax-able federal land.

Establish a more effective definition of “Waters of the U.S.”: NACo believes that local streets, gutters and human-made ditches should be excluded from the definition of WOTUS under the federal Clean Water Act.

Promote workforce opportunities and supportive services for county residents in changing economies: NACo supports federal investments and policies that help advance and leverage both regional and local strategies to engage children, youth, adults and older adults in the development of a competitive and quality workforce.

Strengthen election integrity and safety: NACo supports federal policies that provide flexibility for local decision-making and increased federal investments in the nation’s election system.

Enhance community resilience through regional and local disaster preparedness: NACo urges Congress and the Administration to provide increased federal resources to counties for disaster planning, mitigation and recovery.

Fully repeal the Cadillac Tax: NACo urges Congress to pass the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019 (H.R. 748/S. 684), which would permanently and fully repeal the 40 percent excise tax, known as the Cadillac Tax, on employer-sponsored health insurance plans.

For more information including other policies of interest, visit https://www.naco.org/articles/naco-board-approves-national-policy-priorities.

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by Zach George

In preparation for the NACo Legislative Conference Feb. 29-March 4 in D.C., NACo members are invited to submit interim policy resolutions. The NACo resolutions process provides members with the ability to participate in national policy decisions affecting county governments. During the Legislative Conference, NACo’s 10 policy steering committees and Board of Directors consider legislative and policy resolutions that will guide NACo advocacy until the NACo Annual Conference in July.

Interim policy resolutions provide an opportunity for members to address policy issues at the Legislative Conference that were not discussed at the previous Annual Conference. Interim resolutions may not overturn existing policy resolutions, and will expire at the 2020 Annual Conference in Orange County/Orlando, Fla.

The American County Platform and the association’s policy resolutions are carefully considered statements of the needs and interests of county governments throughout the nation. These policy statements serve as a guide for NACo members and staff to advance the association’s federal policy agenda before Congress, the White House and federal agencies. Please refer to the comprehensive overview of NACo’s policy resolution process here: https://bit.ly/3a9xGok

How to submit and format resolutions

When submitting resolutions and platform changes, please work with the appropriate steering committee to adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Issue:** Short sentence stating the purpose of the resolution and how the issue impacts counties
- **Proposed policy:** Concise statement specifying a position or action by NACo and/or other entities
- **Background:** One- to two-paragraph statement outlining the county interest in the particular issue
- **Fiscal/urban/rural impact:** Short statement addressing the potential impact(s) for counties in the specific issue area
- **Sponsor:** Name and contact information of NACo member sponsoring the resolution.

Important reminder: If you plan to submit a policy resolution, you (or a designated representative) must appear in person at the steering committee meeting at the 2020 Legislative Conference to introduce and explain the resolution.

Platform changes and existing resolutions

Platform changes are considered only at the Annual Conference. Interim resolutions cannot be used to overturn or modify existing resolutions or language in the platform.

Questions?

Please contact NACo’s Deputy Executive Director / Director of Government Affairs Deborah Cox at dcox@naco.org or the appropriate steering committee liaison with additional questions or concerns. See NACo’s Legislative Department staff contact list here: https://www.naco.org/advocacy/government-affairs-staff.

Zach George is a legislative assistant in NACo’s Government Affairs Department.

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Week of April 27, 2020

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Orange County/Orlando, Florida
Broome County Office of Employment and Training Director Bob Murphy observes the renovations at the former Sears building in Broome County, N.Y., which will house the county’s Office of Employment and Training. Photo courtesy Broome County

Store closures: Counties repurpose unused spaces

by Rachel Looker
staff writer

Sears, Toys R Us, Kmart, Macy’s, Bon Ton, JCPenney — the list goes on for stores that have filed for bankruptcy or shut down locations.

As of mid-December 2019, 9,300 stores in the United States have closed compared to 5,844 store closures in 2018, according to a report from Coresight Research, a retail and technology research firm.

With stores closing and empty buildings becoming a common sight, counties are taking matters into their own hands to revitalize the spaces by leasing or purchasing vacant stores and abandoned malls.

In Broome County, N.Y., county officials passed a resolution to lease a portion of a former Sears building to relocate the county’s Office of Employment and Training. With workforce development a top priority for the county, officials decided to move the office after their current lease in an older, dilapidated building expires to newly renovated space at the former Sears, according to Broome County Executive Jason Garnar.

Sears was one of the anchor stores at the Oakdale Mall in the county, along with The Bon Ton, Macy’s and JCPenney, all of which have closed their doors over the last few years at the mall location.

Broome County is leasing 35,050 square feet of the total 140,000 square foot at the rate of $15.45 per square foot until December 2020. This includes taxes, utilities, snow removal and roof repairs.

The county will pay less for the new space compared to their current lease. Garnar said by the end of the move, the county will be saving money.

“It’s definitely a small cost savings, but to get a brand-new building at the same or a little bit less was immediately a win-win,” he said.

In addition to the county leasing space at the former Sears, a local brewery will move to the 140,000 square foot building. Garnar said the county served as the catalyst for attracting businesses to come to the building.

“I think at the very least that’s stabilized some of the stores that are there,” he said. “I think everybody was concerned about was at some point there would be so many stores that go black, they just turn the lights off and close everything down.”

In Cape May County, N.J., the county recently purchased a former Kmart shopping plaza to move in offices for their Division of Aging and Disability Services, Veterans Bureau, Division of Community and Behavioral Health and Division of Social Services.

Part of the reason for the move, according to Cape May County Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton, was the expense of leasing their current building for social services offices, which cost the county $660,000 per year.

The plaza, which includes a former Kmart and other small businesses, was appraised at $10.4 million. The county purchased it for $5.75 million after winning the final bid during a bankruptcy auction.

“It was very beneficial to the county and to that area because this whole thing would have lain vacant for many, many years,” Thornton said.

The county has the option to lease the unused spaces through long-term lease agreements. According to Thornton, after 15 years, the leases would pay off the initial investment of purchasing the plaza and the county would see approximately $2 million per year in revenue.

In addition to the county offices, the Department of Veterans Affairs is going to rent space at the plaza for a veterans outpatient clinic. Additionally, the state of New Jersey is going to rent space to move in Workforce New Jersey, a jobs program, Thornton said.

“Especially for younger veterans, they’ll go down there and almost have a one-stop shopping between the veterans department and the veterans clinic and they can walk right next door and see what jobs are available throughout the county,” Thornton said.

He added that retail shops are seeking space at the plaza, which will be called “County Commons.” Tractor Supply Company and a family entertainment facility have plans to also lease space.

“It’s because of the county and the investment we’re making that has been the catalyst for these private corporations wanting to move in there and enhancing the entire area of the county,” he said.

Knox County, Tenn., Commissioner Charles Busler has noticed the trend of counties purchasing vacant stores and has proposed Knox County purchase the Knoxville Center Mall, which is closing at the end of January.

His proposal involves using the space for county offices including the clerk’s office, the register of deeds, the sheriff’s department and the public works department. He also said the facility could be used to establish a Career Technical Education training facility to prepare students for high-demand jobs, offices for health systems and even space for Knox County school system offices.

Busler said the county would benefit from the purchase because it offers county employees free parking options, provides the option for county space to expand and would allow the county to sell portions of the facility to pay for departmental needs.

“The big thing is it makes the government come to the people instead of the people having to go to the government,” he said.

In Fairfax County, Va., the Board of Supervisors is tackling another problem caused by fewer shoppers at brick and mortar stores by approving a new minimum parking rate for large shopping malls to repurpose empty parking lot spaces.

Before the change, the minimum parking requirement for large shopping malls in the county was four spaces per 1,000 square feet. Now, the rate is 2.5 spaces per 1,000 square feet.

Nelson/Nygard, a consulting firm, completed a parking analysis in Fairfax County that revealed no more than 70 percent of available spaces were occupied during peak holiday shopping seasons at two of the malls in the county.

“I think that’s what’s good about us reducing the parking rate, it is provides opportunities for people to rethink how they use their property,” Fairfax County Supervisor Kathy Smith said.

The new parking rate allows mall owners to use the space differently and fill empty parking lots and empty buildings.

To Broome County Executive Garnar, these efforts to revitalize abandoned stores creates optimism in local communities.

“You can see really cool places where people have worked to repurpose malls and we’re hopeful that we’re moving in that direction,” he said.
Filmmakers flock to New York county, boost local economy

From FILMS page 1

soundstages, landscapes and proximity to New York City to promote filmmaking.

Last year, Orange County acquired the Orange County Film Office, which was previously a private entity. The office now falls under the umbrella of the county’s tourism department.

“It’s really important to have a film office that can basically be that one-stop shop for production companies, film scouts and the like to come in and be that resource to get filming done in the county,” said Amanda Dana, the director of tourism for Orange County and the executive director for the Orange County Film Office. “The goal of the county’s film office is to streamline the production process and promote the county by referring businesses, locations and services to filmmakers. The office works with local agencies, such as the police and sheriff’s departments, to establish protocols and contracts for filming.

Orange County has five certified soundstages including Umbra Soundstage, Michelson Studio and the county-owned gymnasium in the Orange County Jail. While not certified soundstages, many county-owned sites have been used as filming locations including the county-owned emergency services center, the former county courthouse and a fire training center, among others.

The certified soundstage in the gym at the county jail offers production companies large spaces for equipment, set-building, craft services and parking, according to Nora Martinez, Orange County film specialist. The operations of the jail are not disrupted during filmmaking and funds from using the facility go directly to the county.

Martinez helps productions through the permit process and responds to filmmakers to coordinate available locations.

“If we give them an answer very quickly, that means the difference between the production landing in Orange County or another county,” she said.

Martinez views lists of developing productions each week to see if sites in Orange County may be used as a location. She sends out “location-of-the-month” newsletters, creates location databases and sends producers location packages.

“Even if I don’t find them locations for that particular show or film, usually their experience with us is so great that they want to come back,” Martinez said.

Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus described the film office as the “front door” for any production interested in filming in Orange County. He added that the county’s economy benefits when talent and crew spend money in restaurants, catering halls and hotels.

“We already have the pre-determined locations. We already have established relationships,” he said. “It makes it a lot easier for anyone who is scouting and coming to look for a location.”

Filmmakers in Orange County can also take advantage of the New York State Film Tax Credit Program. The program offers commercial production tax credits with as much as 40 percent on labor and 35 percent on qualifying post-production projects.

“The tax incentive makes us very competitive and appealing to any of these big film crews,” Neuhaus said.

Umbra, one of the certified soundstages in Orange County, is co-managed by Summer Crockett Moore and Tony Glazer, who both serve as managing partners of Choice Films, a production company. Choice Films moved its base to Orange County from New York City.

Crockett Moore, who is also an actor and producer, has filmed all over the country and said she discovered filmmaking in Orange County when she searched online for a place close to Manhattan that offered the 40 percent tax credit.

“I feel that the infrastructure and all the support in the local community just helps us reach so much further than we were able to in Manhattan,” she said.

Umbra Soundstages has two soundproof main stages. The facilities include a 6,000 square-foot scenic shop for constructing sets on-site. The space includes a cafeteria, dressing rooms, wardrobe rooms, costume shops, production office space and ample parking.

Glazer, a writer, director and producer, said Orange County offers filmmakers a wide variety of locations, a crew base, lodging and catering options to accommodate a crew. Martinez works with Crockett Moore and Glazer to create a tag-team relationship to bring filmmakers to Orange County.

“The Orange County Film Office is a godsend for us,” Crockett Moore said. “The film office is the first call I make when I learn that a project wants to come here.”

Crockett Moore and Glazer described a collaborative effort in the county among production companies, the film office, and the local government.

“The county at large… has been incredibly accommodating and just really open to sort of tailoring each film production’s film experience to what they need,” Glazer said.

The accommodations extend beyond the services of the film office. County residents become engaged when a film production is in their community.

“There’s something about a downtown when they know there’s a film being filmed there and there seems to be magic in the air,” Dana said.

Crockett Moore said when it is easy to film somewhere, the “domino effect gets out and word gets out very quickly.”

“More people are talking to each other about how far your dollar can go in Orange County and how easy it is to work here,” she said. “I think this explosion, this film bubble that we’re seeing is only going to continue to grow.”

![Image](photo.jpg)
The NACo 2020 Legislative Conference features over 25 workshops on critical county issues. Featuring engaging speakers, interactive panels and an emphasis on practical, actionable advice from county officials, thought leaders, federal officials and more, you’ll find workshops on:

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REGISTER NOW!
Nearly three months after the start of FY 2020, President Trump signed into law a sweeping two-part spending deal last month to fund the federal government through Sept. 30. Combined, the two bills (H.R. 165 and H.R. 1158) total approximately $1.37 trillion and represent the highest level of appropriations funding for the federal government in nearly a decade.

As passed, the spending agreement includes several key wins for county governments, including full funding for the Payments-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program and new investments in disaster relief, election security and opioid response efforts. The bill also includes multiple tax policy changes, extends key safety-net programs and makes a legislative fix for counties implementing child welfare reforms.

On Dec. 24, NACo released a comprehensive analysis of the FY 2020 spending package and funding for programs important to counties, and key highlights are outlined below.

**Disaster relief**

The spending agreement extends the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through September 2020 to provide Congress additional time to negotiate a longer-term reauthorization bill for the program. A key county priority for disaster recovery, NFIP provides flood insurance coverage to homes and businesses in more than 90 percent of counties throughout the country. The program has operated under a series of short-term extensions since 2013.

In addition to extending NFIP, the FY 2020 omnibus makes additional investments in disaster recovery resources important to states and localities, including a $5.2 billion increase for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). State and local governments that have declared states of emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act can tap DRF funds to respond to natural disasters.

The legislation also boosts funding for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) to $355 million in FY 2020 – the first funding increase in a decade. A long-standing county priority, EMPG helps support disaster prevention, protection and mitigation efforts at the local level.

**Election security**

As federal, state and local governments look ahead to the 2020 election, the FY 2020 omnibus makes critical new investments in election security activities.

For FY 2020, the spending package provides $425 million through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to states for election security improve-ments, with an emphasis on developing best practices in cybersecurity. The bill also requires a 20-cents-on-the-dollar match by states that receive election security money — an increase from the 5 percent match required under the FY 2019 omnibus.

In addition to the $425 million, the legislation increases base funding for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to $15.1 million in FY 2020. The EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing guidance to help jurisdictions, including counties, meet requirements established under the HAVA legislation.

**Repeal of the “Cadillac Tax”**

The FY 2020 spending bill includes a full and permanent repeal of the 40 percent excise tax — known as the “Cadillac Tax” — on employer-sponsored health insurance plans. Annually, counties provide benefits — including health insurance — to nearly 3.6 million employees nationwide. By including a full and permanent repeal, counties will now have the budget certainty to know the health insurance benefits we offer employees will not be taxed.

**Opioid response efforts**

The FY 2020 omnibus makes new investments in key health care programs important to counties, with special emphasis on opioid response efforts.

The legislation boosts funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from $8 billion for FY 2020, a more-than-$600 million increase above the FY 2019 level. CDC provides federal funding for approximately 2,800 local public health departments — two-thirds of which are county-based — and supports preparedness and response activities, chronic disease prevention and a range of public health programs.

Of this total, $475 million is included for opioid overdose research, efforts to enhance states’ addiction prevention activities and a directive for federal agencies to collaborate on education and training for medical providers on the frontlines of the opioid epidemic.

Important to county behavioral health authorities, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) receives $5.9 billion for FY 2020 and includes funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block grant and the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) block grant. Both grants support county efforts to address substance use disorders in our communities. The legislation also allocates $1.5 billion in FY 2020 for the Opioid State Target Response (OSTR) grant, first created under the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255).

**Safety-net programs**

In addition to major new investments in health and human services programs, the omnibus includes funding extensions for health safety-net programs important to counties.

The spending bill extends funding for Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospita- l (DISH) payments through May 22, 2020. Medicaid DISH payments help local hospita l s treating disproportionate shares of low-income and uninsured patients make up for uncompensated care costs.

Key community health programs are also extended through May 22, 2020, including the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Community Health Centers (CHC). The NHSC program, which is level-funded at the FY 2019 level of $310 million, provides financial and other support to primary care providers in exchanges for their service in underserved communities. Like NHSC, Community Health Centers (CHC) are also level-funded through May 2020. Approximately 1,200 CHCs provide primary health services for over 25 million people in counties across the country, primarily in underserved areas.

**PILT, SRS**

The Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is fully funded for FY 2020, receiving $515 million. PILT is a major legislative priority for public lands counties and helps offset costs for service delivery in counties that are not able to collect property taxes on federal lands.

The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program is reauthorized for two years — 2019 and 2020 — under the spending agreement. Across the country, 720 federal forest counties and 9 million school children depend on these payments to make up for lost timber revenues from federal public lands. SRS payments keep teachers in the classroom, police officers on the beat and road crews working to construct and maintain county infrastructure.

Reauthorization of SRS has long been a top priority for counties until we can fully transition local economies and implement productive forest management practices.

**Next steps on federal funding**

With FY 2020 spending bills complete, Congress and the White House are now looking ahead to the FY 2021 appropriations cycle. To kick off this process, the White House is expected to release its FY 2021 budget proposal this February, which outlines the administration's spending priorities for programs and services across the federal government.

Once this happens, congressional legislators will begin negotiating appropriations levels for the next fiscal year beginning on Oct. 1, 2020, taking into account prior year spending levels and projections around the national deficit.

The Committee for a Responsible Budget (CRFB) estimates the spending package will add approximately $500 billion to the national debt, as a result of tax policy changes and new funds for disaster relief efforts.

To view NACo’s comprehensive analysis of the FY 2020 omnibus, please visit www.naco.org.

Valerie Brankovic is a legislative associate in NACo’s Government Affairs department.
White House summit explores mental health treatment

by Mary Ann Barton
editor and senior writer

More than 11 million Americans had a serious mental illness last year and one third of those went untreated. “We’re way behind on mental health in our country,” President Trump told an audience of mental health stakeholders, including county officials, at a White House meeting last month.

“My administration is strongly committed to helping Americans suffering from mental illness,” the president said. “We have to take care of our mentally ill.”

About 400,000 of the mentally ill, at any given time, are in prison or jail, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar said. Calling it “one of the most neglected aspects of our healthcare system,” Azar and others discussed ways to meet the challenges of treating the mentally ill.

In Chatham County, Ga., like many counties around the country, about 20 to 25 percent of the jail population suffers from a mental disorder and/or substance abuse, Commissioner Helen Stone told the audience. “The reality of this is very painful.”

“Our sheriffs are not set up to run a mental health hospital,” she said.

“It’s a terrible burden to them. Not to mention the fact that the people who work there are not trained mental health professionals.”

“When someone comes in for an assessment, they may not know what medication they’re on, what medication they need to be on,” she said, “they’re just shooting in the dark and sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn’t.”

Stone told audience members that the county has created a group called “Breaking the Cycle,” patterned on NACo’s Stepping Up initiative. Others considering starting a similar group should ask six basic questions, Stone said:

1. Is our leadership committed?
2. Do we conduct timely screenings and assessments?
3. Do we have baseline data?
4. Have we conducted an inventory of our services?
5. Do we practice policy and funding improvements?
6. Do we track the progress?

Through the NACo task force with the National Sheriffs Association, “we’re trying to call attention to the jail inmate Medicaid exclusion.”

“Here’s the problem: If an inmate is booked into jail, they’re going to lose their rights to Medicaid. These are pre-trial detainees. Why are their rights being stripped before being proven guilty? All it is, is a cost-shift measure... And it’s not right.”

“They can’t get those services reinstated, what do you think is going to happen?” she asked.

“They’re going to be right back. And think of what it’s costing. It needs to be corrected. It’s not fair to the individual, it’s not fair to the taxpayer and it’s certainly not fair to the sheriff!”

Chatham County has created a new diversion center opening in May, she noted, that is especially critical for those who would lose their benefits if they can’t post bail.

“I applaud your center,” fellow panelist Sheriff Ben Wollfinger of Kootenai County, Idaho, said. “We have a 24-hour center, a drop-off center in my county. It’s law-enforcement friendly. We figured in the last quarter we reported, we saved the hospital $500,000.

People who would normally report to the emergency room went to the crisis center. That’s real money.”

Wollfinger also noted the challenges to rural counties of funding mental health professionals for jails.

Of 44 counties in Idaho, there are 36 jails and only two have mental health professionals, he noted. One solution would be to forgive student loans in exchange for having health professionals dedicate time to serving rural counties.

“We need resources in our rural communities,” he said. “Dealing with the mentally ill is a huge, onerous responsibility that we had to take on because nobody else will do it. We’ve got to get our hands around this problem.”

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Capitol Roundup

PERSON COUNTY, N.C.

The Person County seal became the official seal in 1981 after Madeline Eaker, who represented the Person County Historical Society, went before the Person County Board of Commissioners and presented the seal designed by Hal Dickerson, a county native and local resident. The art department at Hunter Publishing produced the seal for the county’s historical society.

The seal represents the agricultural roots of life in Person County as well as its industrial base, education and churches.

Substance abuse

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is accepting applications for $10 million in FY 2020 grants to expand substance abuse treatment capacity in adult treatment drug courts, adult tribal healing to wellness courts or family treatment drug courts. The purpose is to expand treatment services in existing drug courts. Learn more about this opportunity here: https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ta-20-003

Toxic chemicals

The House passed the PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) Action Act of 2019, H.R. 535 Jan. 10. The 12-bill package addresses toxic chemicals known as PFAS. The bill includes language requiring the EPA to consult with local governments while the agency develops rule guidance and orders the EPA to establish a grant program to aid communities affected by PFAS. Read more about it here: https://www.naco.org/blog/us-house-vote-comprehensive-package-address-pfas

Opportunity Zones

The Treasury Department released final rules last month for implementation of the Opportunity Zone program, which encourages private investment and economic development in distressed communities. The new regulations provide clarity for investors and guidelines on how much funding they must provide to receive tax benefits and regulations on development of vacant properties. The rules outline performance metrics to determine whether participants are meeting requirements. Guidelines take effect Feb. 17. For more information, visit: https://www.naco.org/blog/treasury-department-releases-final-regulations-opportunity-zones

Trade agreement

The House passed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act last month to replace NAFTA.

If enacted the trade deal could impact counties including new supports for small and medium-sized enterprises, updates to the rules of origin, intellectual property rules and potential impacts on housing affordability. Read more here: https://www.naco.org/blog/us-house-approves-usmca-trade-agreement-potential-impacts-counties

SALT deduction cap

The House recently passed the Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act, H.R. 5377, which would suspend the $10,000 cap placed on state and local tax (SALT) deductions for 2020 and 2021, in addition to providing relief for married couples filing jointly in 2019 by doubling the cap to $20,000.

For more information, see: https://www.naco.org/blog/us-house-passes-legislation-repeal-salt-deduction-cap-two-years-focus-turns-senate-efforts

Farm labor shortages

The House recently passed the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019 (H.R. 5038). It would provide relief to the agricultural industry’s labor shortage by providing a path to legal status for seasonal and migrant workers, streamlining the hiring process through the H-2A Visa program and increasing the quality and affordability of housing for farm laborers.

For more information, see: https://www.naco.org/blog/us-house-advances-bipartisan-legislation-address-farm-labor-shortages
Leading the Way with a New Framework for Economic and Community Development

by Shanna Ratner

A new approach to economic and community development is emerging. Instead of being about attracting companies that create jobs over which communities have no control, the emerging paradigm is about connecting the underutilized assets of place with market opportunity to grow assets that are owned and controlled by and for the benefit of low-wealth people and places. Assets include eight distinct forms of wealth – social capital, natural capital, political capital, built capital, individual capital, cultural capital, financial capital and intellectual capital. The healthier the stocks of all these forms of wealth the more robust, resilient, and sustainable the economy.

Today we allow our economy to be based on exploitation of some forms of wealth to create others. For example, many firms sacrifice the well-being of workers through excessive productivity demands, unsafe conditions, and/or capricious scheduling for the sake of accruing financial capital. Products are manufactured using processes and inputs that degrade water quality or other aspects of the natural environment. However, we cannot exploit our way to sustainability. Achieving sustainability will require rethinking not only what we produce, but how we produce it. This imperative offers an opportunity to revalue rural, urban and suburban people and resources and engage them in broader regional economies for mutual benefit by thinking and working with systems, not just individual enterprises.

One mechanism with a proven track record for building an inclusive and more sustainable economy from the ground up is the wealth creation value chain. A wealth creation value chain is a set of relationships among the people and businesses whose skills and contributions are essential to produce and utilize a good and/or service. Wealth creation value chains are driven by the self-interests of producers and buyers and generate financial profits while contributing positively to various stocks of wealth. Wealth creation value chains have demand partners (wholesale buyers that have their fingers on the pulse of consumers), transactional partners (businesses that fulfill the functions required to produce and deliver the good or service), and support partners (organizations that make it possible for transactional partners to do business – think insurance, financing, recruitment and training, etc.). Wealth creation value chains operate within systems that often create bottlenecks (inefficiencies), gaps (missing functions), and underutilized resources. Wealth creation value chains, properly conceived and developed, have the proven potential to change the way business is done from the often wasteful, damaging and exclusive economy we experience today to a “new normal.”

There are many opportunities present in our economy right now to improve economic and community outcomes and reduce dependence on subsidies, but they won’t be realized without leadership. Today in most places it is no one’s job to forge the connections based on identified self-interests that are required to explore, pilot, implement and institutionalize wealth creation value chains. Each organization is more concerned with their individual self-interest than they are in understanding the self-interests of others. Our silos keep us from the very relationships that can open new opportunities. Wealth creation value chain coordinators are the lynch pins of this work. Coordinators hold the values of the chain, envision and hold the big picture of what the chain can be when it is built to scale, and facilitate its formation and implementation. Coordinators have the courage to go outside their “comfort zones” to understand what’s possible. Sometimes, though not always, the same organization that takes on coordination also serves a function as a transactional partner in the chain. Coordinators can come from the public, private or non-profit sectors, but will only be effective when the leadership of their organization understands that a wealth creation value chain is not a “project” of any single organization; it is a systems change endeavor with shared benefits and shared responsibilities. Coordinators are not single individuals; they are organizations with the capacity to engage more than one staff person in the work.

As Ryan Coffey Hoag, Extension Education at Michigan State University wrote of his experience co-coordinating a wealth creation value chain in the tourism sector, “The wealth creation value chain has been like a shot of adrenalin, fusing traditional economic development with community development, helping us to focus on various forms of community wealth. It has helped us to identify shared values across our region and engage non-traditional stakeholders, which have led to the development of additional chainlets. Our success implementing the wealth creation value chain has led us to integrate its framework into other systems change initiatives across our county, including the delivery of economic development services. This approach has helped us capitalize on the various forms of wealth across our region while empowering non-traditional stakeholders throughout the process.”

County leadership can be instrumental in adopting the wealth creation framework and providing training and encouragement for wealth creation value chain coordinators in multiple sectors. NACO can be a terrific vehicle for shared learning across the country that will allow us to accelerate the transformation toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

County Tests Online Child Abuse Reports

**PROBLEM:**
The Child Protection Hotline in Los Angeles County receives a large number of both urgent and non-urgent calls.

**SOLUTION:**
Establish an electronic child abuse reporting system to efficiently handle increased call volume and filter non-urgent calls.

In Los Angeles County, a pilot program has combined technology with traditional methods to improve the efficiency of reporting child abuse cases.

The Child Abuse Reporting Electronic System (CARES) is an automated, online reporting system for non-urgent suspected child abuse or neglect. The system aims to meet the increasing number of calls reported to Los Angeles County’s Department of Children and Family Services’ (DCFS) Child Protection Hotline.

“This is 2019, where technology is so phenomenal,” said Carlos Torres, acting division chief for the Child Protection Hotline. “That was the rationale — let’s give people the ability to use technology to make these reports.”

The county implemented CARES in November 2017 after then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed a Senate bill into law allowing counties to test the concept of an internet-based reporting system.

Los Angeles County’s already-existing Business Information Systems division within the DCFS built the online system, according to Gary Burks, assistant regional administrator with the Child Protection Hotline. Los Angeles County is the only county in the state to pilot online reporting.

The selected group of mandated reporters includes county employees from DCFS, the Department of Mental Health, Probation, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Health Services and Public Health, school personnel, law enforcement agencies, medical professionals, the coroner and mental health clinicians. The CARES system allows users to save drafts of reports, use auto-save functions, view report history and receive confirmation emails after filing reports.

CARES expedites the process for non-urgent child abuse reporting, Burks said. The system decreases wait times for mandated reporters when making calls to the Child Protection Hotline, reduces call volume and allows social workers to focus on urgent calls. Additionally, mandated reporters who complete an online report rather than make a phone call are not required to submit a written follow-up report.

Burks explained how mandated reporters can complete reports at home because the system is accessible 24/7 online. If an online report is not completed within 24 hours, users receive reminder emails prompting them to complete the report within 48 hours.

“It’s a user-friendly system,” Burks said. “You need very little training to utilize the system.”

With more than 10 million residents in Los Angeles County, the Child Protection Hotline received over 225,000 calls in 2018, making it difficult for social workers to handle the call volume. Before the implementation of the online pilot, Burks said the majority of child abuse reports were made via calls to the hotline.

To ensure the system is for non-urgent reports only, CARES users are prompted to fill out a standardized safety assessment of 10 qualifying questions that redirect the reporter to file a report by calling the hotline if a situation is deemed urgent.

“We wanted to make sure that it was safe, that it was going to benefit our families, that it was going to save children’s lives, save our staff time and save the callers time,” Torres said.

Once an online report is completed, it is reviewed by Child Protection Hotline staff who select an outcome for each report which is then reviewed by a supervisor. These results are automatically emailed to the mandated reporter who filed the report online.

Torres said the numbers of online reports and CARES users are increasing. Burks added that other mandated reporters who are not in the designated group for the pilot are asking when they will have the option to use the online system.

Additionally, there has been a steady increase of online reports submitted since the project launched. Between the launch in November 2017 and November 2019, over 7,500 online reports have been submitted. In November 2019, over 600 online reports were submitted through CARES.

“These folks are able to use technology to get us the information, therefore freeing up the lines for other people who are actually making urgent calls, so it is basically changing the law to allow technology to better serve kids and families,” Torres said.

The CARES platform incurred no costs because it was established using the department’s in-house staff. The project required an independent evaluator to assess the outcomes of the system. The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) was selected as the evaluator and funded by Los Angeles County.

Burks said the Senate Bill is made permanent, all mandated reporters will be able to use the system.

“We’re hoping of course to make it part of actual law, no longer a pilot but it will be actual law,” Torres said.

The pilot ends next year.

“We’ve seen tremendous changes since we’ve implemented the online system,” Burks said. “It is worth having.”

Los Angeles County’s Child Abuse Reporting Electronic System (CARES) is the recipient of a 2019 NACo Achievement Award in the County Administration and Management category.
Welcome, Clarendon County, S.C.

Clarendon County is located in east central South Carolina and is named after Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon in England. The first settlers in the county were French Protestants who fled France to avoid persecution. The county seat, Manning, was initially chartered in 1861. It is the geographical center of the county and was named after John Laurence Manning, a former governor of South Carolina. The county includes areas of swampland such as Woods Bay State Park in the northern part of the county which is a swampy bay area where visitors can spot alligators. Lake Marion, the largest lake in South Carolina, borders the county on its southwest side and generates hydroelectric power. The Santee National Wildlife Refuge on Lake Marion is a popular spot for fishing.

The county has produced five governors of South Carolina. Peggy Parish, the author of the “Amelia Bedelia” series of children’s books, was born in Clarendon County.

Number of years involved in NACo: 11
Years in public service: Twenty in the U.S. Army and 20 in county government
Occupation: County Development director and emergency manager
Education: MS in Geography from South Dakota State University

The hardest thing I’ve ever done is: Retire from the U.S. Army
Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner: My grandfather, my father and President Harry Truman
You’d be surprised to learn that: I have a traveling Korean War exhibit.
I’m most proud of: My two sons.

Every morning I read: Stars and Stripes newspaper, the digital edition.
My favorite meal is: Fried chicken
My motto is: “Show me.” I am originally from Missouri, so it works.
The last book I read was: For Country and Corps: The Life of General Oliver P. Smith

The most adventurous thing I’ve ever done is: Climb halfway up Mount Fuji in Japan.
ARIZONA

- The statewide 2015 Alabama Prison Reform Act, which reduced crowding in state prisons by relocating inmates to county jails, has led to an increase in costs for counties, according to a report from the ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONS OF ALABAMA (ACCA). The number of state inmates in county jails has tripled since 2014. Costs have increased by $64 million since 2014 for operating the jails, according to the report. “Counties must seek relief from these growing costs,” ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield said. “Because the solution to the state’s prison crisis cannot again be to push more inmates down to the local level.”

COLORADO

- Farmers, producers, nonprofits, businesses and local governments in BOULDER COUNTY are getting paid to create environmental sustainability projects on agricultural lands. The county’s grant program uses revenue from a sustainability tax approved by voters, according to the Daily Camera. Projects must relate to specific topics including regenerative agriculture, farm and farmer’s market infrastructure and sustainable local food, among others. Grants will range in amounts and county residents can apply online.

NEW YORK

- With the announcement of $9 million in state funding, the nation’s largest indoor drone testing site could be operational by the end of 2020. The “sky dome” will be a 55,000-square-foot facility in the east bay of a hangar at ONEIDA COUNTY-owned Griffiss International Airport, the Utica Observer-Dispatch reported. The sky dome will support safe experimentation of drone technology and techniques that will help with applications such as emergency management services, damage assessment and recovery search and rescue.

FLORIDA

- PALM BEACH COUNTY’s Victim Services Green Dot Program is aiming to prevent violence by encouraging individuals to speak out if they see violent acts, WPEC reported. The goal of the program is to prevent violence before it occurs. Palm Beach County has seen an overall decrease in cases since the program launched three years ago and is working to renew the effort by using billboards and bus advertising.

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MINNESOTA
A county-branded bus in CARVER COUNTY is telling the county’s story by showcasing key features of the county. The outside of the bus features county parks, its ranking as the nation’s happiest county and its ranking as one of the top 10 healthiest counties in the country. The county partnered with South-West Transit, the public transit agency in the area, and the county’s Community Development Agency to create the branding on the bus.

MONTANA
MISSOULA COUNTY is allowing county residents to title and register their vehicles online. The goal of the program is to reduce wait times in the Treasurer’s Office where lines previously could take several hours, KPAX reported. Drivers can now complete and sign documents electronically. Once county residents pay invoices that are sent through email or text messages, the county will mail the plates.

NEW YORK
• When the Tooth Fairy leaves some money under a pillow in ONONDAGA COUNTY, the tooth’s owner might want to save a little bit to plan for someday retiring the bed. The county’s Resource Recovery Agency has added a $15 charge for mattress removal because they are hard to bury in landfills or chop up.

OREGON
LANE COUNTY is hoping to boost its recycling rate by targeting apartment buildings and condo complexes. In addition to offering signs and informational materials to multi-family housing units, the county is surveying landlords and property managers on how the county can help boost recycling numbers, The Register Guard reported.

Pennsylvania
After a stretch of six consecutive days in December 2019 when particulate matter levels rose above federal standards, ALLEGHENY COUNTY is planning new air quality regulations and upgrades to its weather forecasting tools. A temperature inversion and light wind, coupled with a lack of wind, left a thick layer of smog along the Monongahela River over Christmas, which expanded throughout the Pittsburgh metropolitan area. The new policies may change the emission mitigation requirements for industry during weather-related pollution episodes. The health department’s goal is to have emission reduction plans in place that could be implemented within 24 hours’ notice from the health department, The Tribune Review reported.

TEXAS
The HARRIS COUNTY Commissioners Court members created a commission to advise the county on how to preserve African-American culture and heritage. Though the plan is pending formal review by the county attorney, commissioners and supporters expressed hope the commission could help protect sites important to local African-American history, such as cemeteries and churches, and preserve the character of historically black neighborhoods at risk of gentrification. The commission could also help expedite the creation of memorials and commemorative signage, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Utah
SALT LAKE COUNTY Mayor Jenny Wilson has required federal background checks for anyone buying a firearm at the Mountain America Expo Center or any county-owned facility. Although state code prohibits cities and counties from imposing any regulations on the ownership, possession, purchase, transfer or transport of a gun, Wilson said the policy change is within the county’s purview the owner and operator of facilities and the county’s legal counsel has approved, the Salt Lake Tribune reported.

• Voters in UTAH COUNTY will have a chance to change their form of government this Election Day, when they vote on a mayor-council form of government. The new form of government plan establishes an elected county executive in the form of a county mayor and five elected county council members from respective geographical districts, The Times-Independent reported.

Wisconsin
The DANE COUNTY Health Department approved a position statement calling for an end to the state’s personal conviction waiver, which allows unvaccinated children to attend school. County health officials recommend that only medically necessary waivers be granted and if there is an outbreak, unvaccinated children should be excluded from school and other extracurricular activities like sports, Wisconsin Public Radio reported.

News from Across the Nation is compiled by Charlie Ban and Rachel Looker. If your county has an item to consider, please contact cban@naco.org or rlooker@naco.org.
Today is Jan. 20, 2020. In the blur of the recent December holidays and in the shadow of greetings of Happy New Year, it may take a moment to recall why today is a day on which people should greet one another with profound gratitude and appreciation.

This year, Jan. 20 marks Martin Luther King Jr. Day, also known as Civil Rights Day. The youngest person to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. advocated for civil rights, equality and dignity for African Americans; he spoke out against injustice, oppression and poverty, inspiring countless others to stand with him or, in the decades since his assassination, to follow in his footsteps.

Many of Dr. King’s quotes are dedicated to service. This Jan. 20, 2020 is the 25th anniversary of MLK Day as a Day of Service, a call to action with the motto “Make it a day on, not a day off.”

Often the best way to celebrate the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. than to serve others, making our neighbors and communities stronger for all.

As public servants, we work each day to make our communities stronger, answering Dr. King’s proposition, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others.” And while there are many, many ways that we in county government demonstrate our dedication to citizens and public service, let us be inspired by the dedication of Community Services, Health and Human Services, and Community Action Agency employees, as they work to eradicate poverty and strengthen communities through racial equity work.

According to communityactionpartnership.com, the vision of Community Action Partnership is “A nation that creates opportunities for all people to thrive, builds strong, resilient communities, and ensures a more equitable society.”

Dr. King said, “All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

In our public service, we may be serving citizens directly or we may be indirectly serving citizens. Regardless of the nature of your public service profession, we are all able to find joy, purpose and reward through volunteering and service.

After the November and December seasons of thankfulness, take January to channel that energy into action for others. Grab a colleague or a family member and volunteer after work, during a lunch break or on a day off. Make that a recurring commitment and it will become part of your routine. There are so many charities that may align with your passion to serve as well as your strengths and interests. The reward of volunteering is much greater than the commitment of time and you are certain to make new friends as you engage in volunteerism. As Dr. King stated, “The time is always right to do what is right.”

Within your organization, at the beginning of a new learning academy or training cohort, ask each participant if they would like to use their lunch hour to complete a volunteer service project. Forming a new team or have a new member of a well-established team? Working together side by side, serving others, reduces stress, allows individuals to focus external-ly and reminds them of their blessings. It creates a bond or shared experience between those working together. Volunteering with colleagues levels the hierarchy of positions and allows openness to learning about each other on an individual level.

Don’t have the flexibility of a lunch service project and limited by afterwork availability? Hold a winter coat drive, a canned food drive, adopt a senior or send letters to our military troops. If you are coordinating a volunteering effort with work colleagues, remember it is best practice to make the volunteering opportunity 100 percent voluntary and not mandatory, and not connected to any partisan or religious group. Dr. King said, “Everybody can be great because greatness is determined by service.”

Want some inspiration to create something bigger and ongoing? Be inspired by children who have heard the call to help and are making a huge difference in their communities. Alex’s Lemonade Foundation was started by Alex Scott when she was four years old to find a cure for childhood cancer. Alex passed at the age of eight, but her foundation continues to make a difference for children with cancer today and features childhood cancer heroes on their website, alexlemonade.org. Kids Saving the Rainforest was created by two nine-year old kids in 1999 and operates a wildlife sanctuary and rescue center in Costa Rica, kidsavingtherainforest.org. Dr. King said, “Anybody can serve… you only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, please take a minute to plan or coordinate a service activity for yourself, your family, your friends or your team. Then take another moment to watch Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream,” “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” or Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, all of which can easily be found online. Be inspired to dedicate your time to others, to make someone’s day brighter, and to improve your community for each person, one person at a time.

Our work makes our communities stronger each day, but not all of us are in a job where we get to see the impacts of that work on each family. Volunteering gives us that opportunity. Dr. King said, “Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but because greatness is determined by service.” With great joy we wish you a Happy Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

Erika Philpot is the human resources director and Rose Winkeler is the deputy county attorney for Coconino County, Ariz.

A Day On, Not a Day Off: A Day of Service