THE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

UPDATED MARCH 2022
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PART ONE
COUNTIES AND THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET
COUNTIES ARE FRONT LINE SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Counties invest heavily in residents’ health and well-being, often serving as the ultimate safety net for low-income residents
- Many states mandate county delivery of human services and indigent care
- County leaders are committed to breaking cycles of poverty and helping vulnerable residents thrive
COUNTIES CARE FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS:

- Combating homelessness
- Preventing child abuse and neglect
- Supporting early childhood development
- Combating food insecurity
- Fighting multigenerational poverty
- Assisting elderly residents
- Providing workforce development services
- Investing in education
Many federal safety net programs are delivered through a partnership between the federal government and states. Certain states further delegate administration of federal human services programs to counties.

County administration differs by program and can include a range of responsibilities.
COUNTY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION CAN INCLUDE:

- Contributing administrative dollars
- Eligibility determinations
- Delivering services or contracting with providers
- Determining how to spend program funds
- Enrolling program participants
- Setting eligibility requirements
- Meeting reporting and paperwork requirements
- Contributing to Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements
THE COUNTY INVESTMENT IN HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

- The role of counties varies widely from state to state, but human services and education expenditures are among the largest parts of county budgets.
- Each year, counties invest $62.8 billion in federal, state and local resources to provide safety net services for millions of residents.
- Counties invest $103 billion in elementary, secondary and post-secondary education each year.
- There are over 259,000 county human services employees across the country delivering vital services to our nation’s most vulnerable populations.
PART TWO
THE COUNTY ROLE IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS BY AGENCY
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

COUNTIES ADMINISTER SNAP IN 10 STATES

- California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Virginia, and Wisconsin
- Account for **32 percent** of total participants
- Represented **$18.6 billion** in SNAP benefits in FY 2019
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY ROLE IN SNAP
SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMS

COUNTIES PARTIALLY OR FULLY FUND K-12 SCHOOLS IN 5 STATES

- Alaska, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia
- Represented **18.2 percent** of school lunch participants in 2019
- Represented **10.1 percent** of school breakfast participants in 2019
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)

STATE AGENCIES ADMINISTER WIC THROUGH 1,900 LOCAL AGENCIES IN 10,000 CLINIC SITES

- Nearly **50 percent** local agencies function as part of local government, including counties
- Clinic cites also include county health departments and other county sites

LOCAL WIC AGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service, National Survey of WIC Participants III
SUMMER MEALS PROGRAMS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES REPRESENT 3 PERCENT OF ALL SUMMER MEAL SITE SPONSORS

- An estimated 7,362 sponsors provide summer meals at 68,321 sites across the country
- School food authorities, which are funded by county governments in 5 states, are the most common summer meal sponsors

Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service, USDA Summer Meals Study Volume 2. Sponsor and Site Operational Characteristics, 2018
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

COUNTIES PARTIALLY OR FULLY FUND K-12 SCHOOLS IN 5 STATES

- Alaska, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia
- Each year, counties invest $94.1 billion dollars in K-12 education
- Even in states where counties are not responsible for funding school districts, we share a common tax base and often provide complementary services to participating children
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- **Maryland**: Elected (or appointed by Governor) county school board with funding provided by county board

- **Tennessee**: Elected county school board with funding provided by county board (there are also certain municipally-funded, dependent school districts within cities)

- **Virginia**: Appointed county school board with funding provided by county board or appointed city school board with funding provided by city council

- **North Carolina**: Elected county school boards. Counties are charged with building, equipping, and maintaining school facilities while the state is charged with funding school operations. However, counties often contribute to operating funds

- **Alaska**: Elected borough and city school boards, depend on borough and city governments for funding, respectively
HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

LOCAL APPROPRIATIONS PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN 24 STATES

- Counties invest **$8.6 billion** in higher education each year
- Counties also invest in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and workforce development in partnership with community colleges

SHARE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE REVENUE FROM LOCAL APPROPRIATIONS

Data: Center for American Progress, Tapping Local Support To Strengthen Community Colleges
COUNTY EXPENDITURES ON ALL EDUCATION, 2017
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

COUNTIES ADMINISTER TANF IN 9 STATES

- California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, and Virginia
- Represent 55 percent of total program participants
- Accounted for $14.4 billion (45.6 percent) in federal, state and local TANF expenditures in FY 2020*

*Including TANF funds transferred to CCDF and SSBG
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY ROLE IN TANF
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF)

COUNTIES ADMINISTER CCDF IN 8 STATES

- Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin
- Represent roughly 19 percent of children served on an average monthly basis
- Accounted for $2.5 billion (24 percent) of total federal, state and local CCDF expenditures in FY 2019
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY ROLE IN CHILD CARE

2022 POLICY BRIEF

SUPPORT THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF)

ACTION NEEDED:
Sign your members of Congress to increase resources under the mandatory and discretionary titles Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

BACKGROUND:
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) administers CCDF, the federal government’s funding source for child care subsidies to help eligible low-income families access child care and improve the quality of child care for all children. Fund reauthorized in 2014, CCDF is comprised of both a mandatory component (subject to the annual appropriations process), the Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES), and a discretionary portion, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which Congress must fund every fiscal year. In FY 2021, CCDBG received $8.4 billion and CCDF received $12.3 billion for a total of $20.7 billion in CCDF funding.

Subsidized child care services under CCDF are available to eligible families through certificates (incentives) or grants and contracts with providers. States have discretion to set income eligibility at or below 85 percent of State Median Income (SMI), setting the maximum age for children at or below 12 years, or at or below 18 years if children have special needs and defining the activities that qualify a family for assistance (work, education, etc.). County governments are responsible for administering CCDF in at least eight states, according to the most recent available state plans. Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Virginia and Washington, in FY 2018, these eight states together invested more than $2 billion in federal, state and local funds in the CCDF program, accounting for more than a fifth of the national total. The scope of the county role in administering CCDF varies but means that county governments in those states may set policy related to eligibility, fixing fee scales, and payment rates as we as perform eligibility determinations, issue provider payments,
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SSBG)

COUNTIES ADMINISTER SSBG IN 9 STATES

- Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin
- Represent 28.9 percent of total recipients
- Accounted for $394.6 million (24.6 percent) of total federal funding in FY 2020
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY ROLE IN SSBG

SUPPORT THE SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SSBG)

ACTION NEEDED:
 urge your Members of Congress to increase the funding cap for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).

BACKGROUND:
 SSBG provides funding to states to support a wide range of social services for vulnerable children, adults, and families. Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the program is a capped entitlement to states with no matching requirement, meaning Congress sets funding levels for the program each year. The grant program's purpose is to improve the welfare of children and families by enabling states and local communities to meet their unique needs. Since the program's inception in 1972, SSBG has been subject to sequestration—a reduction in funding that can occur when Congress cannot agree on budget deficits. However, this year, Congress enacted an appropriation that restored the program's funding level. While this is a positive step, states and local communities continue to face significant challenges in providing essential services to vulnerable populations. It is crucial that Congress investment in SSBG to support the well-being of children and families and promote economic stability and social cohesion. Without sufficient funding, many states and localities will struggle to meet the needs of their constituents. States, counties, and localities are encouraged to reach out to their representatives and urge them to support increased funding for SSBG. Click to access resource

The County Human Services and Education Landscape | National Association of Counties | March 2022 | www.NACo.org
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

STATES ADMINISTER CSBG THROUGH 1,000 LOCAL AGENCIES IN 99 PERCENT OF THE NATION’S COUNTIES

- Most CSBG agencies are Community Action Agencies (CAAs)—non-profits that by law must have local government represented on their boards
- 151 local government agencies function as CSBG designee
- CAAs also receive funds from non-profit, state and local governments, and other federal programs

### FUNDING SOURCES FOR CAAs IN FY 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>Share of Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>CSBG</td>
<td>$ 691 M</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Federal Programs</td>
<td>$ 8.78 B</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Sources</td>
<td>$ 1.84 B</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Sources</td>
<td>$ 2.12 B</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sources</td>
<td>$ 1.49 B</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
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Source: National Association for State Community Services Programs FY 18 Community Services Block Grant National Performance Update
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY ROLE IN CSBG
THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

COUNTRIES FULLY OR PARTIALLY ADMINISTER CHILD WELFARE IN
11 STATES

- County administered: California, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia
- Hybrid (county & state): Nevada and Wisconsin
- Represent **33.5 percent** of children served in foster care
LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

COUNTIES OPERATE AS LIHEAP AGENCIES IN 13 STATES

- All county: Colorado, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Virginia
- Hybrid (county and non-profits): Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin
- Represented 37 percent of total federal LIHEAP funding in FY 2020
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT (CSE)

COUNTIES ADMINISTER CSE IN
7 STATES

- County administered: California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio
- Hybrid (state and county): Oregon
- Represented 30 percent of child support collections in FY 2019
HEAD START

1,600 LOCAL AGENCIES OPERATE HEAD START PROGRAMS

- Many county governments serve as Head Start grantees
- Counties also contribute local funds to support/expand Head Start programming

FEDERAL HEAD START FUNDING BY STATE, FY 2019

Data: ACF, Head Start Annual Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State, FY 2019
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY ROLE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Click to access resource
OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA) PROGRAMS

COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED IN OPERATING 54 PERCENT OF THE NATION’S 622 AREA AGENCIES ON AGING (AAAs)

- County governments operate 27 percent of AAAs
- Regional councils, which typically include county governments, operate an additional 27 percent of AAAs

2019 PERCENT 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

The County Human Services and Education Landscape | National Association of Counties | March 2022 | www.NACo.org
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COUNTY ROLE IN OAA PROGRAMS
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS) PROGRAMS

COUNTIES ADMINISTER APS PROGRAMS IN 14 STATES

- State supervised and county administered: Alabama, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Virginia

- County supervised and administered: California, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

- The federal government provides minimal funding for APS programs, meaning counties rely on state and local funding for these responsibilities
COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS (CVSOs)

29 STATES HAVE CVSOs

- CVSOs are largely funded by county dollars
- CVSOs help veterans claim more than $52 billion in federal VA benefits each year
- Often, CVSOs are a veteran’s first point of contact in the community for accessing services.
LEARN MORE ABOUT CVSOs

2022 POLICY BRIEF

AUTHORIZED RESOURCES FOR COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (CVSOs)

ACTION NEEDED:
Urge your members of Congress to pass the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act (H.R. 4602/S. 2405), which would authorize federal funding to expand and strengthen County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs).

BACKGROUND:
CVSOs are local county employees who are nationally accredited by the VA to prepare, process, and prosecute U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims. Often, CVSOs are veterans’ first point of contact in the community for accessing services. CVSOs assist veterans in accessing a range of benefits, including service- connected benefits, enrollment in VA health care, VA home loans, education benefits, and available job placement assistance. Veterans are not always aware of the benefits available to them, and CVSOs are often the first to inform them about their eligibility.

CVSOs operate in 29 states and perform much of the VA’s workload for filing claims in their counties. This relatively small workforce is responsible for successfully processing nearly $66 billion in direct compensation, pension, health care, and other benefits for veterans each year. New qualitative research from the Center for a New American Security finds that disability compensation claims submitted by CVSOs are increasing in number and have a higher rate of success than those submitted by state-level and nonprofit Veteran Service Officers. CVSOs are often the first and most frequent point of contact for veterans, family members, and caregivers as they navigate the complex intergovernmental chain of veteran services and resources.

Through CVSOs’ primary focus is helping veterans navigate the federal benefits system, these offices are currently funded almost entirely by counties, which creates challenges for areas with high demand or counties that serve veterans in rural areas. Local resource constraints can significantly hinder the ability of county governments to expand our CVSO staff and

CVSOs help veterans access their federal VA benefits in 29 states
CVSOs are responsible for successfully processing nearly $66 billion in VA claims each year
CVSOs are funded with county dollars even though they help veterans access their federal benefits
The CVSO Act would authorize $330 million over 5 years to expand CVSOs or similar entities

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE BRIEF

Click to access resource
PART THREE
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
ADDITIONAL NACo RESOURCES

- NACo 2022 Policy Briefs: Human Services and Education
- NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee
- NACo County Explorer
- NACo Veterans and Military Services Committee
- NACo Reports and Toolkits: Human Services
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