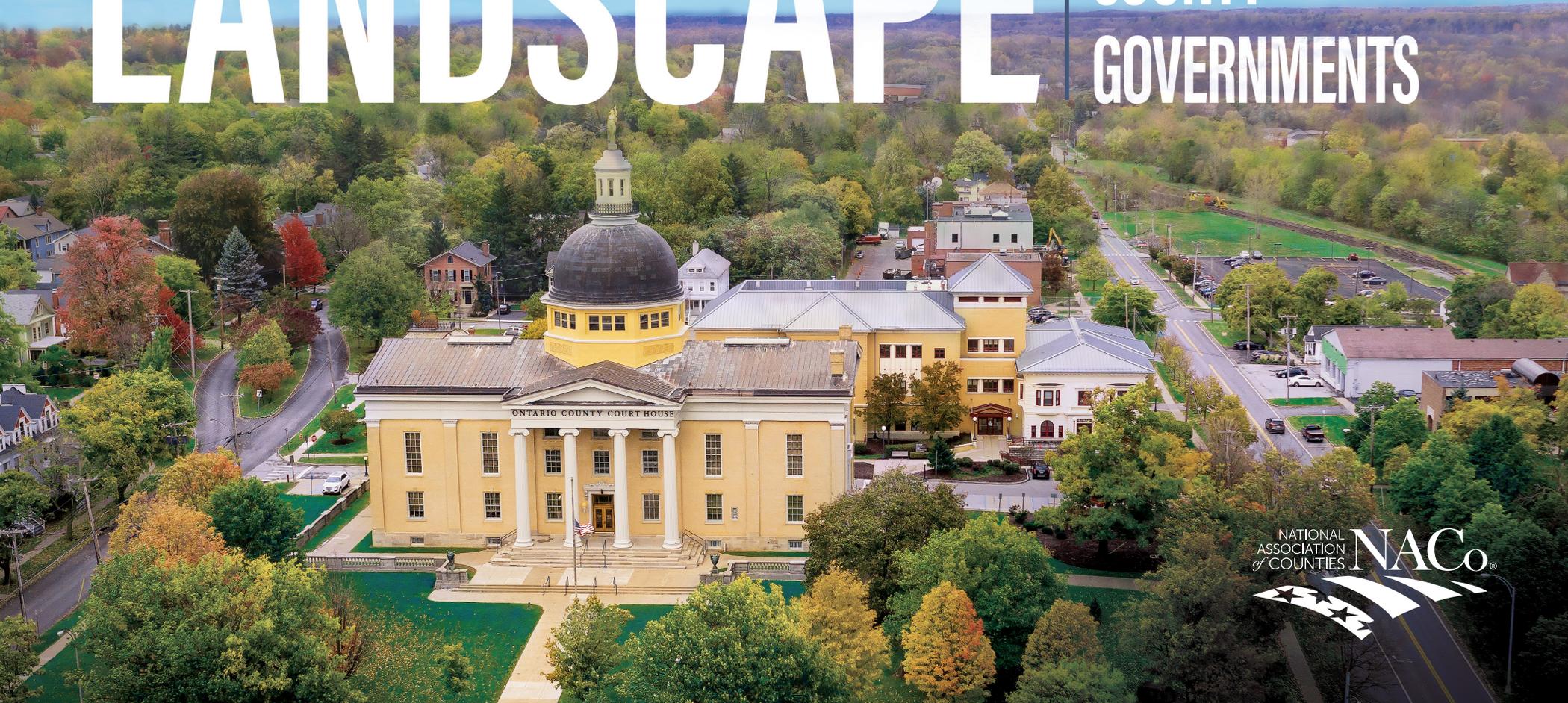


# THE COUNTY LANDSCAPE

ROLES AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
OF AMERICA'S  
COUNTY  
GOVERNMENTS



# AMERICA'S COUNTIES

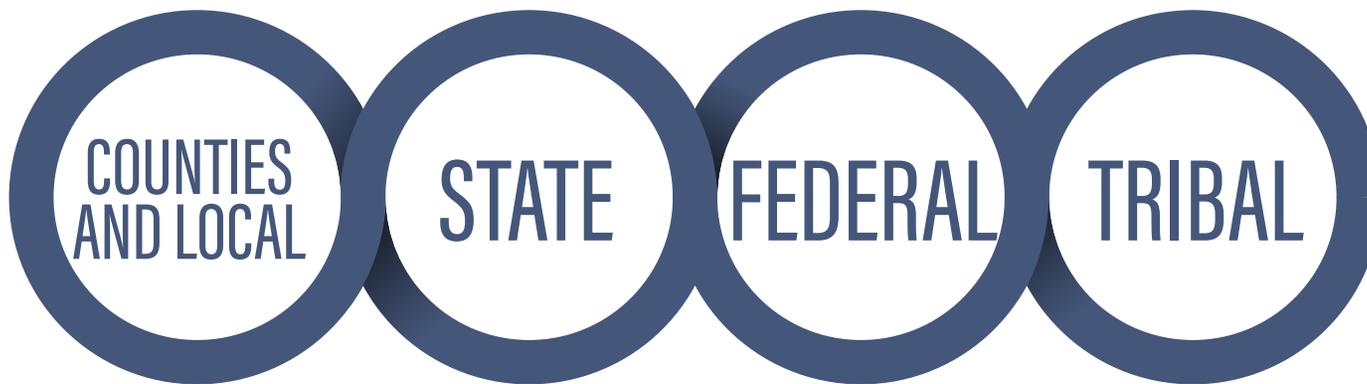
Counties are one of America's original forms of government, dating back to 1634 when the first county governments (shires) were established in Virginia. The organization and structure of today's 3,069 county governments\* are chartered under state constitutions or laws and are tailored to fit the needs and characteristics of the state and local areas.

Counties are governed by locally elected officials, including more than 19,350 county elected executives and board members responsible for counties' budgets, policies and oversight. Additionally, more than 18,500 independently elected officers, often known as constitutional or row officers, provide essential leadership and management of county functions, such as auditors, assessors, clerks, coroners, district attorneys, elections, recorders, sheriffs, treasurers and others.

Though organizational structures vary, all county governments are on the front lines of building healthy, vibrant and safe communities.

# COUNTIES ARE VITAL TO OUR NATION'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

County governments, led by our elected and appointed officials, are instrumental partners in our nation's **intergovernmental system**, which balances, divides and shares power and responsibilities between all levels of government. Counties are uniquely positioned to implement and administer vital intergovernmental systems, facilitate cooperation of all levels of government, and deliver results and impact for our residents and businesses at the community level.



Annually, counties invest over

**\$600  
BILLION**  
in our communities

America's counties employ

**3.6  
MILLION**  
public servants, representing one  
out of every 50 American workers

\* The 3,069 county governments include all counties, parishes in Louisiana and boroughs in Alaska.

Counties are diverse  
in structure and how  
we deliver services  
to our communities,

yet we all share the mission of achieving healthy, safe and vibrant counties for our residents.

# AMERICA'S COUNTIES

Our 3,069 county, parish and borough governments are on the front lines of delivering vital public services to over 300 million residents across the nation. Our locally elected officials operate under different levels of county authority outlined under state law or local charters, which provide counties with structural, functional and fiscal powers.



## COUNTY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

**Assess and collect taxes**, including those for other public entities such as public schools, municipalities and special purpose districts

**Administer elections** through the funding and management of over **100,000 polling places** staffed with over **630,000 poll workers** each election cycle

**Employ more than one in every 50 American workers** to help provide essential community services and facilities, such as parks and recreation, public libraries, public safety, emergency management, and community and economic development



## FEDERAL TO COUNTY NEXUS

Provide mandated **healthcare for low-income, uninsured or indigent residents** in a majority of states

**Manage more than \$514 million in federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes funds** within 1,718 public lands counties, which are critical to services, such as law enforcement, fire protection, and search and rescue

**Invest \$193 million in Secure Rural Schools funding**, critical to counties and schools impacted by the decline in federal revenue sharing from timber harvests on federal public lands

**Oversee and implement Community Development Block Grant funding** to provide affordable housing for renters and homeowners and provide critical public investments in low-income households and neighborhoods

**Administer funds from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** in the ten states that delegate SNAP administration to county agencies

Counties determine the investment of

**\$65.1 billion**

made available in the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to **bolster our nation's local health programs, strengthen our infrastructure system and ensure that crucial human services are available to residents most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**



## CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Own and maintain **45 percent of public road miles** and **38 percent of bridges** which help keep residents physically connected

**Invest \$134 billion in building, maintaining and operating public facilities**, such as courthouses, dams and reservoirs, water purification systems, libraries, ports and sewage treatment facilities

Own or support operations of **more than one-third of public airports** and **40 percent of public transportation systems**



## KEEP AMERICA HEALTHY

Manage and govern **more than 1,900 local public health departments and authorities** which support the health, safety, and prosperity of our communities

Employ **over 391,000 hospital and healthcare workers** and own or support **more than 900 public hospitals** that provide inpatient medical and specialized care

Operate more than **700 long-term care facilities** and more than **750 behavioral health authorities**



## CREATE PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

**Employ 3.6 million public servants** who help provide essential services to over 300 million residents, collectively making us one of the largest employers in the nation

**Invest \$12.8 billion annually in the construction, operation and support of housing and redevelopment projects**, and are key players in community planning, land use, zoning, and enacting policies and other regulations that expand housing access

**Implement local policies and intergovernmental initiatives** that foster economic development, promote residential, commercial and industrial development, and support job creation and business retention



## FOSTER SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

**Invest \$107 billion** annually in justice and public safety, **operate 91 percent of local jails** with over 8 million admissions each year

**Provide essential first responder services** through sherriffs, police departments, constables, 911 operations, firefighters and EMT/EMS professionals

**Engage in all aspects and phases of emergency management:** planning, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. As the regularity and costs of disasters increase, counties are working hard to protect our residents, property, infrastructure systems and local economies

## OUR NATION'S VETERANS



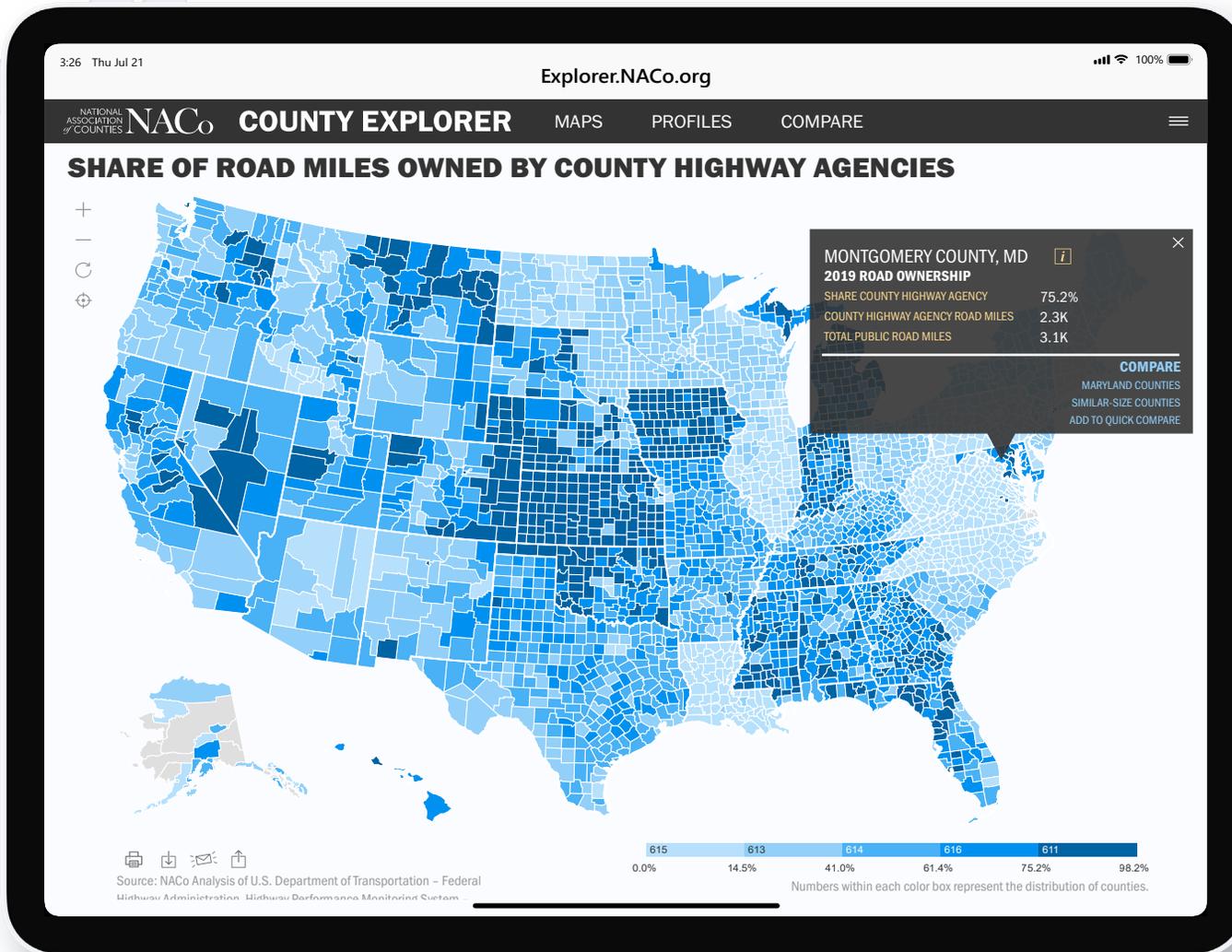
Fund and operate, almost exclusively through local tax revenues, County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) **in 29 states and the District of Columbia**

CVSOs **help veterans claim more than \$52 billion in federal VA benefits** each year

**Are home to more than 17 million veterans**, comprising seven percent of residents living in our counties

## Features:

- Compare counties across 13 categories, over 100 datasets and more than 1,000 data points across local issues, including county economies, transportation and infrastructure, health and public safety
- County and state level data summaries on various topics, including county bridge inventory, housing affordability, Payment in Lieu of Taxes, veterans, etc.
- Interactive legend to explore different trends on data within counties
- User-friendly interface and compatible with mobile devices



### MORE ABOUT COUNTY EXPLORER

NACo's County Explorer tool is the one-stop shop for accessing county-level indicators. With more than 1,000 maps, the interactive tool provides data about counties, states and the nation. Each indicator in County Explorer tells a unique story.

Each map in this report can be found at [explorer.naco.org](http://explorer.naco.org).

Email [research@naco.org](mailto:research@naco.org) for more information and sign up for monthly updates at [www.naco.org/CESignUp](http://www.naco.org/CESignUp).

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# COUNTY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**STRUCTURE AND AUTHORITY**



COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**ADMINISTRATION**

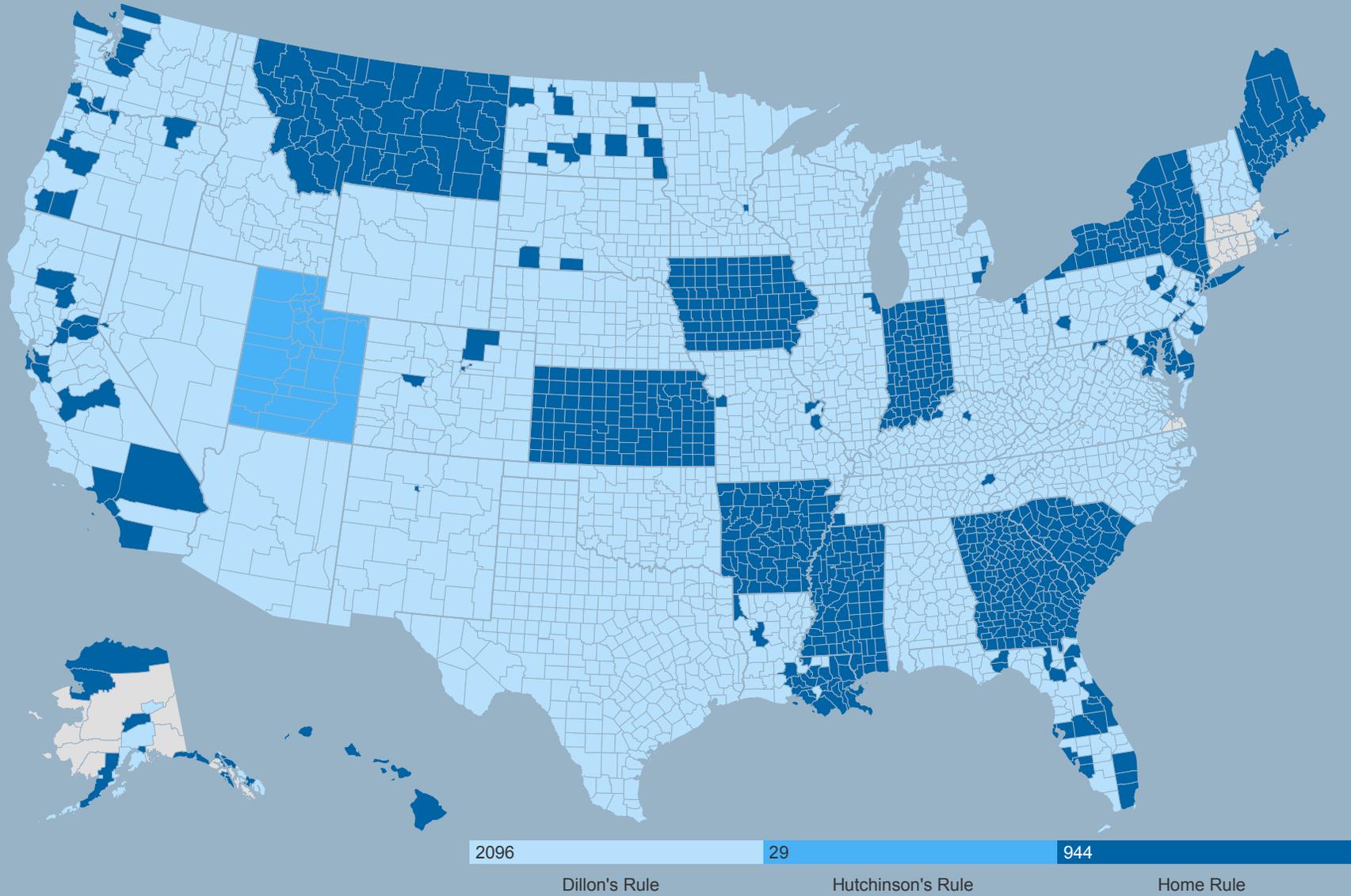


COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**SERVICES**



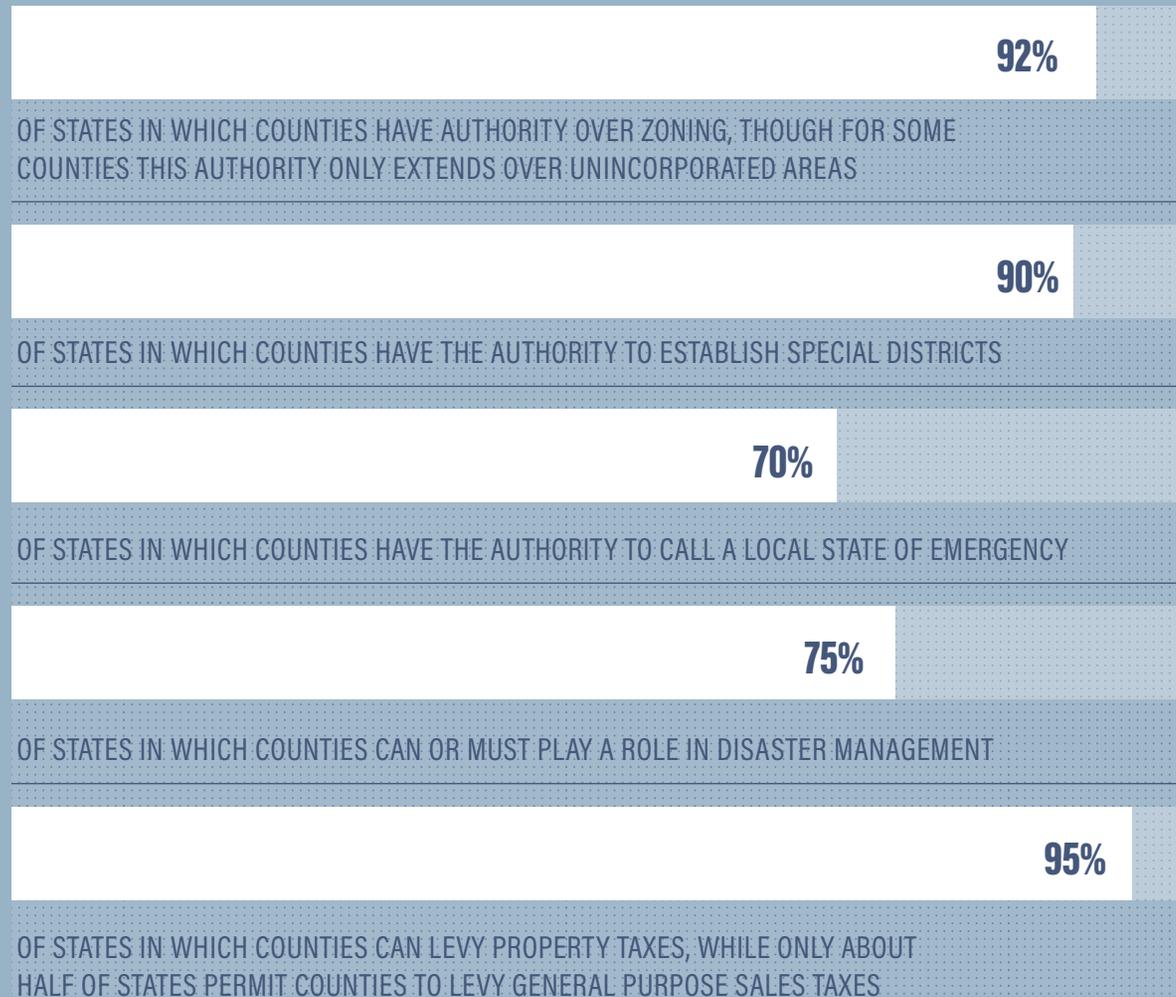
COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**WORKFORCE**

# COUNTY AUTHORITY LEVEL



Under Dillon's Rule authority, counties operate only within areas defined and allowed by state constitution and statute. Under Home Rule authority, counties have the authority to legislate independently from state statute. Source: NACo Research, 2017.

**Almost one-third of counties operate under the Home Rule system of authority,** allowing county governments more flexibility than the alternative Dillon’s Rule with more restrictive state control. While working within these systems, counties provide critical services to our communities, covering many areas, including public health, infrastructure, emergency response and economic development.



County government authority is essential in determining how quickly and effectively counties can respond to the needs of our residents.

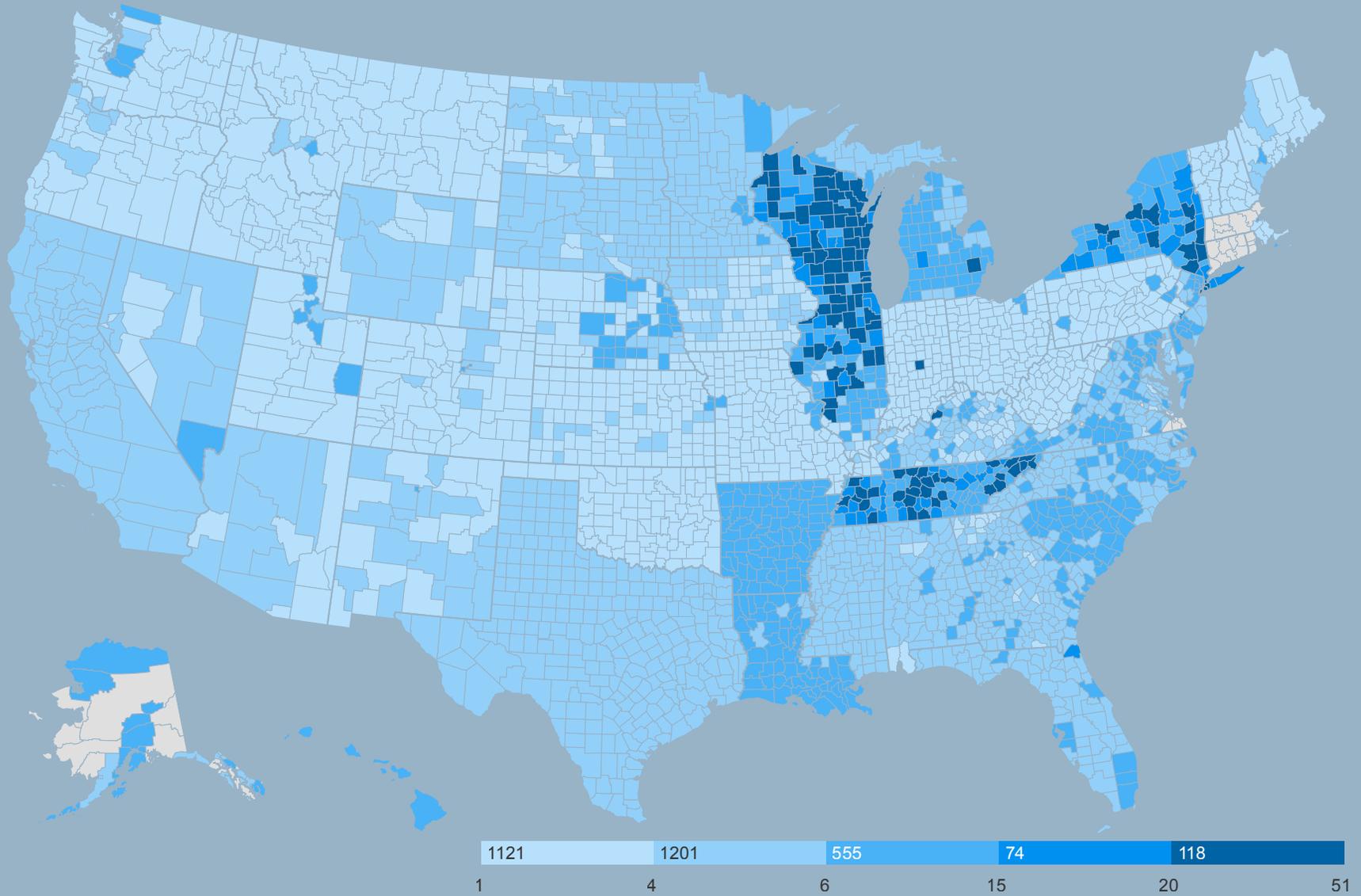
**COUNTIES DERIVE AUTHORITY FROM THE STATE.**

**ON THE GROUND, COUNTY AUTHORITY VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY ACROSS THE STATES.** Ten states, including Washington and North Dakota, have a mix of Dillon’s/Home Rule counties. Other states, like Utah or North Carolina, direct the courts to rule favorably toward counties, greatly expanding county flexibility.

**COUNTY GOVERNMENTS WORK WITHIN STATE-DERIVED AUTHORITY TO GOVERN LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Under **Home Rule** authority, counties have the authority to legislate independently from state statute. Under **Dillon’s Rule** authority, counties operate only within areas defined and allowed by state constitution and statute. **Hutchinson’s Rule** is unique to Utah counties. Utah is essentially a legislative home rule state with respect to county authority. Counties may pass legislation that is not in conflict with provision in state legislature.

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: SIZE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY

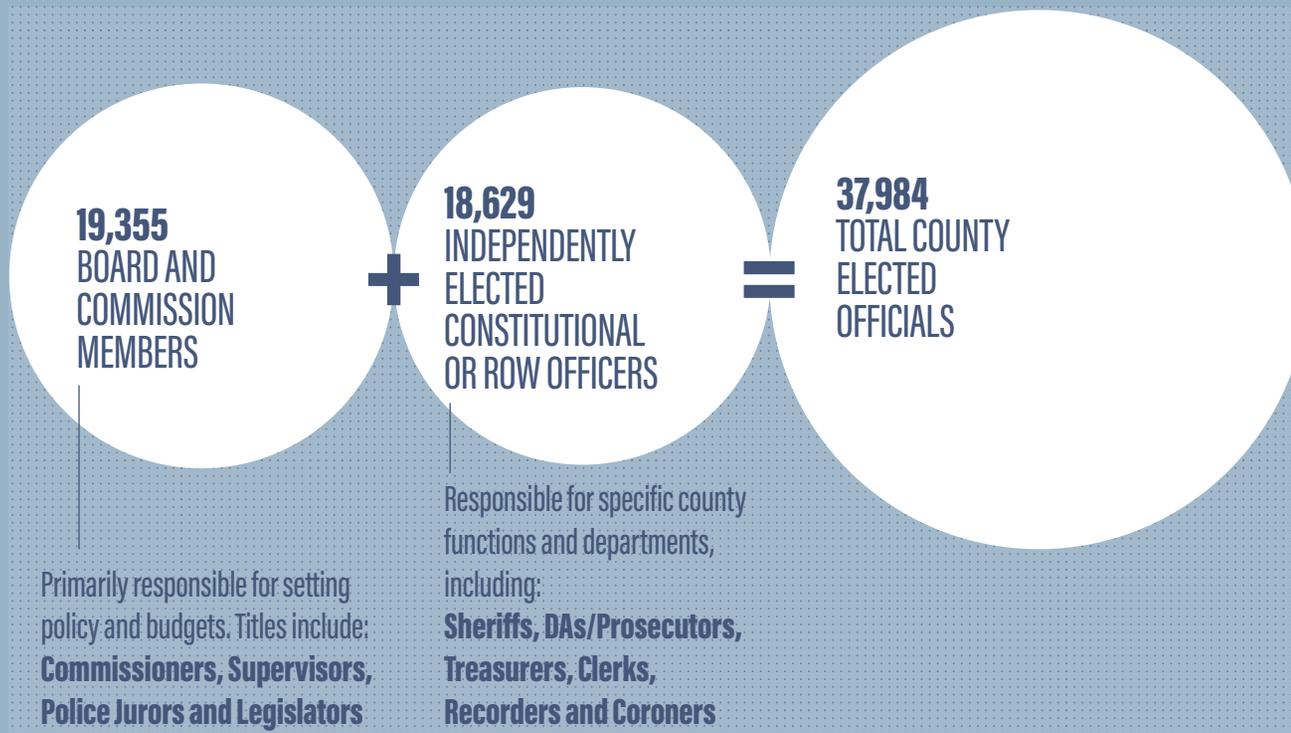


Number of representatives elected to a county governing board. Source: NACo Research, 2017.

# COUNTY MANAGEMENT

Counties provide vital services across America, including those mandated by federal and state policies and those requested by our communities. Counties often build and maintain parks, community centers, libraries and cultural centers. Counties are responsible for managing elections, from presidential to local. While balancing numerous administrative responsibilities, counties deliver essential services to ensure healthy, vibrant and safe communities.

## COUNTY LEADERSHIP CONSIST OF:



**FEDERAL POLICIES MATTER TO COUNTIES AND HAVE LONG-LASTING, OFTEN COSTLY IMPACTS ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

## CORE SERVICES

Public administration - records, elections and permits

Justice and public safety

Transportation and infrastructure

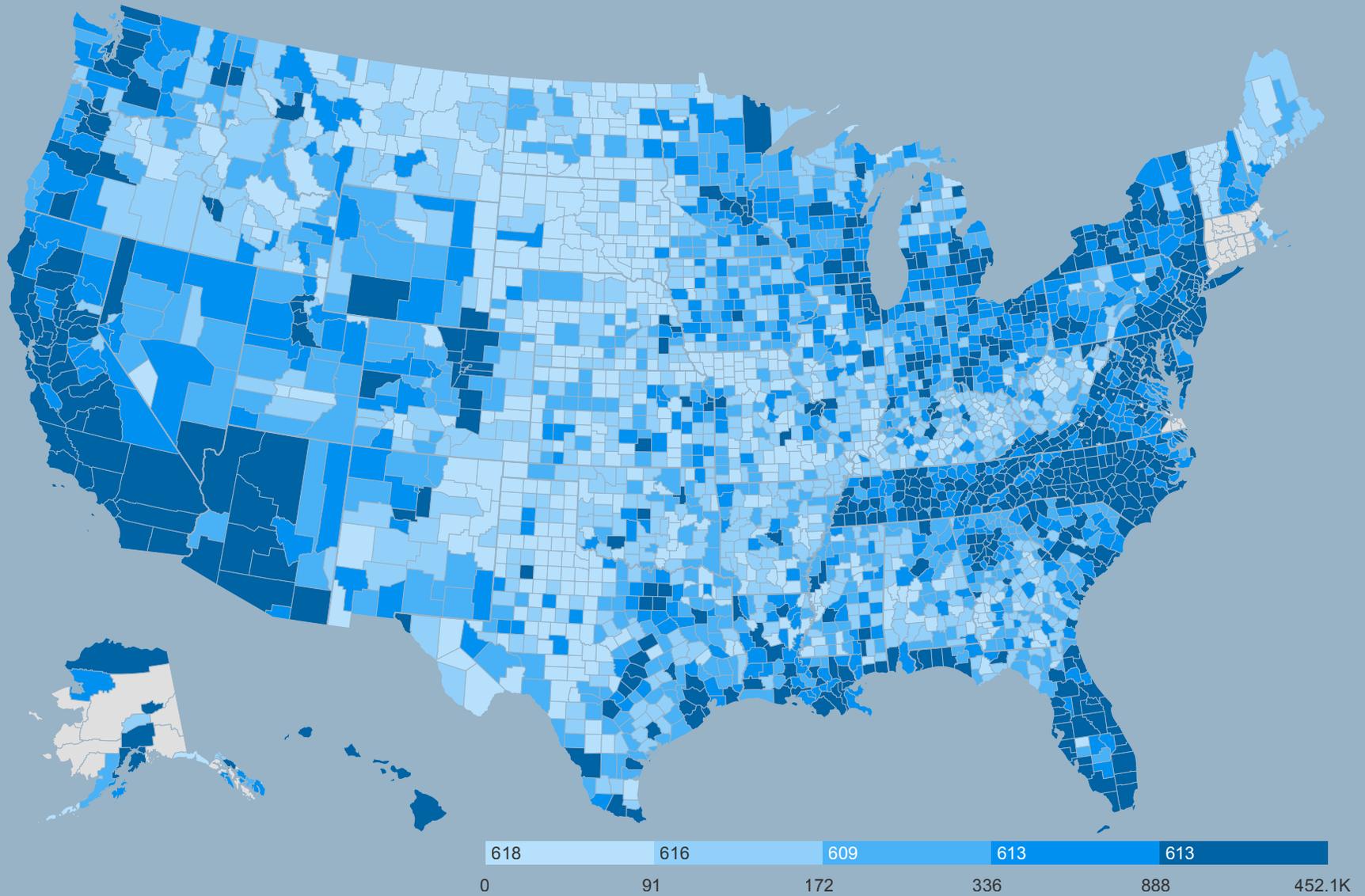
Health and human services

Community, economic and workforce readiness

Environmental planning and stewardship

**COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS BY MAKING LOCAL POLICY DECISIONS AND ENACTING LAWS**

# TOTAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT



The number of full-time and part-time employees working for the county. Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments: Employment 2017.

COUNTIES EMPLOY 3.6 MILLION PUBLIC SERVANTS, INCLUDING:

374,000

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



328,000

HOSPITAL WORKERS



259,000

HUMAN SERVICES WORKERS



200,000

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS



93,000

FIRE PROTECTION WORKERS



County governments are critical to the nation's workforce, employing more than one in every 50 American workers.

Despite the consistent shortage of people employed in local government jobs throughout the pandemic, **COUNTIES ARE FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING RESIDENTS' NEEDS AND LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR ECONOMIC REVIVAL.**

Under the Final Rule, as designated by the U.S. Department of Treasury, **COUNTIES CAN INVEST RECOVERY FUNDS TO RESTORE AND BOLSTER PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENTS' ABILITY TO DELIVER CRITICAL COVID-19 SERVICES.** Counties can invest in multiple employee assistance programs, including employer rehiring initiatives, incentives for newly employed personnel, on-the-job training programs and employee support programs.

Together with funding to stabilize and build resilience for long-term workforce health, **COUNTY EMPLOYMENT INVESTMENTS HELP IMPROVE THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION.**

Counties are deeply engaged in the labor market, employing more than

3.6  
MILLION

public servants, representing one out of every 50 American workers



# FEDERAL TO COUNTY NEXUS

Counties are investing

**\$65.1  
BILLION**

in ARPA Recovery Funds in local communities.

In FY 2021, over 200 entitlement counties received more than

**\$965  
MILLION**

in direct CDBG funding.

In 2020, county residents received more than

**\$81  
BILLION**

in SNAP funding.

County governments received more than

**\$514  
MILLION**

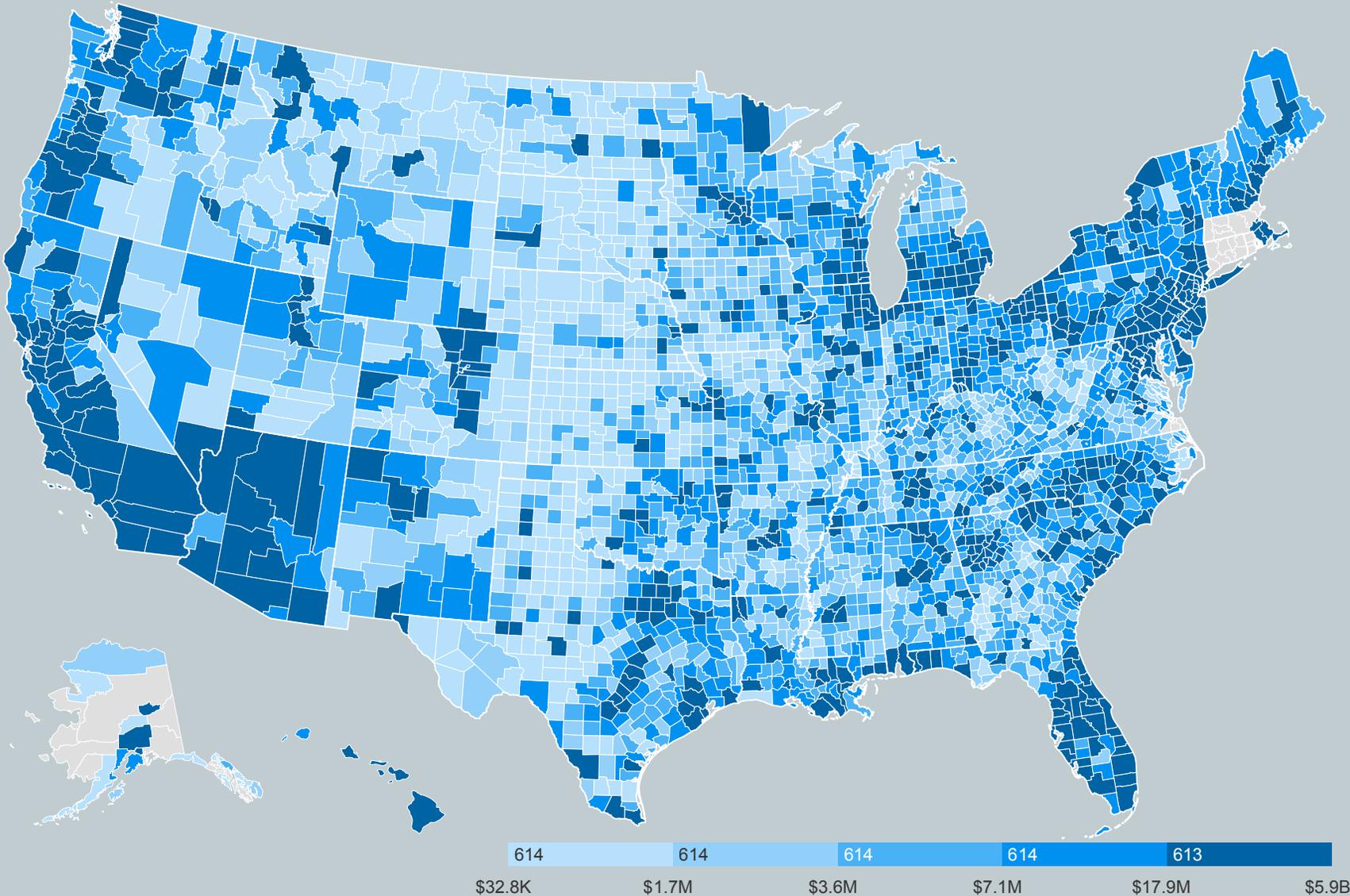
in PILT funding in FY 2021.

In FY 2019, 656 counties received more than

**\$249  
MILLION**

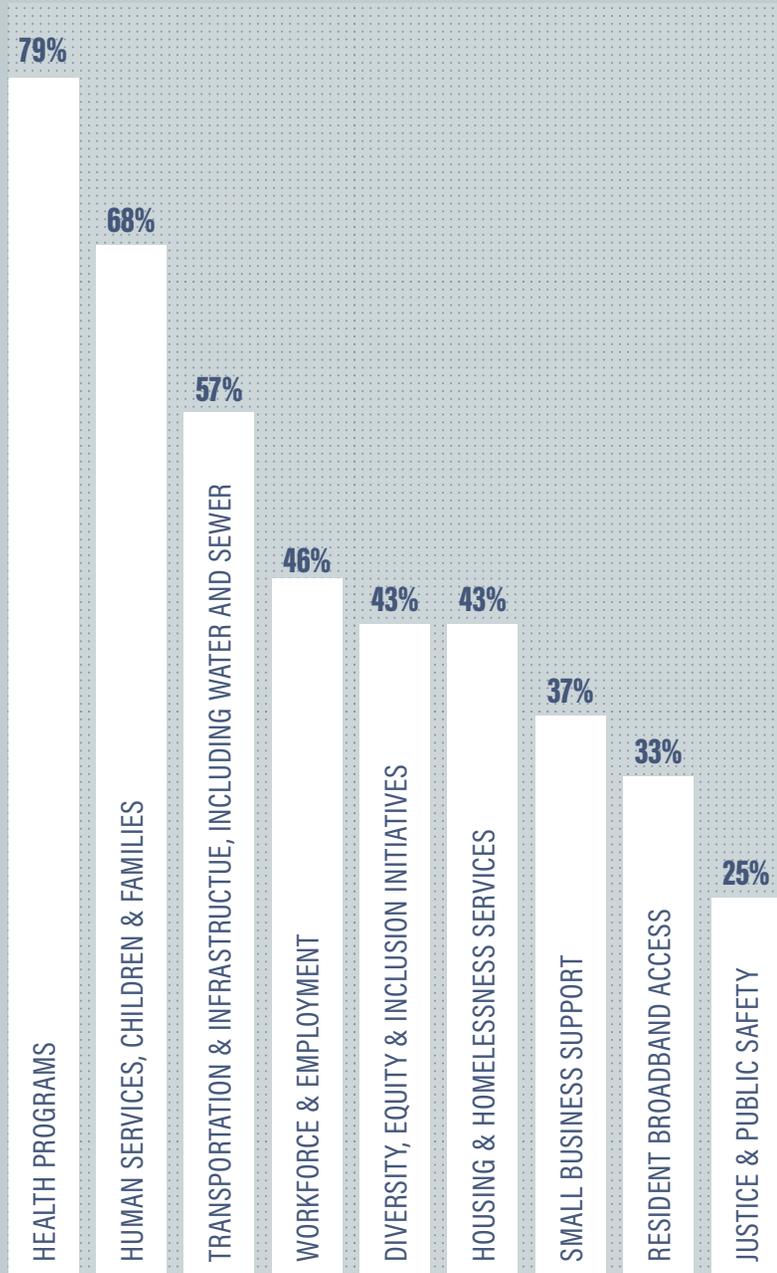
in SRS funding.

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) RECOVERY FUND – COUNTY ALLOCATION\*



Allocation to be paid directly to counties by the U.S. Treasury as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). \*County allocation includes consolidated funds. Source: U.S. Department of Treasury, 2021.

SHARE OF ARPA RECOVERY PLANS, BY SPEND CATEGORY



The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund) allocates **\$65.1 billion** in direct, flexible aid to every county, parish and borough in the country. The fund, which the National Association of Counties (NACo) helped develop and strongly advocated to pass, is part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Counties can allocate these critical recovery funds to a broad array of investments under four categories:



PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RESPONSE



PUBLIC SECTOR REVENUE



PREMIUM PAY FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS



WATER, SEWER AND BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

From the 200 county plans collected by NACo, **counties' top three investment categories include bolstering our nation's local health programs, strengthening our infrastructure system and ensuring that vital human services are available to residents.**

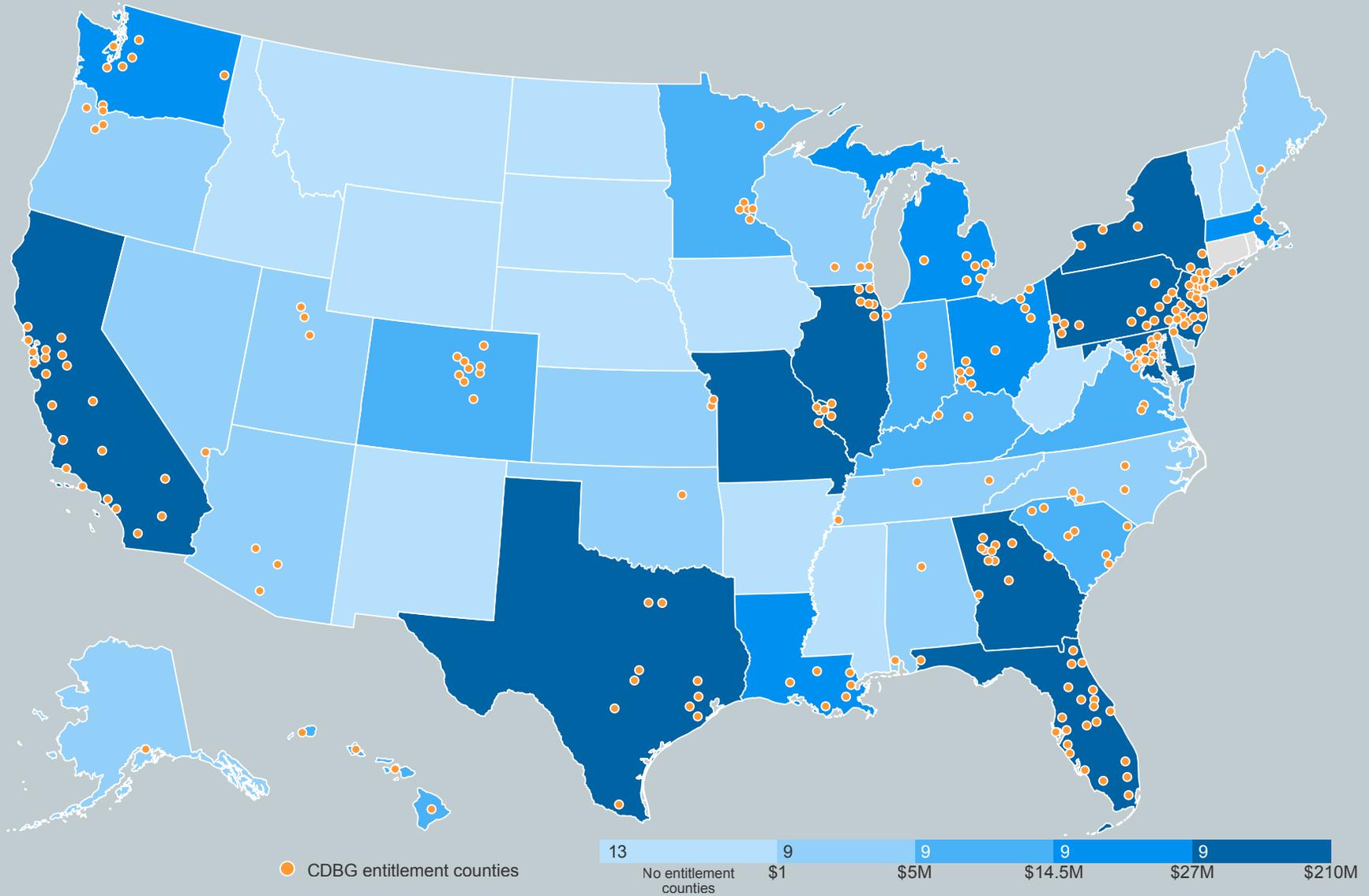
Counties are also investing in eliminating the digital divide, sanitizing public buildings and improving airflow systems.

Counties are investing

**\$65.1 BILLION**

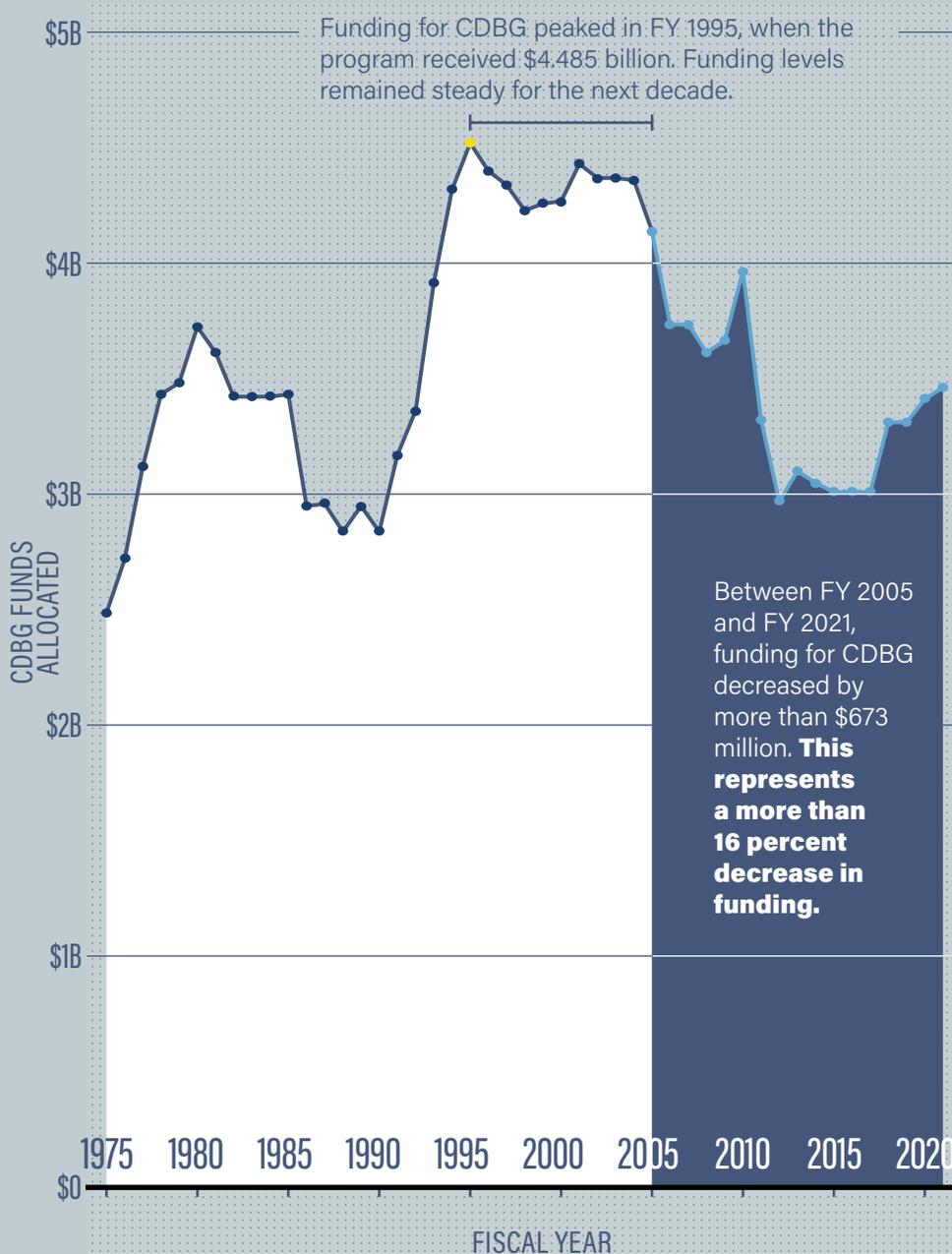
made available in the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to **bolster our nation's local health programs, strengthen our infrastructure system and ensure that crucial human services are available to residents most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) — DIRECT FUNDING TO ENTITLEMENT COUNTIES BY STATE



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding received directly by entitlement counties in FY 2021. Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR 1975-2021



There are more than **200 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** entitlement counties across the nation.



**COUNTIES ADMINISTER AND IMPLEMENT CDBG FUNDING** to provide affordable housing for renters or homeowners or provide direct rental assistance to low-income households.



**CDBG FUNDING IS ALSO USED TO PARTNER WITH THE PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS** to address economic development, water, infrastructure and human services, and to support job creation and retention.

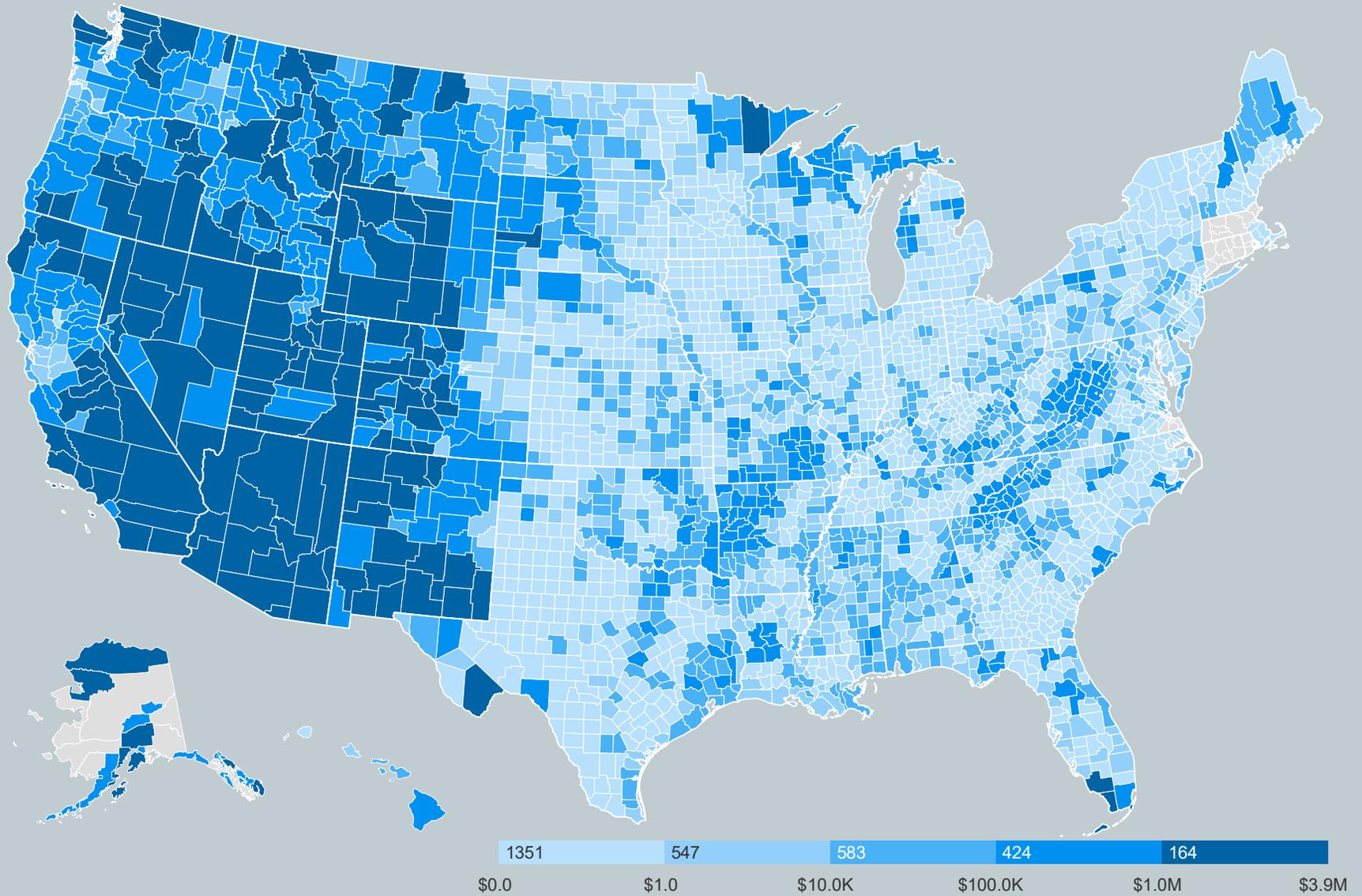
**COUNTIES INVEST CDBG FUNDING TO FOSTER SAFE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES** THROUGH ADDRESSING LOCAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEED

Entitlement counties received over

**\$965 MILLION**

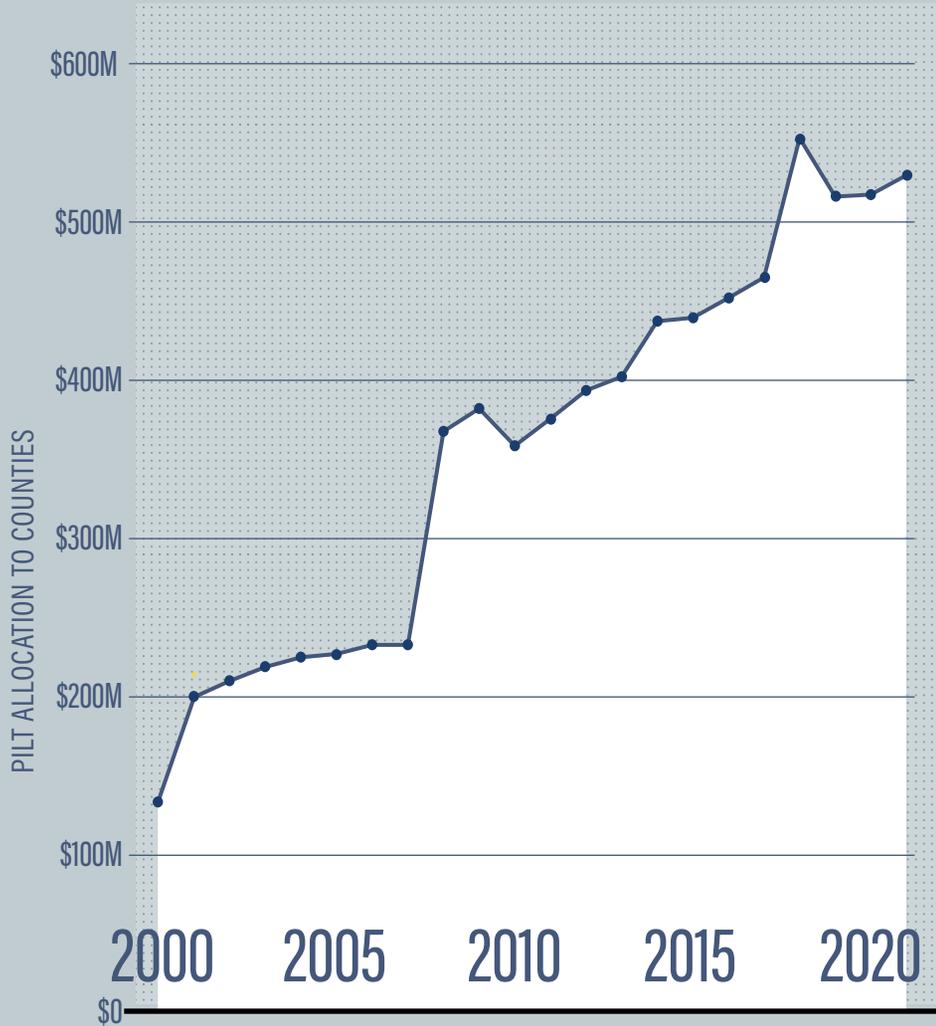
in direct CDBG funding in FY 2021.

# PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)



Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding to county governments based on the presence of certain federal public lands within our boundaries in FY 2021. Source: U.S. Department of the Interior.

**PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) FUNDING  
BY FISCAL YEAR 2000-2021**



Counties collectively received more than **\$514 million** in PILT funding in FY 2021.

**PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) PROVIDE FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO OFFSET LOSSES IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUES DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL ACREAGE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND WITHIN OUR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS**

**62%**

percent of America's counties have federal public land within our boundaries; the federal government owns roughly 640 million acres (or 28 percent) of land in the U.S.

As federal public land is not taxable by local governments, public land counties incur substantial annual losses in property tax revenue.

Though counties cannot collect property taxes on federal land, we still provide essential services to residents and those who visit these public lands each year. Such services include road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical, emergency management, fire protection, solid waste disposal and environmental compliance.

**PILT FUNDING IS CRITICAL FOR COUNTY SERVICES INCLUDING:**



ROAD AND BRIDGE MAINTENANCE



LAW ENFORCEMENT



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



SEARCH AND RESCUE



EMERGENCY MEDICAL



FIRE PROTECTION

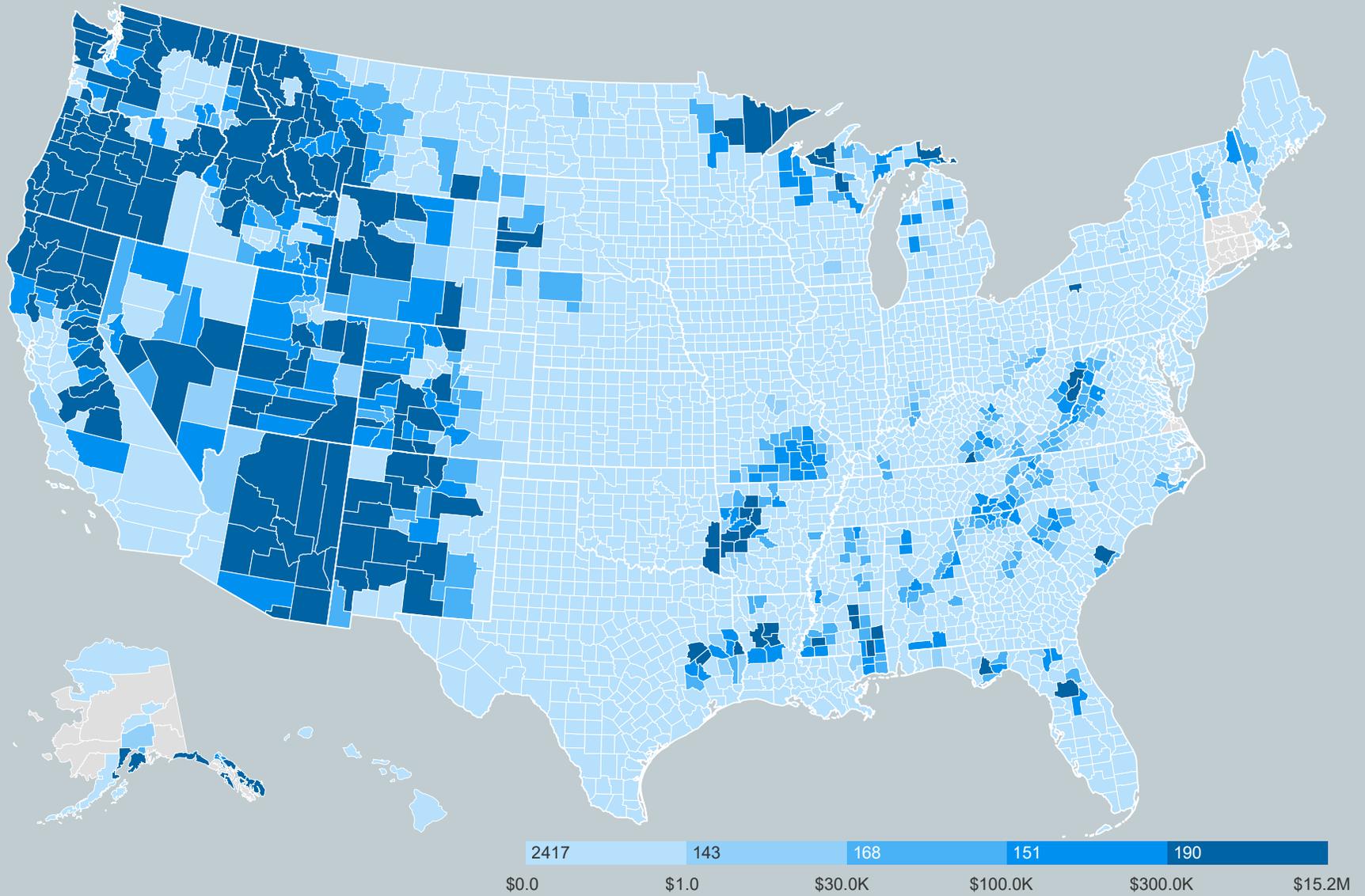


SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

# SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)



Total funding received by counties through the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program based on receipts from timber harvests on federal lands.

Source: U.S. Forest Service data and Bureau of Land Management, FY 2019 receipts year.

## U.S. COUNTIES AND SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)

SRS PAYMENT, FY 2019 RECEIPTS YEAR

# \$249.1M

PROJECTED 25% FUND PAYMENT, FY 2017 RECEIPTS YEAR

# \$79.8M

PROJECTED 2017 25% FUND PAYMENT, FY 2019 SRS

# -68%

PERCENT OF COUNTIES WITH U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND

# 24%

**SRS is critical to local communities,** providing funding to counties and schools impacted by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands.



**RURAL COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS** rely on a share of receipts from timber harvests to supplement local funding for education services and roads.

National policies implemented in the 1980s substantially diminished the revenue-generating activity permitted in forests, resulting in a steep decline in county and school revenues from federal timber sales.

In response to this decline, SRS was enacted to stabilize payments to counties and schools and compensate for lost revenues.

Approximately **700 rural counties**, parishes and boroughs receive funding from the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program.

In total, counties received **\$249.1 million** in funding through the SRS program in FY 2019. SRS was reauthorized on November 15, 2021, for FYs 2021 through 2023.

### SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS FUNDING SUPPORTS:



TRANSPORTATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE



SCHOOLS



FOREST  
MANAGEMENT



ECOSYSTEM  
PRETECTION



EMERGENCY  
SERVICES



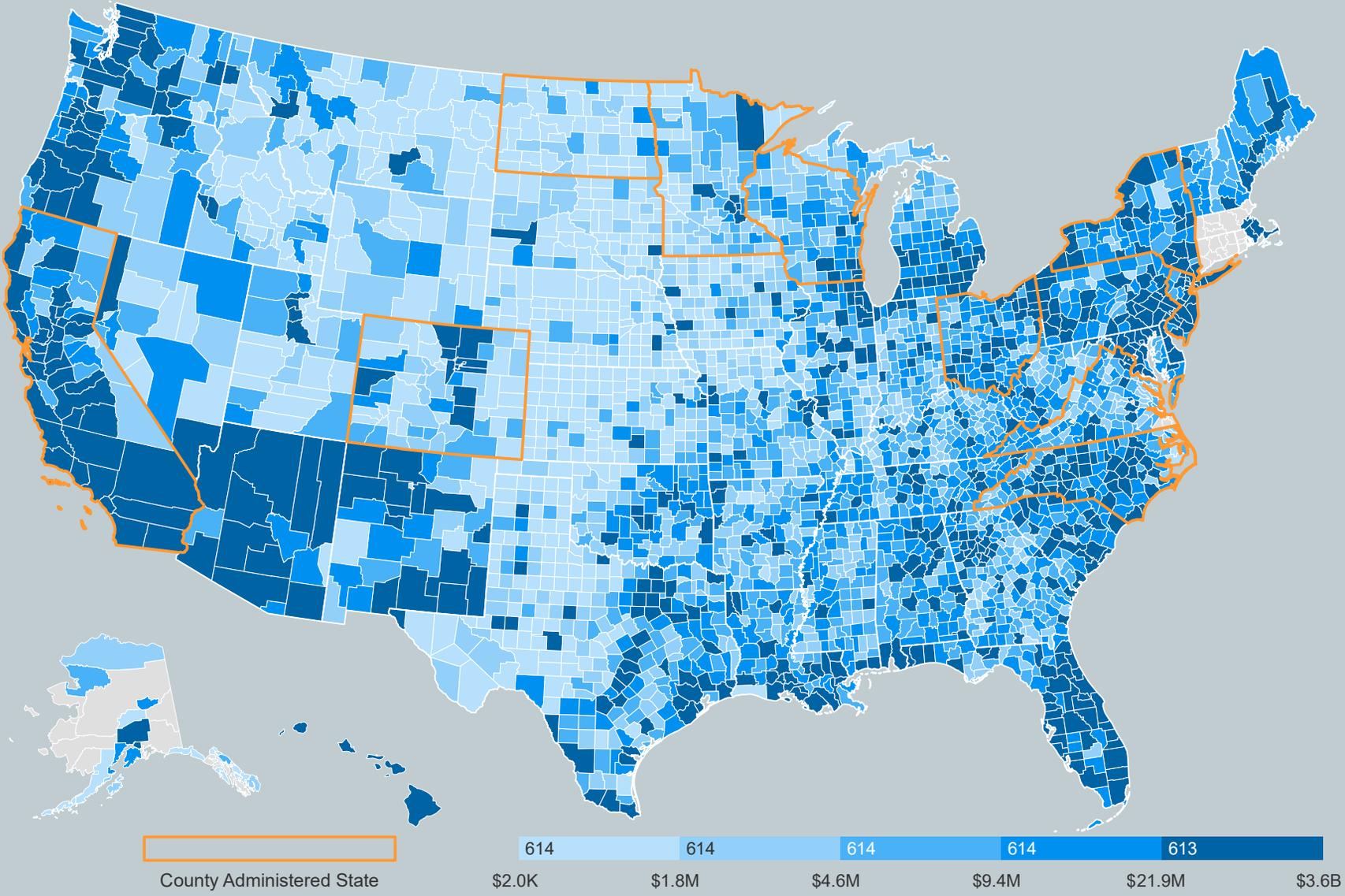
PROTECTION  
FROM WILDFIRE



SEARCH  
AND RESCUE

**COUNTIES  
LEVERAGE CRITICAL  
SRS FUNDING FOR  
SCHOOLS, ROADS  
AND OTHER LOCAL  
SERVICES**

# SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS



Benefits issued to qualifying low-income individuals to supplement their ability to purchase food. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis Personal Current Transfer Receipts Data, 2020.

Counties are an integral part of the federal-state-local partnership in service delivery. Across the nation, counties administer federal resources and funds to combat food insecurity.

Whether a federal program is state or county-administered varies by program and state.

In county-administered states, states generally offer significant authority and much-needed flexibility to county administrative offices.

Because of the flexibility granted within SNAP, county administration varies from state to state.

Although counties are granted significant authority and flexibility, we must still comply with certain federal and state mandates (such as who is eligible for SNAP and the amount of benefits and services a family can receive), which creates a complex implementation system.

More than

**41 MILLION**

low-income Americans received assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in FY 2021

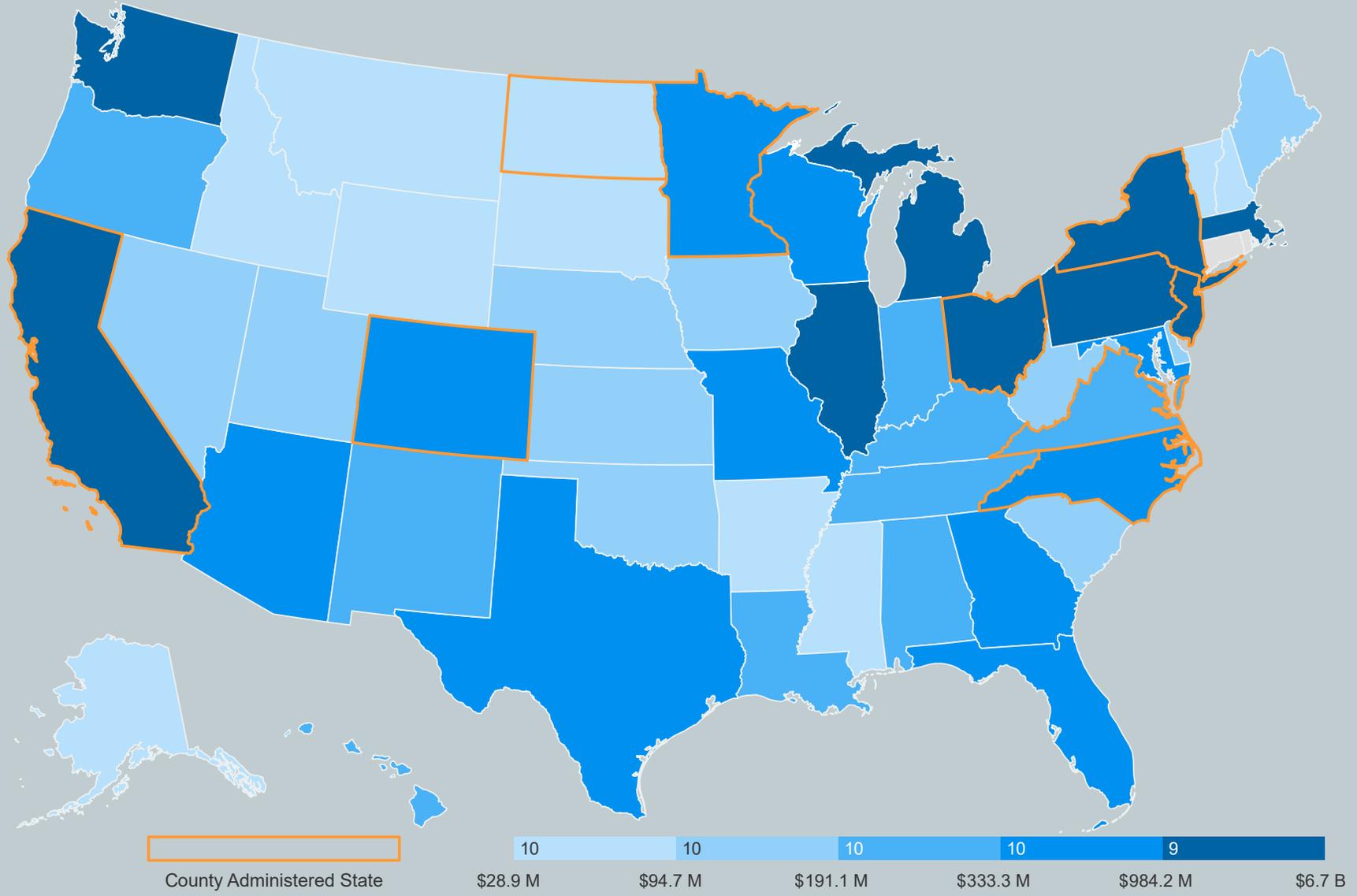
In county-administered states, county administrative offices are generally granted significant authority and much-needed flexibility over program implementation. Counties in these states contribute significant local funds for the administrative and supplemental costs and cover **32 percent** of our nation's SNAP recipients.

Each year, counties invest **\$62.8 billion** in safety net services, including SNAP, for millions of residents, providing critical support for moving individuals, children and families out of poverty and improving immediate and long-term health and wellbeing.

SNAP is a federal public assistance program offering nutrition support to eligible low-income individuals and families. Although SNAP is primarily a partnership between the federal government and states, **TEN STATES DELEGATE SNAP ADMINISTRATION TO COUNTY AGENCIES.\***

\*States with county-administered SNAP programs include California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin .

# TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) - STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL EXPENDITURES



Total Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal expenditures plus state and local “maintenance of effort” (MOE) contributions.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

National TANF expenditures cover a range of programs, including **basic assistance, childcare, work-related support and refundable tax credits.**

**BREAKDOWN OF NATIONAL TANF EXPENDITURES - 2020**

**NATIONAL TANF EXPENDITURES \$32 BILLION†**



**THE FLEXIBILITY OF TANF IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO COUNTIES AND OUR RESIDENTS**

because counties can allocate the funds to critical underfunded programs and services.

**THE TANF PROGRAM** is a federal entitlement program providing federal funding for a wide range of services that address the root causes of poverty.\*

\*States with county-administered TANF programs include California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio and Virginia.

† The \$32 billion national TANF expenditures include transfers to Child Care and Development Fund and Social Services Block Grant

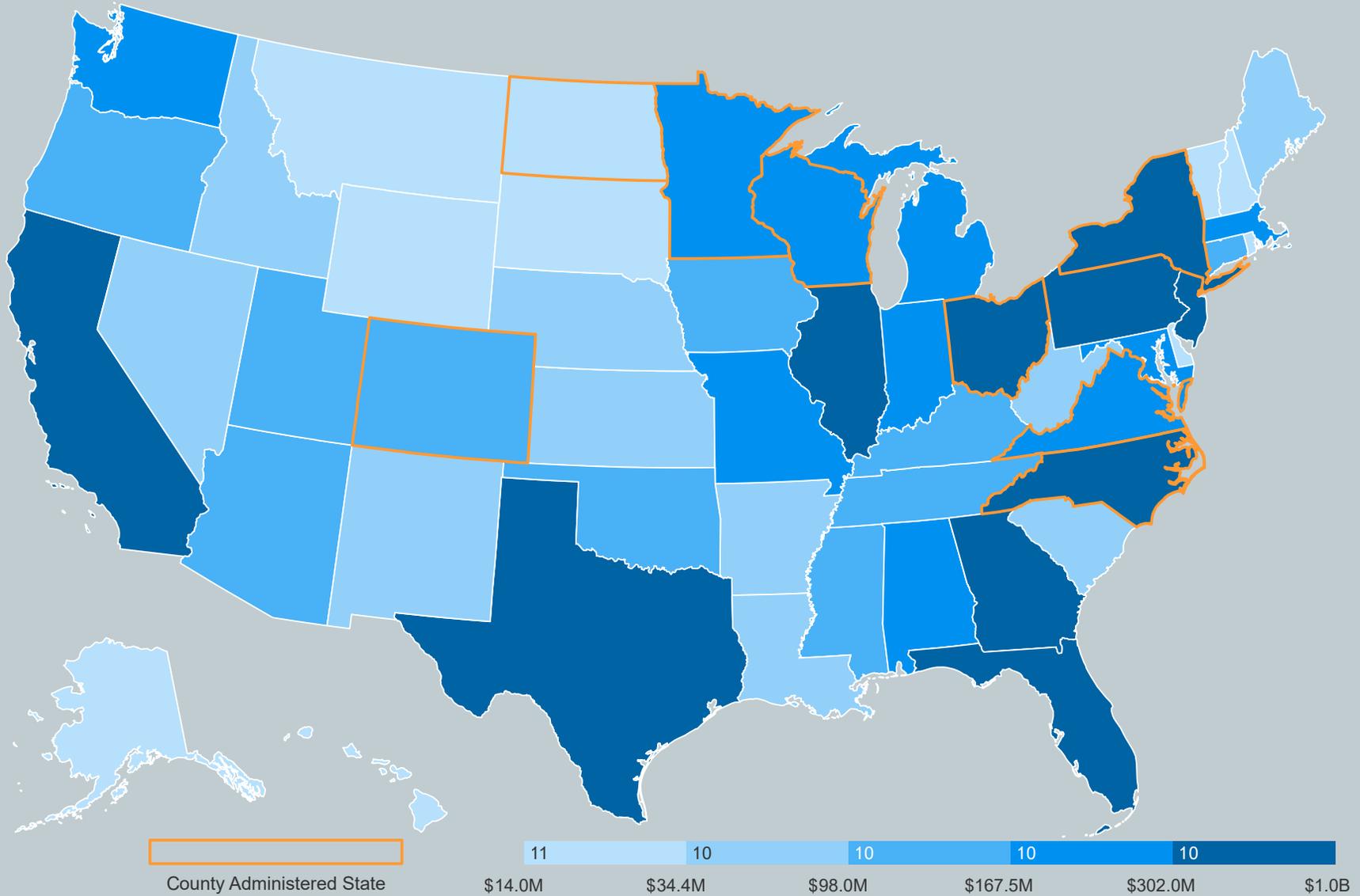


Counties' contributions and involvement in the TANF program vary from county to county.

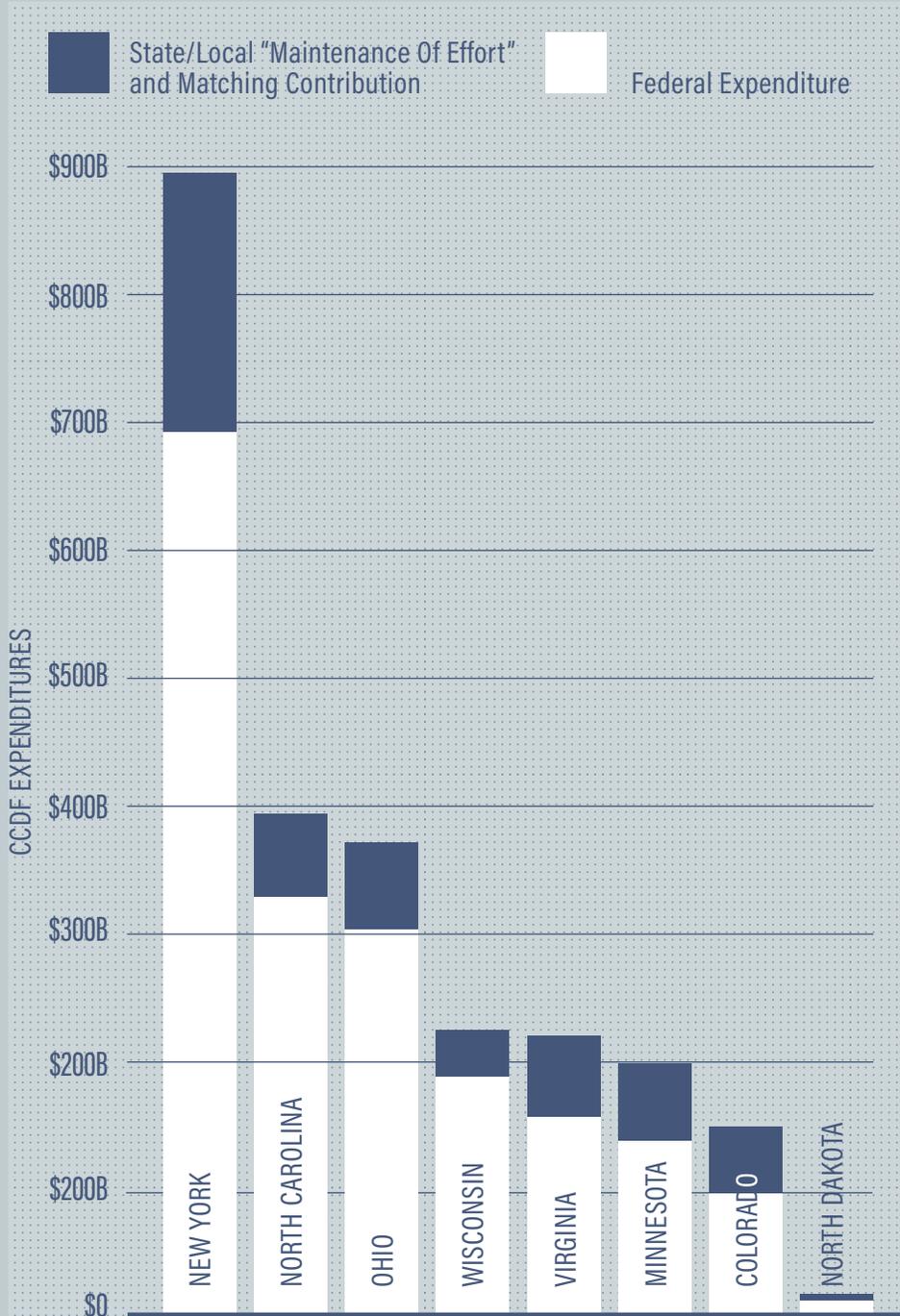
**UNDER TANF, COUNTIES CAN ALSO TRANSFER FUNDS TO OTHER PROGRAMS PROVIDING VITAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.**

**IN NINE STATES, COUNTIES ARE THE PRIMARY ADMINISTRATORS OF THE TANF PROGRAM. THESE COUNTY-ADMINISTERED STATES ACCOUNTED FOR 55 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL CASELOAD AND 52 PERCENT OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL TANF EXPENDITURES IN FY2020**

# CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) - STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL EXPENDITURES



The combined dollar amount representing federal expenditures and state and local maintenance-of-effort contributions, as well as matching funds. Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) - Office of Child Care.



Eight states delegate the administration of the CCDF program to counties; in **FY 2018, these eight states together invested more than \$3 billion in federal, state and local funds in the CCDF program, accounting for more than one-fifth of the national total.**

The scope of the county role in administering CCDF varies. County governments in these states may set policies related to eligibility, sliding fee scales and payment rates as well as perform eligibility determinations, issue payments, connect parents with childcare and more. Counties administering CCDF may contribute county general revenue funds to help meet the required non-federal match.

Through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), states and counties help families access safe, reliable, affordable childcare that allows parents to work and promotes children's healthy growth and development.

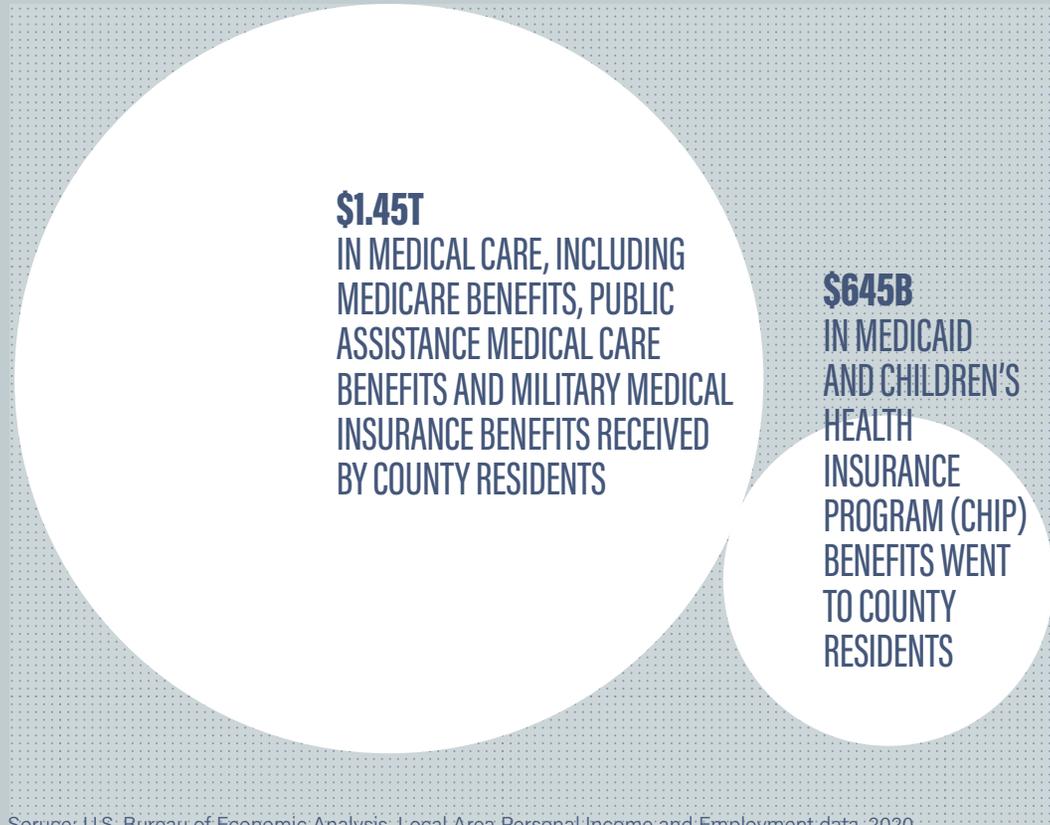
**THROUGH THE CCDF PROGRAM, COUNTIES PLAY A ROLE IN THE TWO-GENERATION APPROACH TO SERVICE DELIVERY BY SUPPORTING PARENTS' WORK AND HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

\*States with county-administered CCDF programs include Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin.



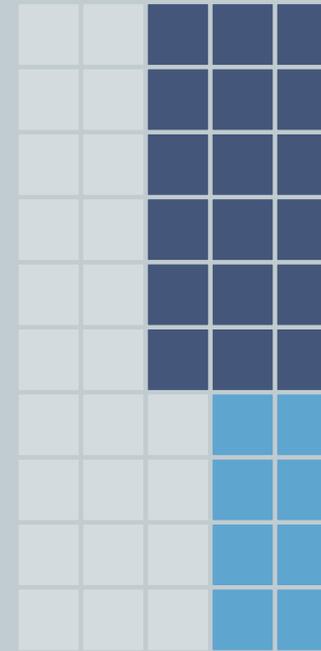
**Medicaid operates and is jointly financed as a partnership between federal, state and local governments.** Counties across the nation often deliver Medicaid-eligible services and, in many instances, help states finance the non-federal match and administrative costs.

**FEDERAL MEDICAL BENEFITS ANALYSIS**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Local Area Personal Income and Employment data, 2020.

**COUNTIES CONTRIBUTE TO MEDICAID IN 26 STATES**



**18 STATES**  
MANDATE COUNTIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF MEDICAID COSTS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE, PROGRAM, PHYSICAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COSTS

**8 STATES**  
IN WHICH COUNTIES CONTRIBUTE TO MEDICAID WITHOUT A STATE MANDATE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM COSTS, SUPPORT OUR HOSPITALS THAT SERVE LARGE NUMBERS OF MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES, PARTICIPATE IN MEDICAID WAIVER AND MORE

**MEDICAID IS JOINTLY FUNDED BY FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING COUNTIES IN 26 STATES**

The Medicaid program is the largest source of health coverage in the United States, covering over **76 million** low-income families and individuals, or one in five Americans.



# CONNECT COMMUNITIES

COUNTIES PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN CONNECTING OUR NATION'S RESIDENTS, COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES



**COUNTIES OWN AND MAINTAIN 45%**  
OF PUBLIC ROAD MILES AND **38%** OF  
BRIDGES.



**COUNTIES SUPPORT 40%**  
OF TRANSIT AGENCIES AND  
**34%** OF AIRPORTS.

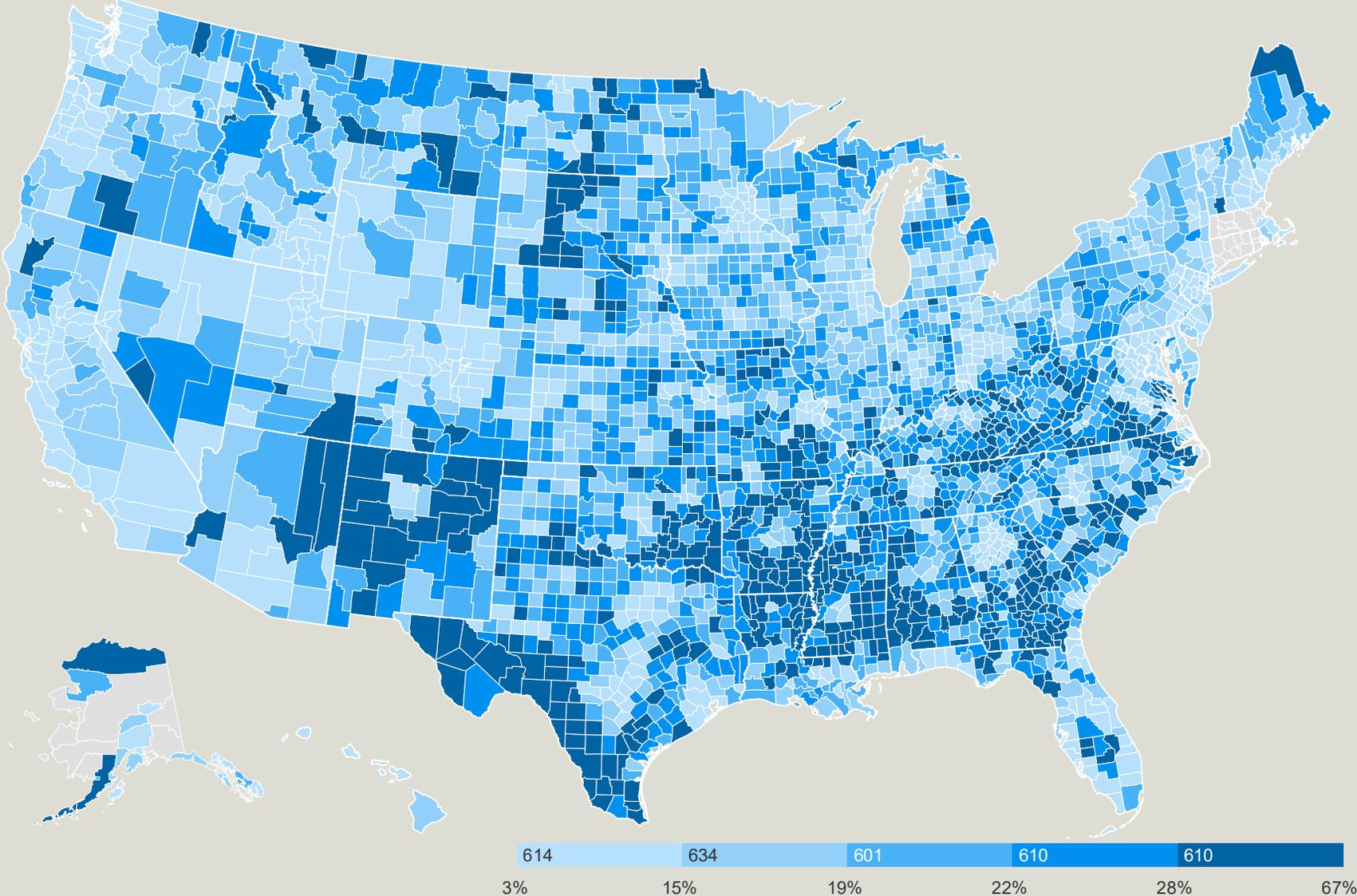


**COUNTIES INVEST \$134 BILLION**  
IN BUILDING, MAINTAINING AND  
OPERATING PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND PUBLIC WORKS.



**15%** OF HOUSEHOLDS  
DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO  
BROADBAND.

# SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS *WITHOUT* BROADBAND ACCESS



The share of households in the county without access to broadband internet access. Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 2016-2020 (Tables S2801 and S2802).

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT BROADBAND ACCESS BY REGION, 2019



Fewer than **10%** of county leaders surveyed reported full coverage of high-speed broadband across the entire county

Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 2016-2020 (Tables S2801 and S2802).

COUNTIES ARE WORKING TO **EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS AND BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

NATIONAL STATISTICS ILLUSTRATE THE VARIATION IN BROADBAND ACCESS ACROSS COUNTIES.



Over **11 million** Americans in rural areas and over **846,000** in tribal lands still lack access to broadband that meets the federal definition for minimum standards.



Hennepin County, Minn., is addressing the digital divide through "Connecting Hennepin." The initiative funds the development and implementation of a digital equity plan and is supported by **\$10 million** in Recovery Funds. The program targets a variety of goals, including digital literacy and navigation, community digital adoption and coalition building.

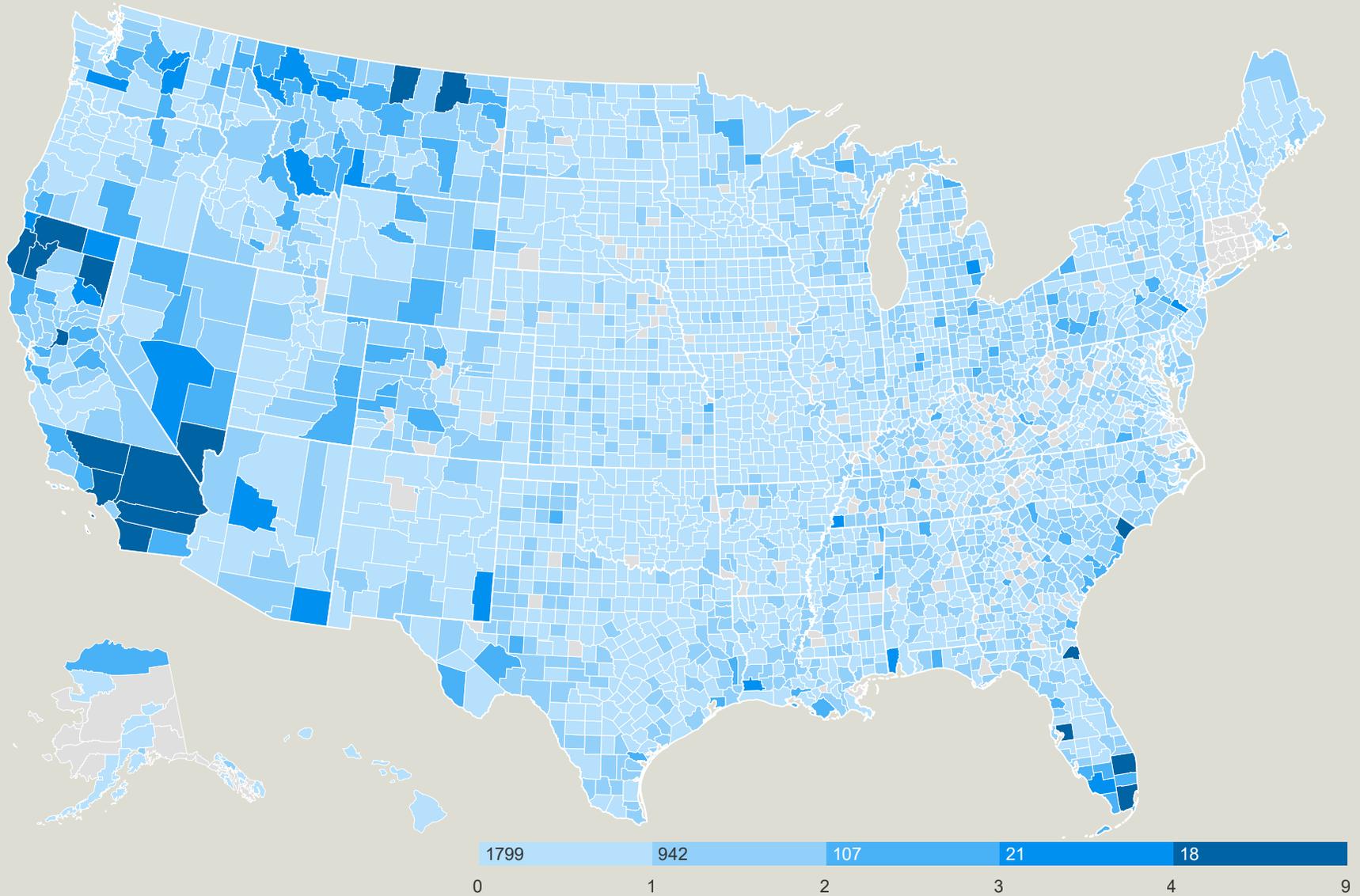


York County, Pa., is bolstering local broadband access through a **\$25 million** investment to increase new fiber-optic infrastructure. Approximately **144 miles** of construction have been planned for the deployment of urban wireless networks throughout the county.

County officials play a crucial role in pursuing sustainable broadband access, affordability and reliability solutions.

The American Rescue Plan Act provides counties the flexibility to fund a broad range of projects, from bolstering fiber-optic infrastructure to creating new public WiFi hotspots and supporting digital literacy.

# COUNTY-OWNED AIRPORTS



Number of public airports owned by counties or regional airport authorities with county ownership or county elected officials on the board of the airport authorities. Source: Federal Aviation Administration and Office of Aviation Analysis.

## COUNTY AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS AT A GLANCE

COUNTIES INVEST  
**OVER \$6B**  
IN AIR  
TRANSPORTATION  
FOR THE PROVISION,  
OPERATION,  
CONSTRUCTION  
AND SUPPORT OF  
AIRPORT FACILITIES

COUNTIES INVEST  
**OVER \$550M**  
IN THE OPERATION,  
MAINTENANCE AND  
SUPPORT OF SEA AND  
INLAND PORT FACILITIES

Counties are involved  
in the operation of

**34%**

of airports

## EXAMPLES OF COUNTY-OWNED AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS

# 1.

### Clark County Commission, Nev. - Harry Reid International Airport

Harry Reid International Airport (formerly known as McCarran International Airport) is a central hub of economic activity for Clark County, serving nearly **40 million** passengers in 2021. The airport is the primary commercial airport serving Las Vegas. Approximately **600,000 pounds** of cargo are transported through the airport every day. Operating revenue for the airport totaled **\$476 million** and indirectly impacted the local economy. The airport employs over **1,400 workers**.

# 2.

### Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, Mich. - Port of Detroit.

The Port of Detroit is the largest seaport in the state of Michigan and is also connected to river commerce; the port processed **13 million** tons of cargo during 2019. In 2011, the port supported nearly 16,000 jobs, **\$500 million** in business revenue and **\$255 million** in personal income. The total volume of port trade, based on the value of exports and imports passing through the port, was over **\$130 billion** in 2020.

# 3.

### Jackson County Port Authority, Miss. - Port of Pascagoula.

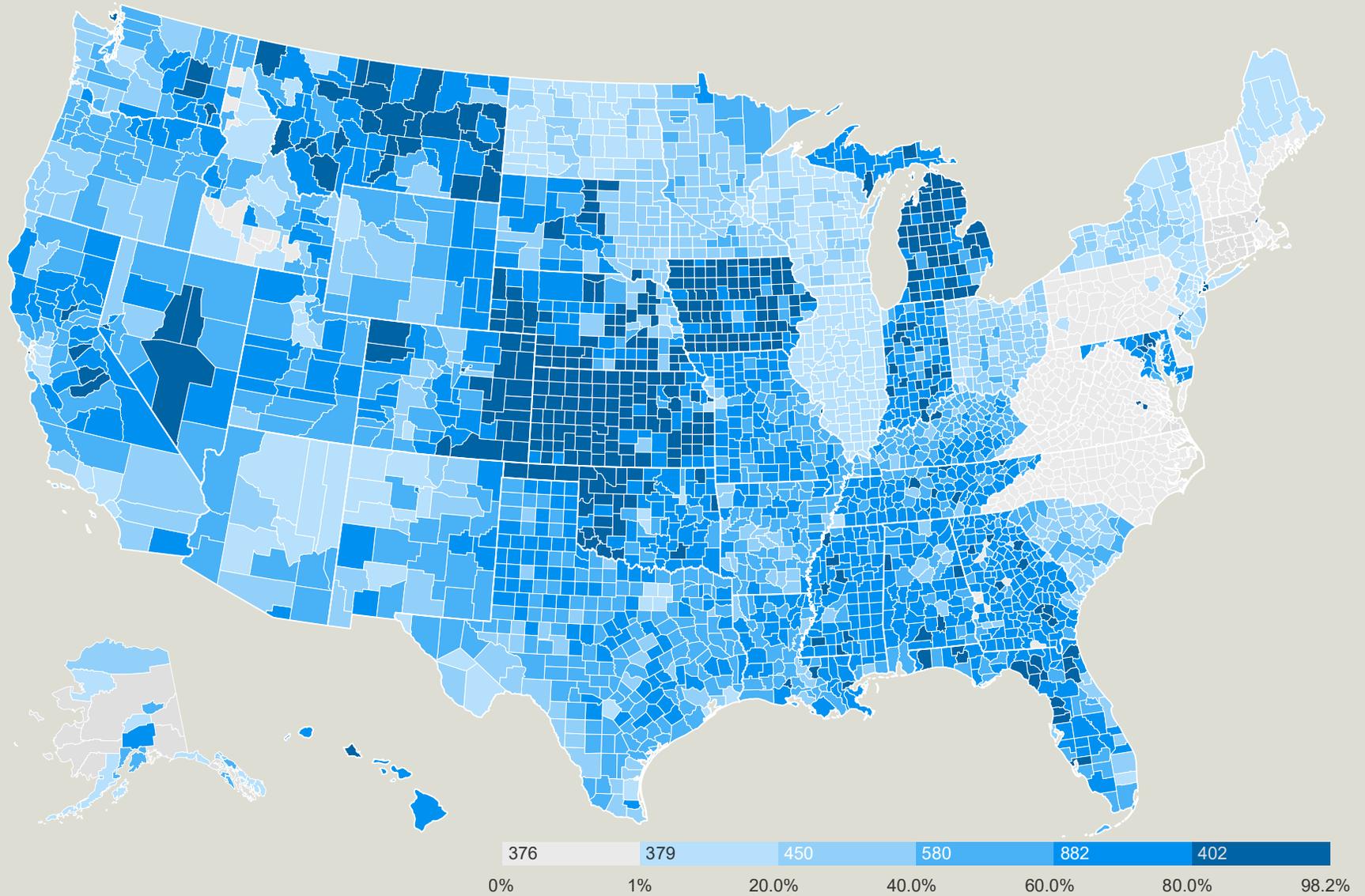
The Port of Pascagoula is the largest seaport in Mississippi and in the top 20 U.S. seaports processing foreign cargo by volume, handling 26 million tons of cargo in 2019. As of 2004, the Jackson County Port Authority supported over 19,000 jobs and port operations created **\$902 million** in personal income. The total volume of port trade, based on the value of exports and imports passing through the port, was **\$3.9 billion** in 2020.

# 4.

### City & County of Denver Department of Aviation, Colo. - Denver International Airport.

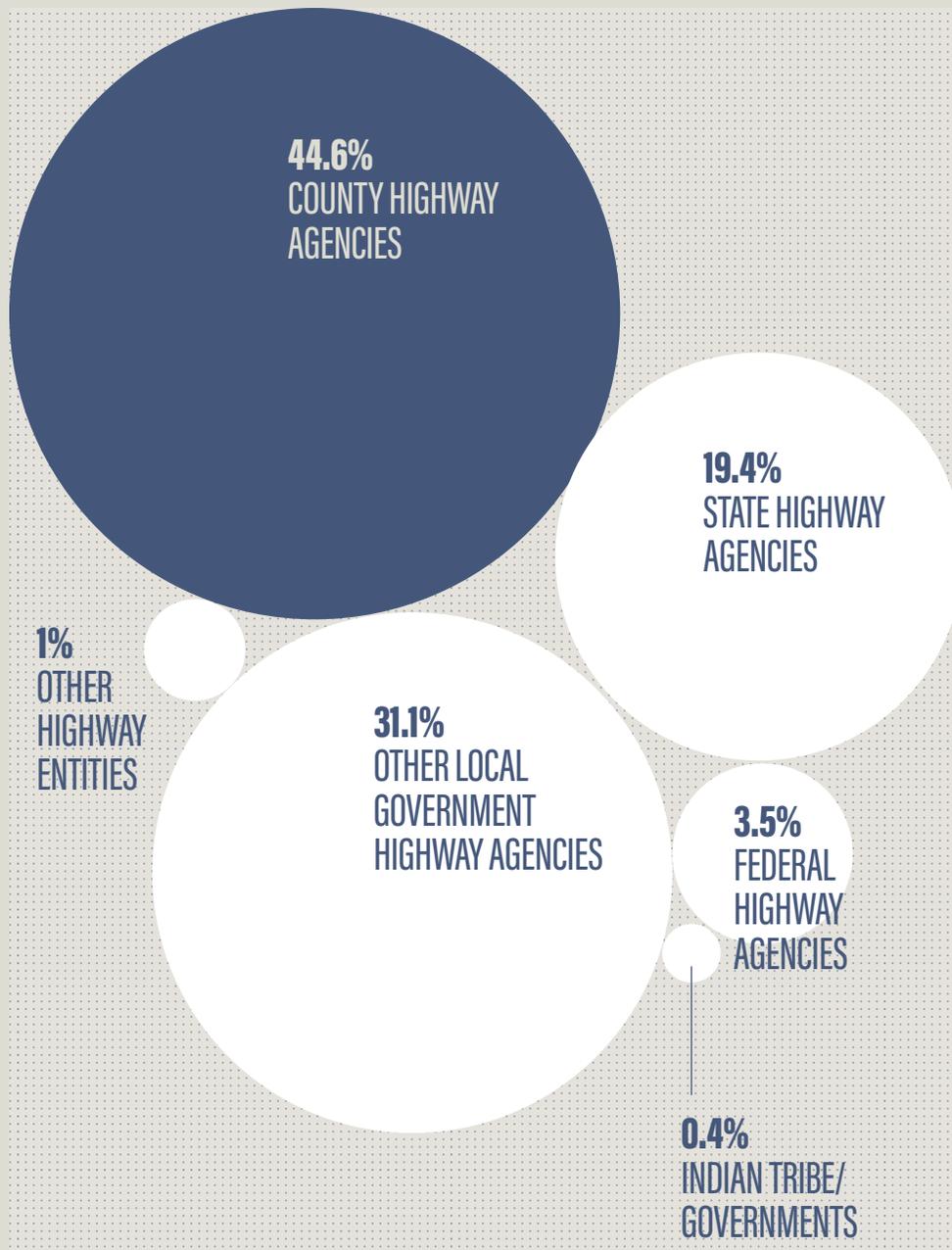
Denver International Airport is a primary transportation service provider for Denver County. In 2019, Denver International had **33.5 million** enplanements and saw **1.6 billion** pounds of cargo land. Total operating revenue for the airport was **\$591 million**. In 2020, Denver International Airport directly employed **1,068 workers**.

# SHARE OF ROAD MILES OWNED BY COUNTY HIGHWAY AGENCIES



Share of public road miles under the control of county governments. Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2020.

**BREAKDOWN OF OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC ROADS BY HIGHWAY AGENCY, 2020**



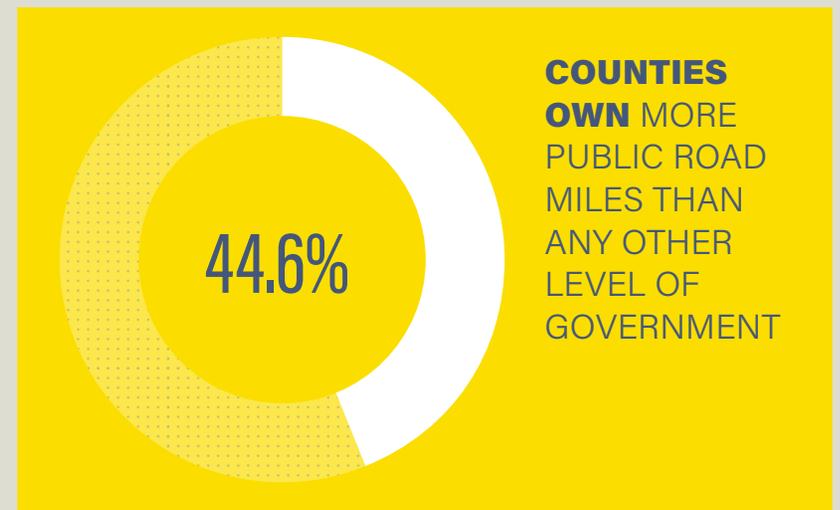
There are **4.1 million** public road miles within counties across the nation where most trips both start and end.



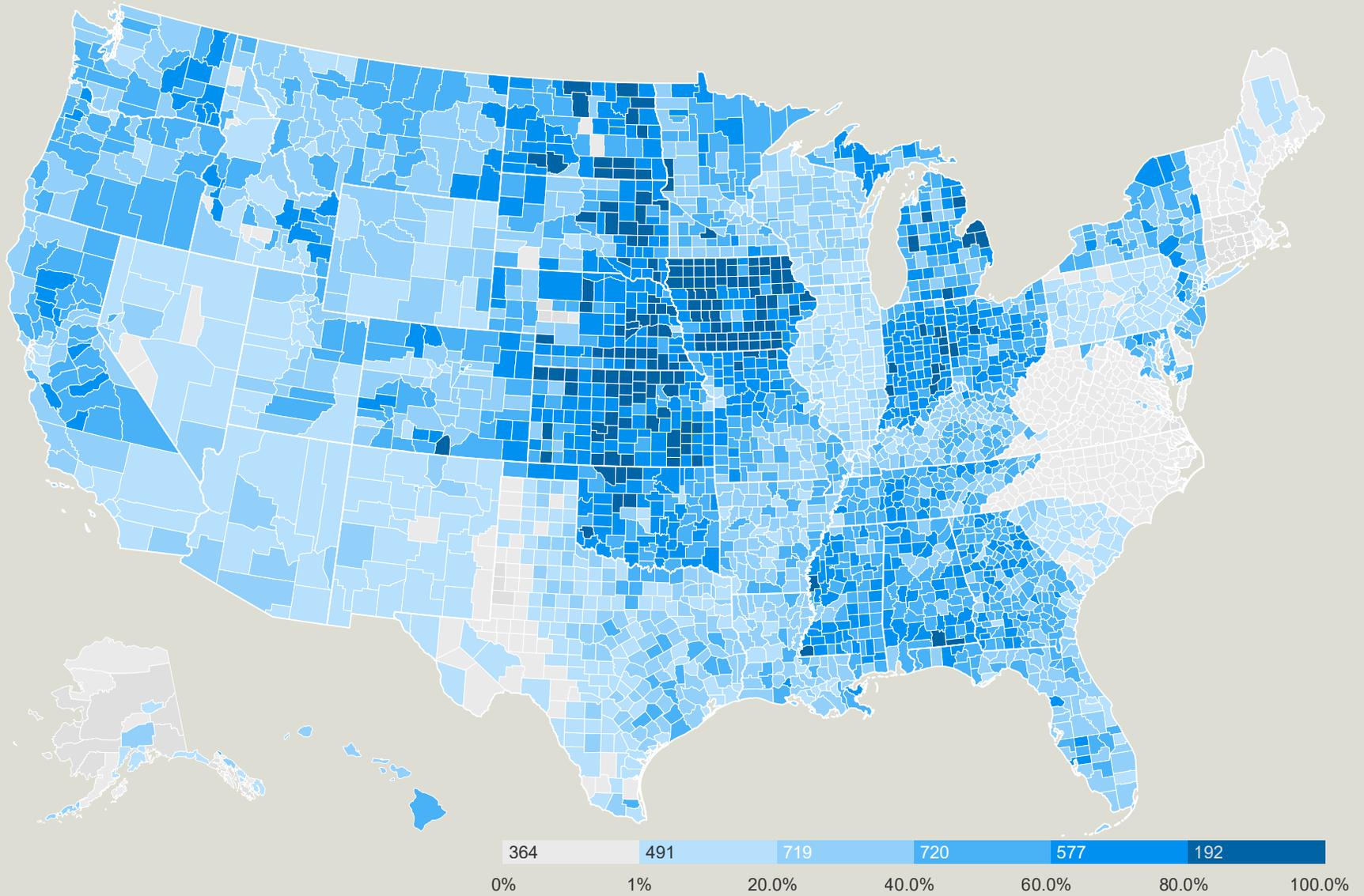
In total, local highway agencies, including counties, cities and municipalities, own and maintain **3.1 million** road miles.



In 2017, county governments invested **\$30 billion** in the maintenance, operation, repair and construction of toll and non-toll highways.



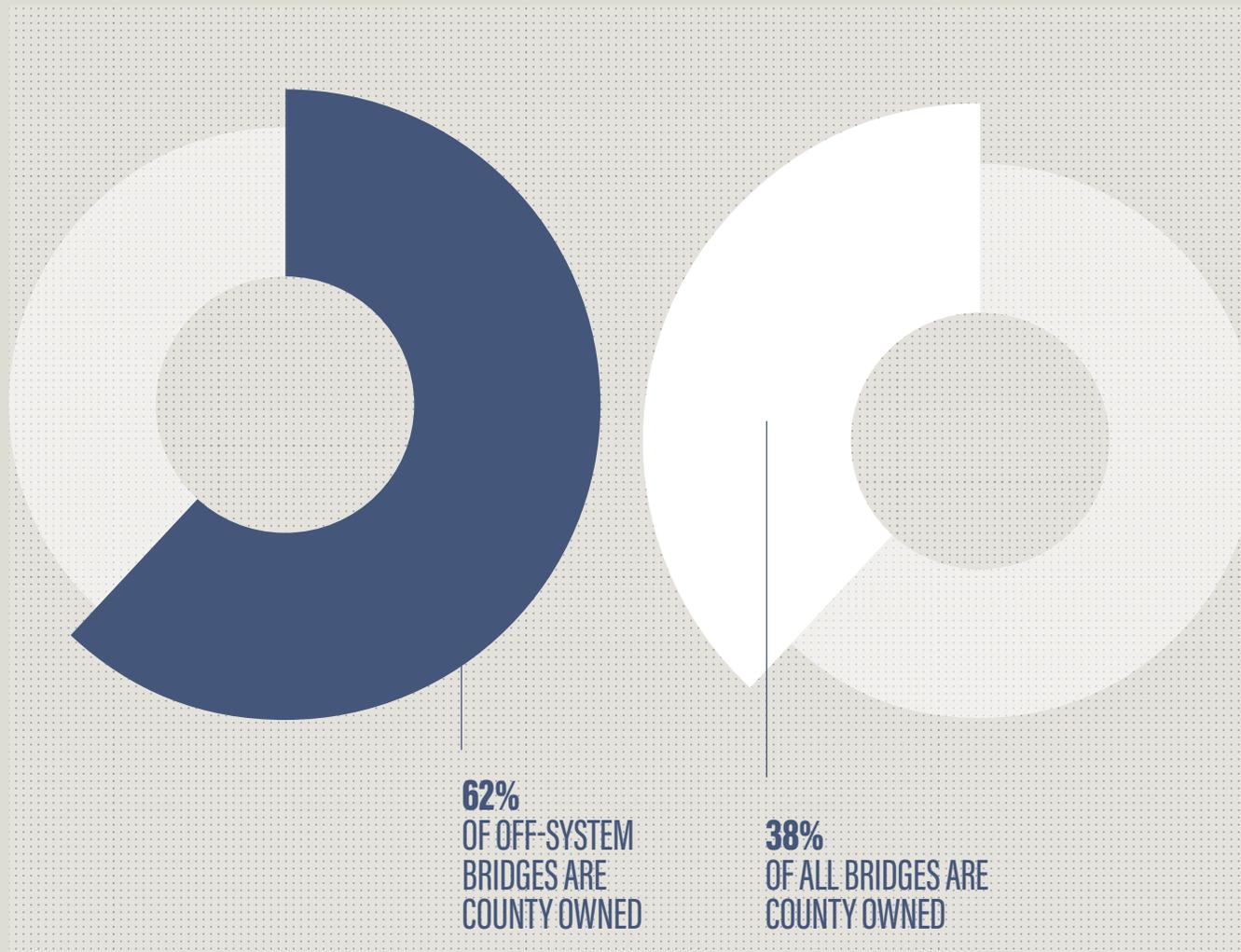
# COUNTY-OWNED BRIDGES



Share of bridges owned by a county highway agency. Source: National Bridge Inventory Data - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), 2020.

Counties own and maintain **38 percent** of the **605,000 bridges** that compose the National Bridge Inventory.

### COUNTY OWNED BRIDGES, 2020



According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, **7.5 percent** of the nation's bridges are considered structurally deficient. With the bipartisan infrastructure law, counties will invest funds to improve bridge conditions.



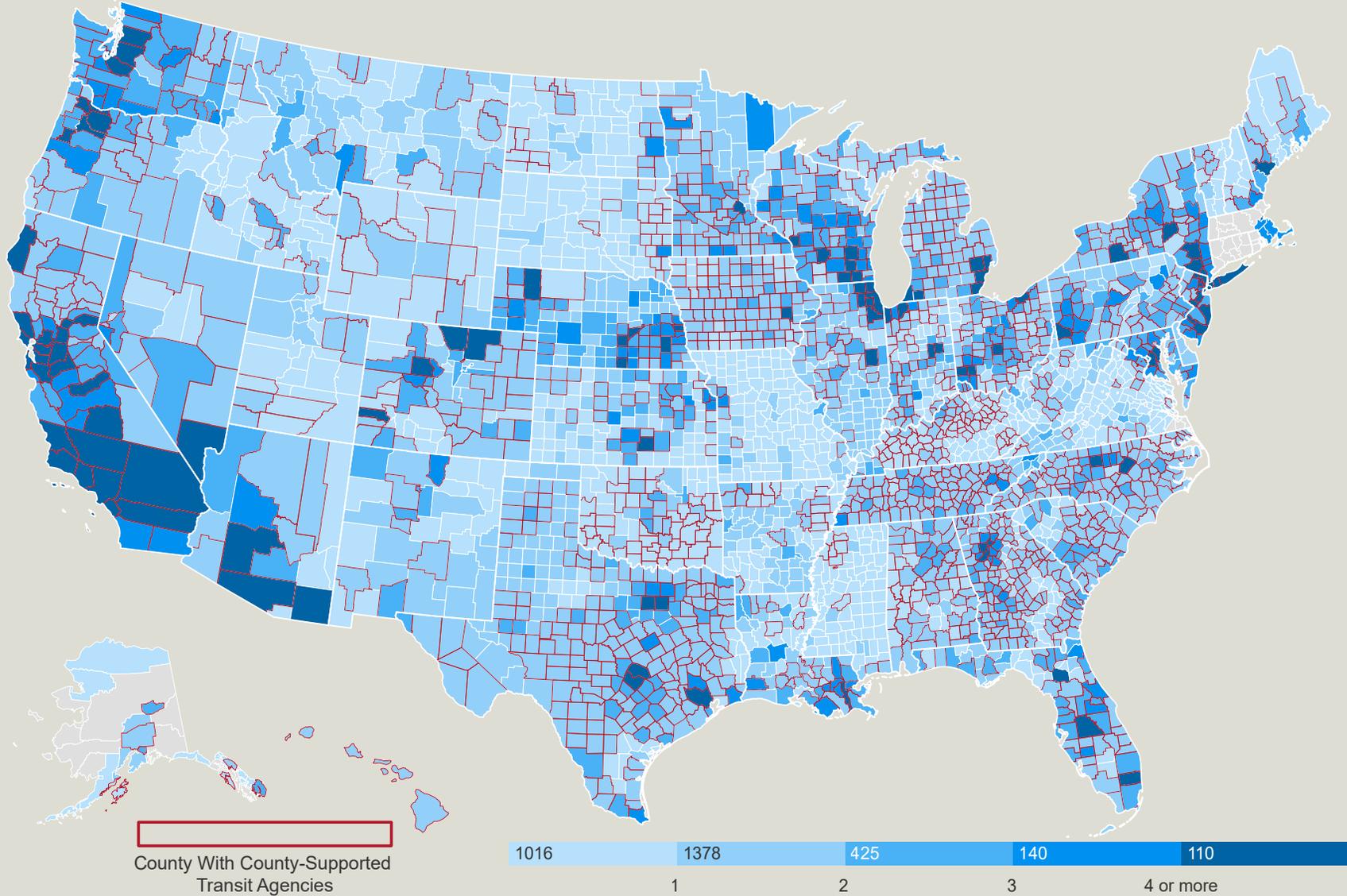
Off-system bridges comprise **46.3 percent** of the nation's bridges (over 280,000 bridges).

Counties own and maintain

**38%**

of the National Bridge Inventory

# COUNTY-SUPPORTED TRANSIT AGENCIES



The number of public transit agencies owned or operated by counties or regional transit authorities — those with county ownership, county officials on the board of the transit authorities or county-funded. Note: Counties outlined in red are those with county-supported transit agencies. Sources: NACo Analysis of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) National Transit Database (NTD) data, 2015-2019.

## COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS AT A GLANCE

# 1.

### County of Miami-Dade Transportation and Public Works, Miami-Dade County, Fla.

The Miami-Dade County transit system is the 14th largest in the U.S. and consists of three main modes: metrobus, metrorail and metromover (4.4-mile electrically powered, fully automated people mover system). In 2020, the department provided **314 MILLION** annual passenger miles, operated 1,452 vehicles in maximum service and expended **\$687 MILLION** in operating funds (58.5 percent of which were provided by local government). The department operates commuter bus, demand response, heavy rail, bus, monorail/automated and vanpool services.

# 2.

### RideOn - Montgomery County Transit, Montgomery County, Md.

The Montgomery County Division of Transit Services plans, schedules and manages the county's RideOn bus system, consisting of 375 county-owned and operated buses. In 2020, the agency provided **71 MILLION** annual passenger miles, operated 314 vehicles in maximum service and expended **\$129 MILLION** in operating funds (55 percent of which were provided by local government). The agency operates bus and demand response services.

# 3.

### King County Department of Metro Transit, King County, Wash.

King County Metro is the Puget Sound region's largest public transportation agency. In 2020, the department provided **260 MILLION** annual passenger miles, operated 3,371 vehicles in maximum service and expended **\$929 MILLION** in operating funds (21.9 percent of which were provided by local government). The department operates commuter bus, demand response, heavy rail, bus, monorail/automated and vanpool services.

Counties annually invest more than

# \$23 BILLION

**IN THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS**, including subways, surface rails, ferries and buses.

Counties are involved in

# 40%

of public transit systems across the nation

# 4.

### Milwaukee County Transit System, Milwaukee County, Wis.

The Milwaukee County Transit System provides nearly 29 million rides each year and generates a massive economic impact for the region. In 2020, the agency provided **58 MILLION** annual passenger miles, operated 371 vehicles in maximum service and expended **\$145 MILLION** in operating funds (16.3 percent of which were provided by local government). The agency operates bus, commuter bus and demand response services.



**KEEP  
AMERICA  
HEALTHY**

**COUNTIES PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN PROTECTING,  
PROMOTING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES  
ACROSS THE NATION.**



Counties employ over

**391,000**

hospital and health care workers.

Counties support  
more than

**900**

hospitals that provide  
inpatient medical care  
and specialized care.



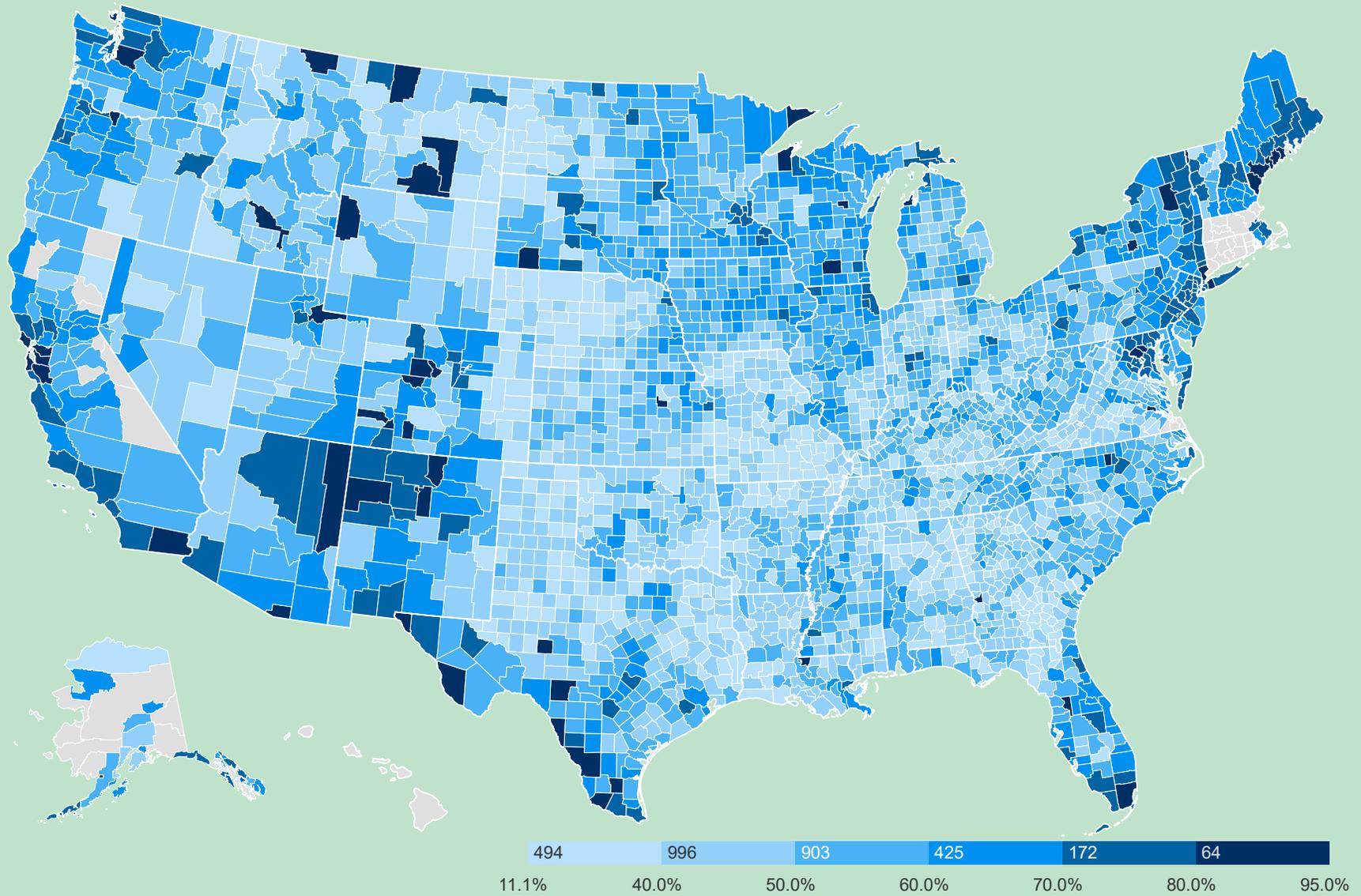
Counties also own and  
support more than

**700**

long-term care facilities.

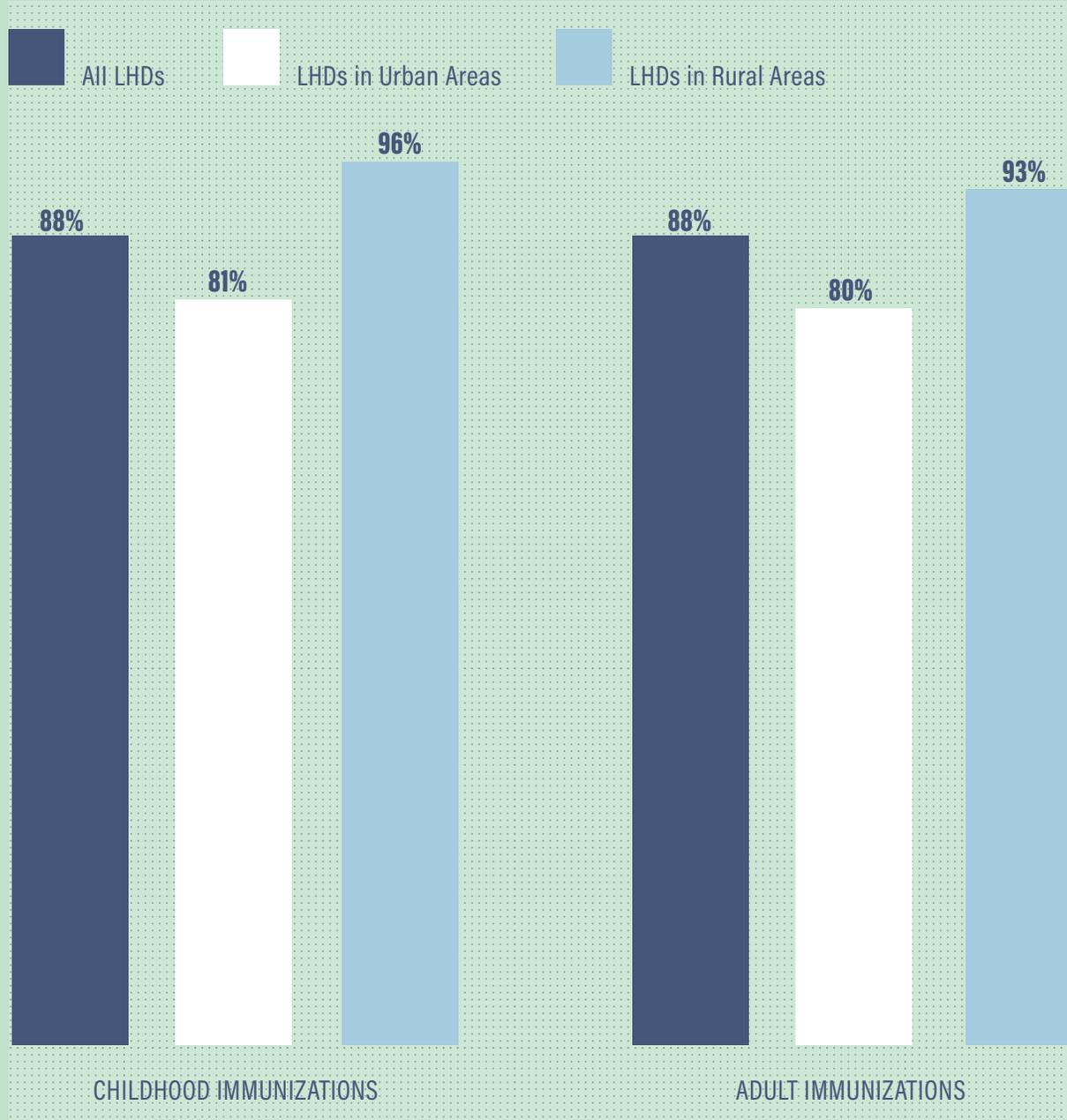


# PERCENT OF THE POPULATION FULLY VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19



Share of the county population that is fully vaccinated against COVID-19. A fully vaccinated person is one who has received two doses in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or one dose of the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of June 10th, 2022.

## SHARE OF LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (LHDs) PROVIDING ADULT AND CHILD IMMUNIZATION SERVICES, BY LEVEL OF URBANIZATION - 2019



Counties are critical drivers in meeting essential vaccine milestones and protecting public health through **more than 1,900** local public health departments.

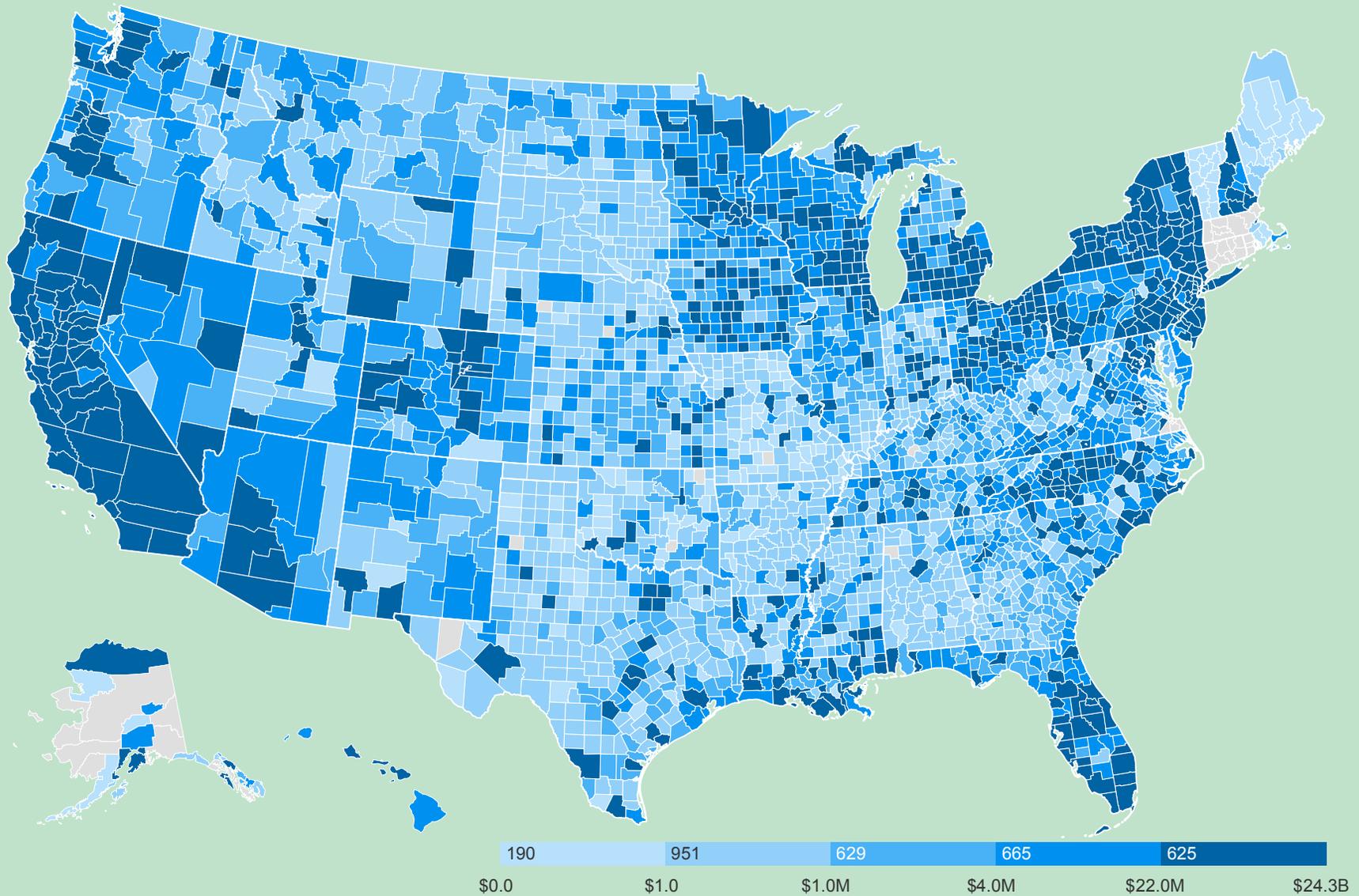
### COUNTIES SUPPORT VACCINE ADMINISTRATION THROUGH COUNTY-OPERATED VACCINE CLINICS,

leveraging local public health expertise to allocate the vaccine supply, working with state and federal partners to overcome access barriers and increasing vaccine confidence through public messaging and education.

### COUNTIES ARE KEY DRIVERS IN MEETING CRITICAL VACCINE MILESTONES

THROUGH LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND HAVE LED COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS THROUGH VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

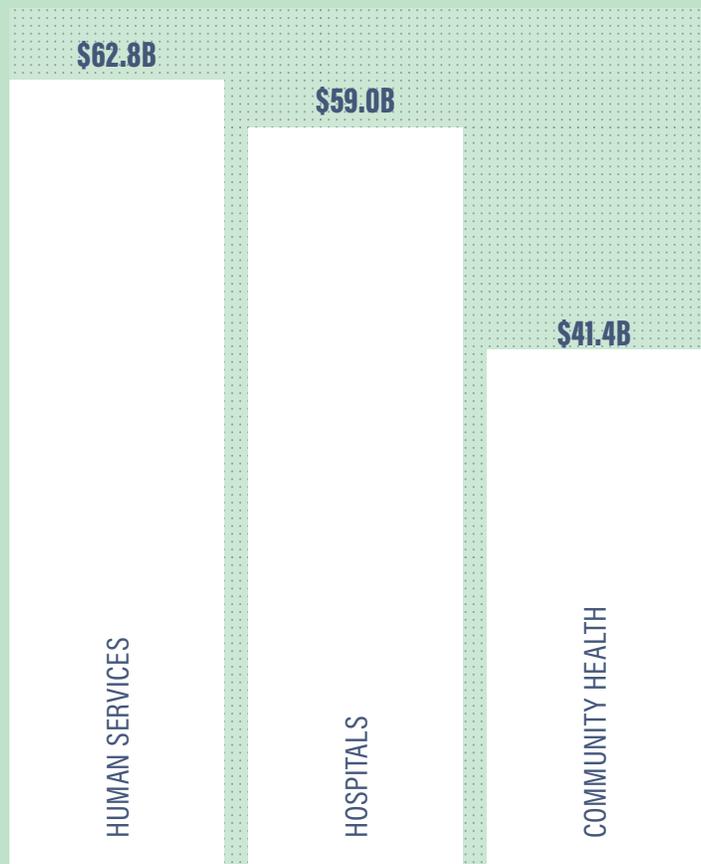
# COUNTY INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Amount of health and human services expenditures, including health, hospitals, cash assistance, vendor payments, other human services, and current operations, construction, other capital outlays, assistance and subsidies, and intergovernmental transfers. Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments, Finance 2017.

Each year, counties invest **\$62.8 billion** to serve as a safety net for millions of residents and deliver vital services to our nation's most vulnerable populations.

**COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SPENDING BY CATEGORY - 2017**



Counties play a direct role in the health and well-being of residents, investing more than

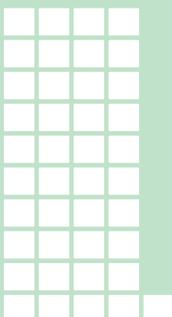
**\$163 BILLION**

in community health, hospitals and human services annually

In total, counties invest over

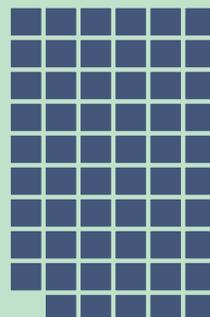
**\$100 BILLION**

in community health and hospitals annually, including:



More than **\$41 billion**

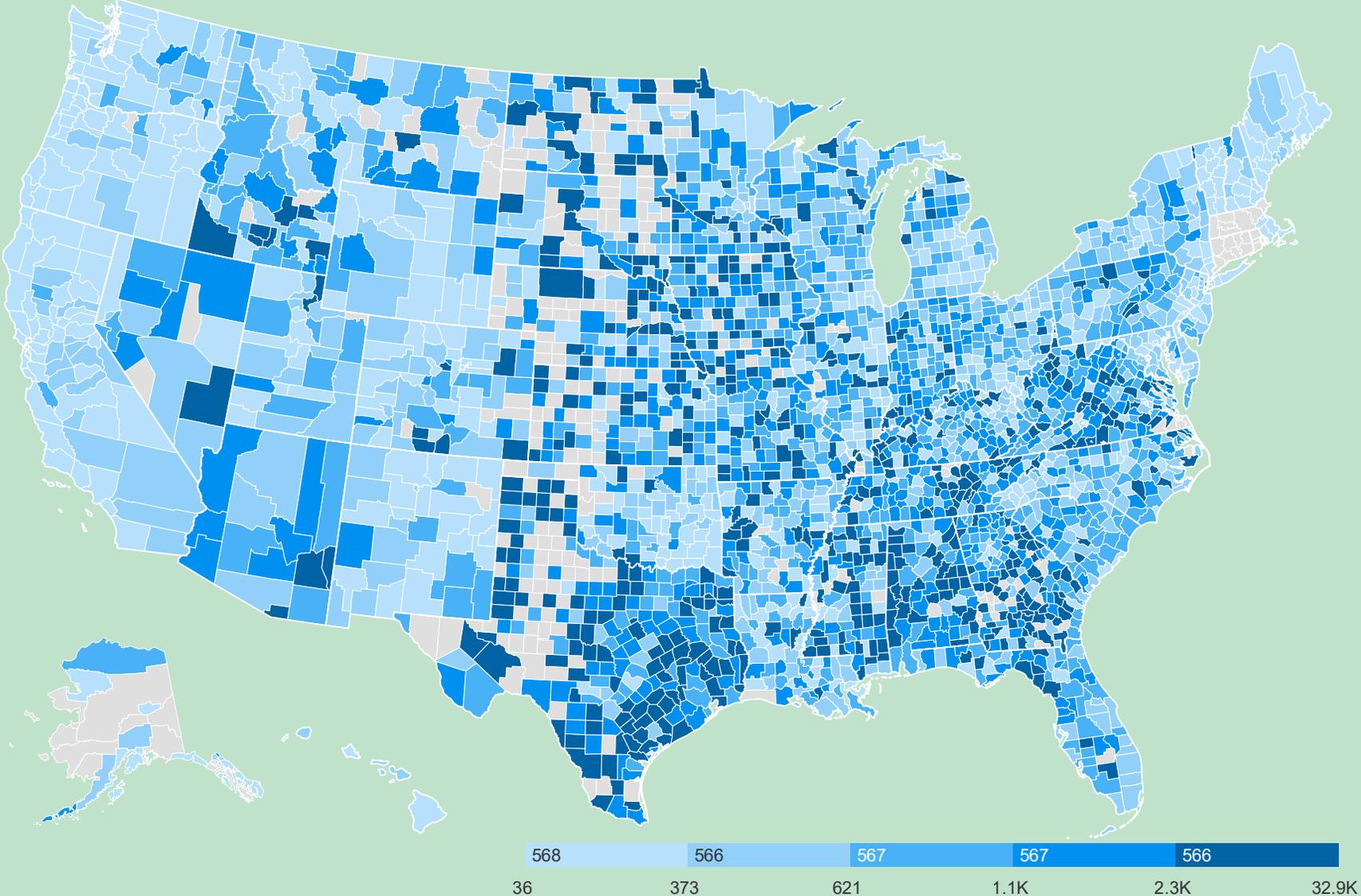
for the provision of community and public health services (other than hospital care) such as mental health and substance abuse programs, county health department inspections, water and air quality regulation and health inspections.



More than **\$59 billion**

in operating county-owned hospital facilities, including those operated by public universities and for the provision of inpatient medical care and specialized care.

# MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER RATIO



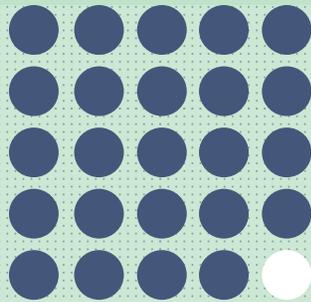
The ratio of county residents to mental health providers. Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute analysis of CMS, National Provider Identification file 2020 data.

AMERICA'S 3,069 COUNTIES ARE INTEGRAL TO THE NATION'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM.



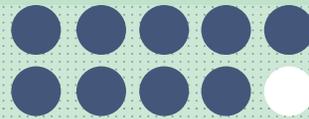
1 IN 5 ADULTS IN THE U.S. EXPERIENCE A **MENTAL ILLNESS**.

**MORE THAN HALF DID NOT RECEIVE TREATMENT IN THE PAST YEAR.**



1 IN 25 ADULTS IN THE U.S. EXPERIENCE A **SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS**.

APPROXIMATELY **ONE THIRD** DID NOT RECEIVE TREATMENT IN THE PAST YEAR.



1 IN 10 ADULTS IN THE U.S. EXPERIENCE A **SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER**.

APPROXIMATELY **90%** DID NOT RECEIVE TREATMENT IN THE PAST YEAR.

Aproximately

**9.5 MILLION**

adults have **BOTH A MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER**.

**IN 40 STATES PLUS THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, there is at least one mental health facility operated by a regional/district authority or county, local or municipal government.

**ACROSS 48 STATES PLUS THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, there is at least one mental health facility that accepts county or local government funds as a source of payment for mental health treatment services.

**ONE THIRD OF THE POPULATION LIVES IN A COUNTY DESIGNATED AS A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA**

Counties plan and operate community-based services for persons with mental illnesses and substance use conditions through **750 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES** and community providers.



America's **3,069 counties** are integral to the nation's behavioral health system.



**64 percent** of incarcerated people have a mental illness, and the county court system processes over **8 million** individuals each year, making county jails one of the largest providers of behavioral and mental health services.



**CREATE  
PROSPEROUS  
COMMUNITIES**



County governments are collectively one of the largest employers in the nation, employing

**3.6  
MILLION**  
workers.



Nationally, the unemployment rate is

**3.6%**

— 0.1 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels.



The impact of the pandemic on the local government workforce remains acute, with

**584,000**

local government jobs yet to be recovered.



IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES, COUNTIES ARE PRIORITIZING THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS AND CONSTRUCTING A FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINED RESILIENCY.

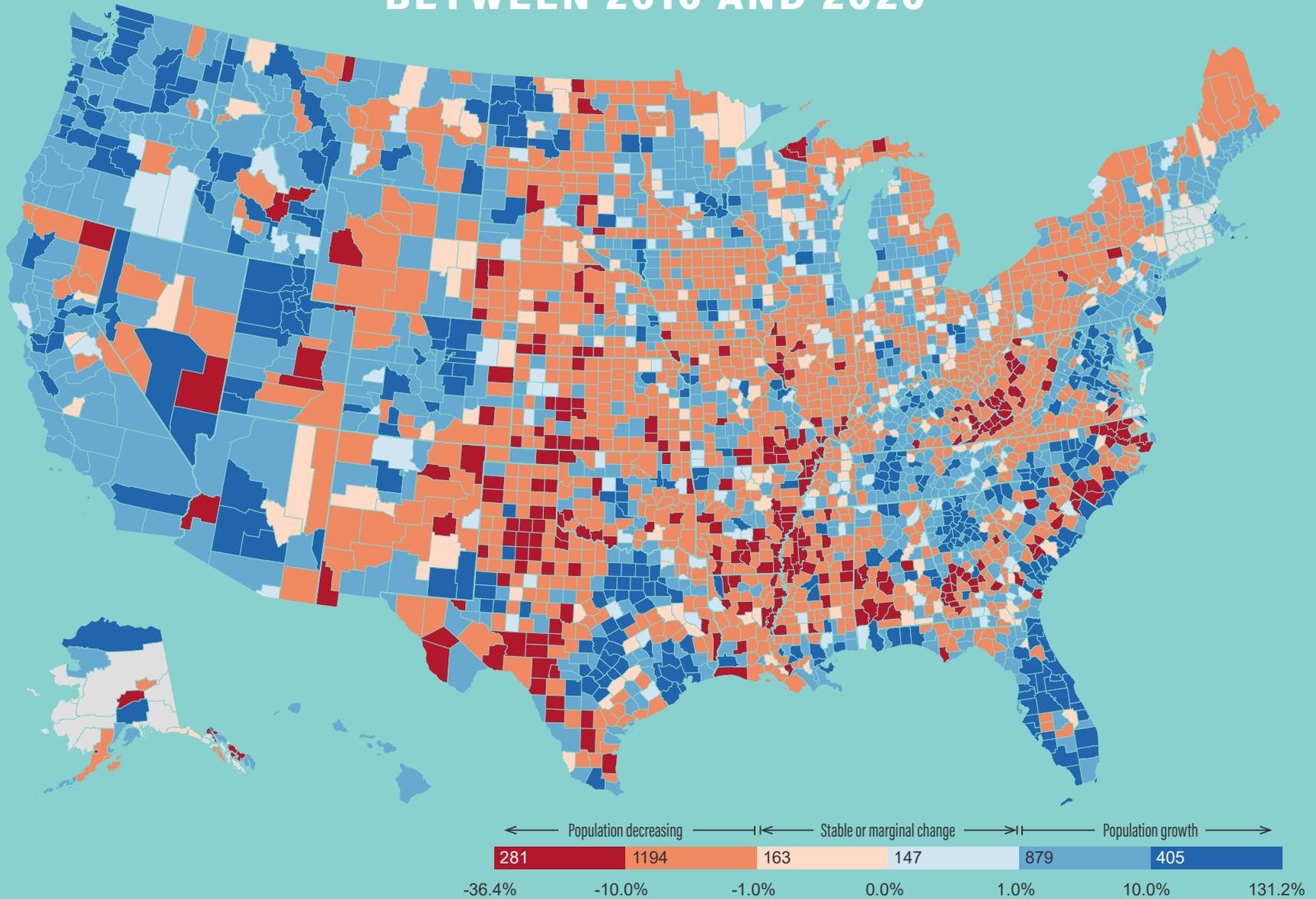


COUNTY LEADERS ARE LEVERAGING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT'S (ARPA) STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND TO BOLSTER THE LOCAL WORKFORCE.



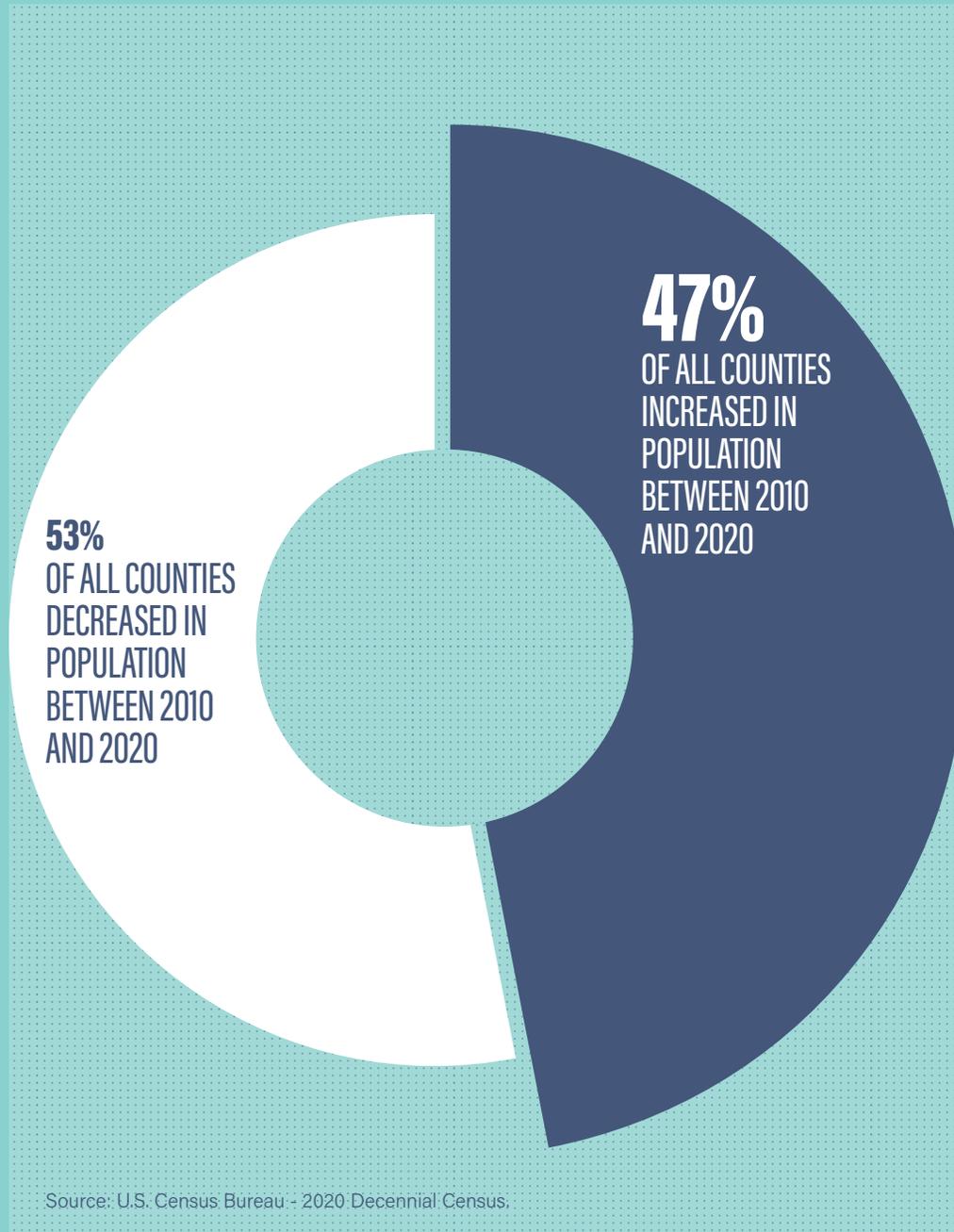
COUNTY LEADERS DIRECTLY FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICY AND SERVICES WHICH HAVE TANGIBLE RAMIFICATIONS IN THE LIVES OF RESIDENTS.

# PERCENT CHANGE IN COUNTY POPULATION BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020



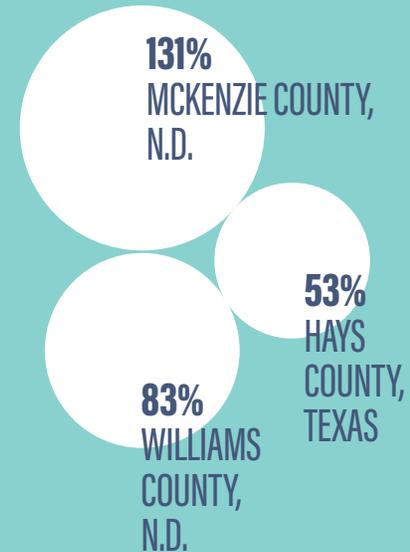
The relative change in the size of the county's population over the past decade expressed as a percentage. Source: U.S. Census Bureau - 2020 Decennial Census.

## COUNTY POPULATIONS CHANGED BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020



## THE FASTEST-GROWING COUNTIES

Southern and Western counties experienced the most significant gains over the last decade.



Racial and ethnic demographic makeups of counties are shifting.

In 2020, **375 counties** were majority people of color — an increase from the 2010 baseline of **317 counties**.

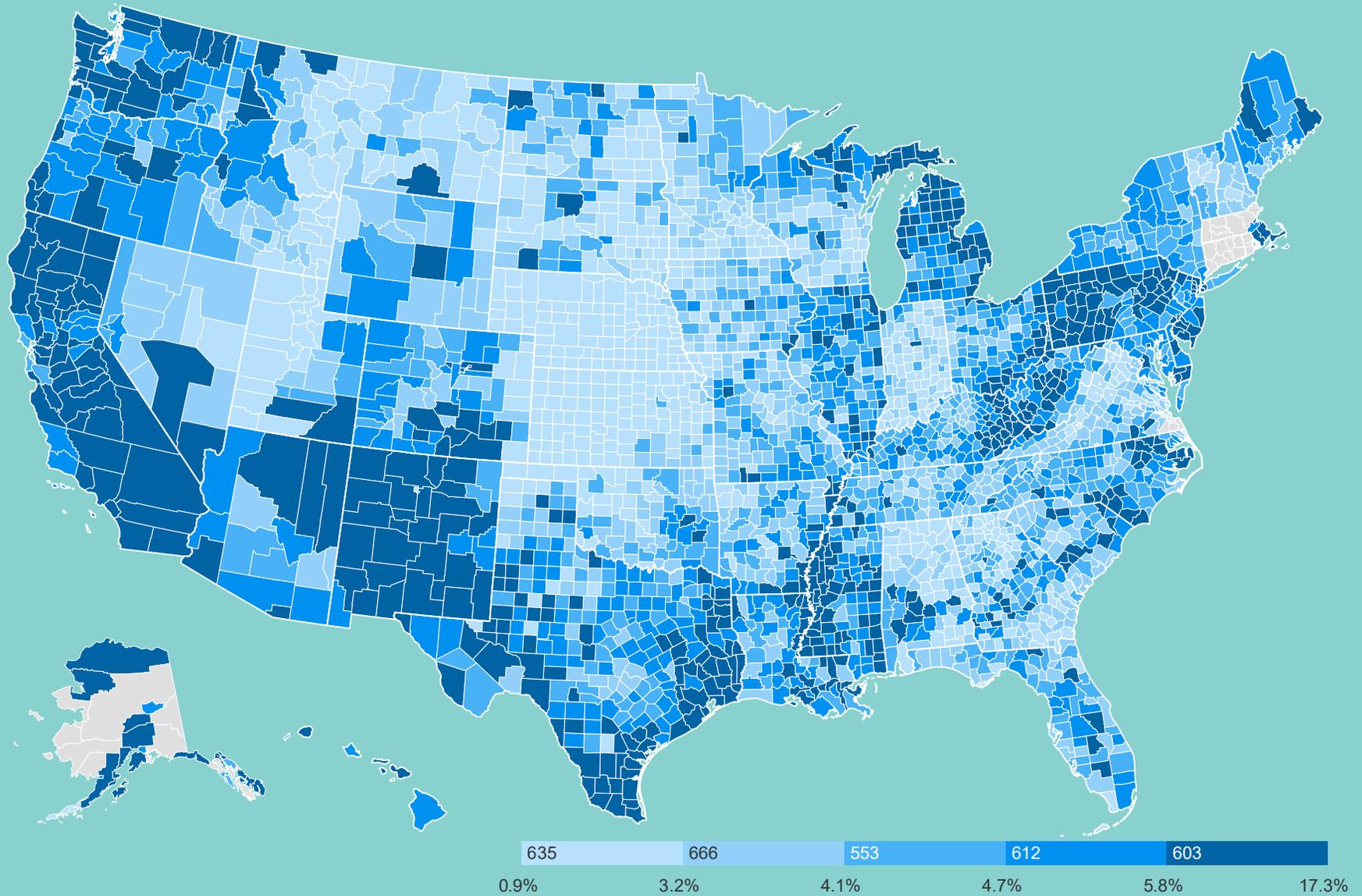


**FOUR OF THE FIVE COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS OF COLOR ARE IN TEXAS** (Starr, Maverick, Webb and Zapata counties), along with Oglala Lakota County, S.D.



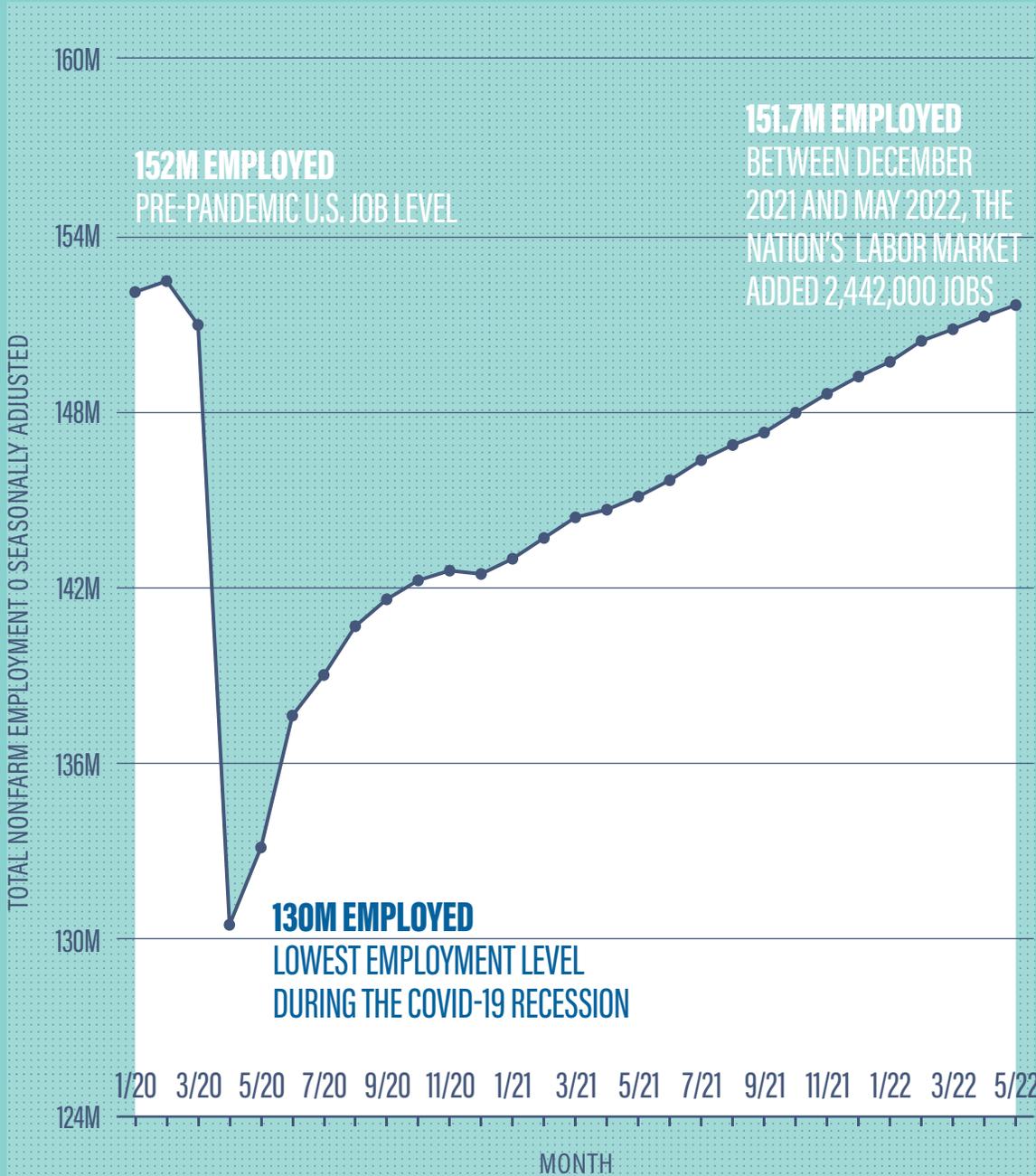
**People of color** encompasses those identifying as Hispanic, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

# UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY



Number of persons unemployed as a percent of the labor force. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), 2021.

## NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LEVELS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



**COUNTY LEADERS ARE IMPLEMENTING LOCAL POLICIES THAT ELEVATE RECOVERY EFFORTS AND ESTABLISH LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS FOR RESIDENTS.**

Different counties face different recovery and workforce planning needs in the post-COVID era.

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS**

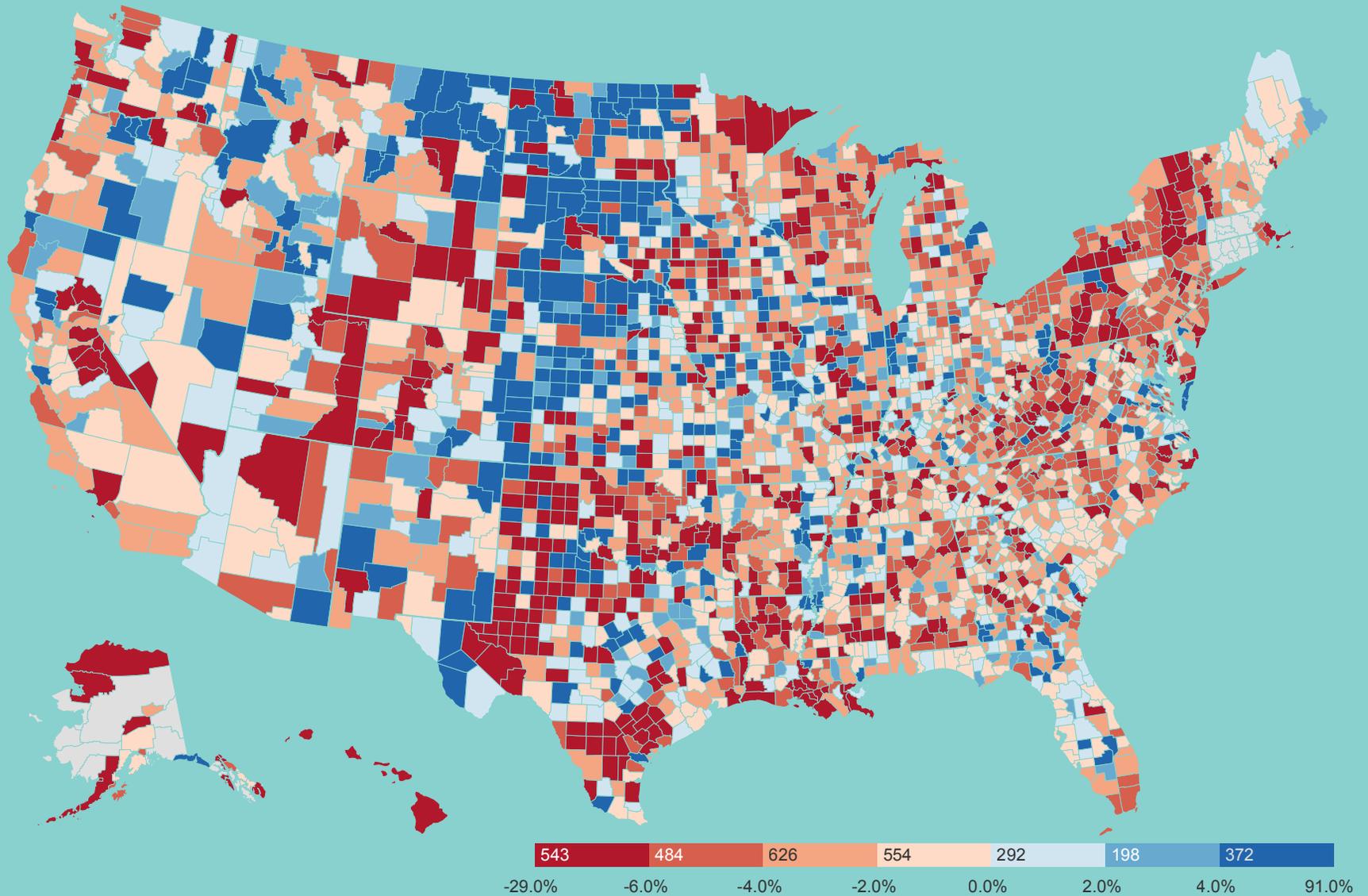
are part of the state and local structure that oversees the implementation of workforce programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. County governments play an essential role in determining the membership of the WDBs, which include representatives of local businesses (who must be the majority of the board), representatives of the workforce community and representatives of education and training.

### **COUNTIES ACT AS CRITICAL CONVENERS,**

forging meaningful connections between workers, employers, community colleges, workforce organizations and other local stakeholders to thread the needle on workforce concerns unique to each community.

**COUNTIES ARE VITAL IN SUPPORTING LABOR MARKET RECOVERY**

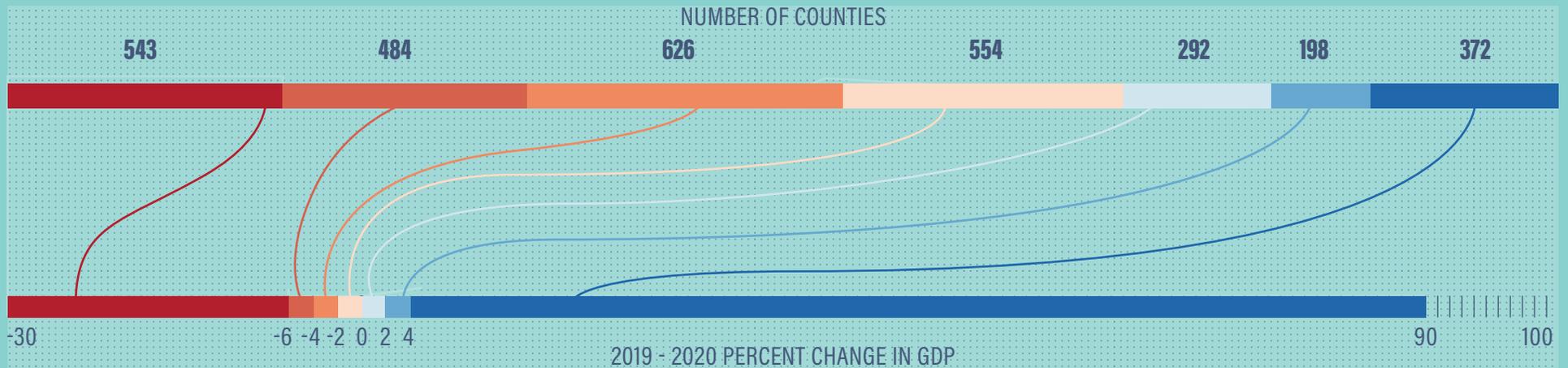
# CHANGE IN COUNTY GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020



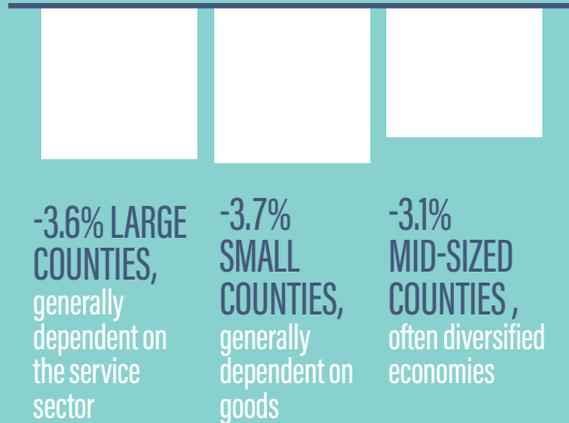
The percentage change in real GDP between 2019 and 2020. Source: Department of Commerce / Bureau of Economic Analysis / Regional Economic Accounts / Gross Domestic Product Data by County, 2020.

**Economic output declined in 72 percent of counties between 2019 and 2020** as characterized by the coronavirus-related recession. A vital indicator, economic output (also known as GDP), is often used to measure productivity in the local economy, estimating the total value of goods and services produced.

### COUNTY-LEVEL CHANGE IN GDP



### GDP PERCENT CHANGE BY COUNTY SIZE, 2019-2020



The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which includes **\$65.1 billion** in direct aid to every county in the U.S., is increasing local government spending and positively impacting GDP growth.



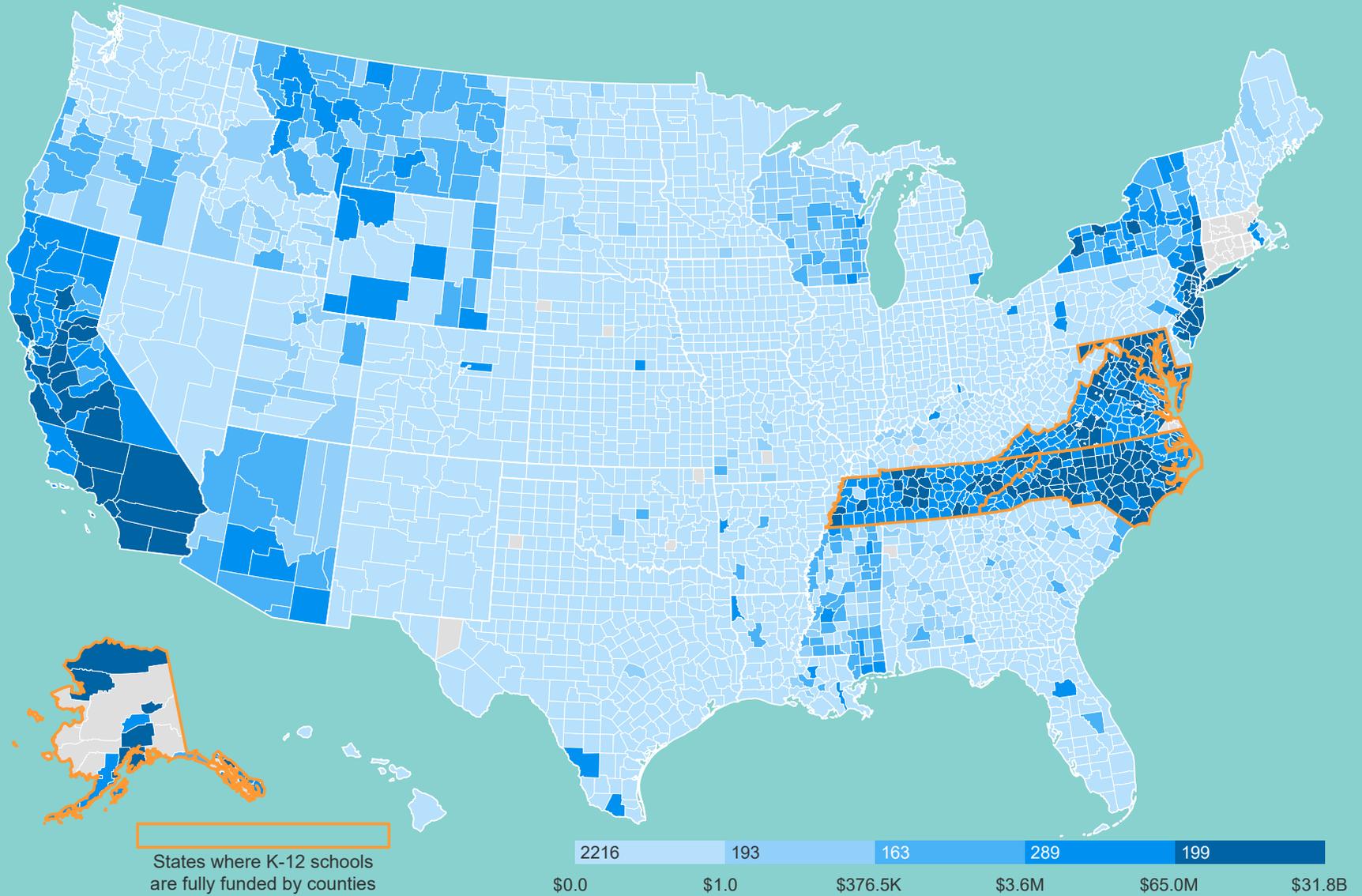
Between 2019 and 2020, economic output across all counties declined by **3.4 percent**, disproportionately impacting counties with homogenous economies.

### COUNTY OFFICIALS ACTIVELY PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH

by attracting and retaining businesses, providing assistance to businesses for recovery, fostering entrepreneurship within the community and engaging in partnerships that drive economic growth.

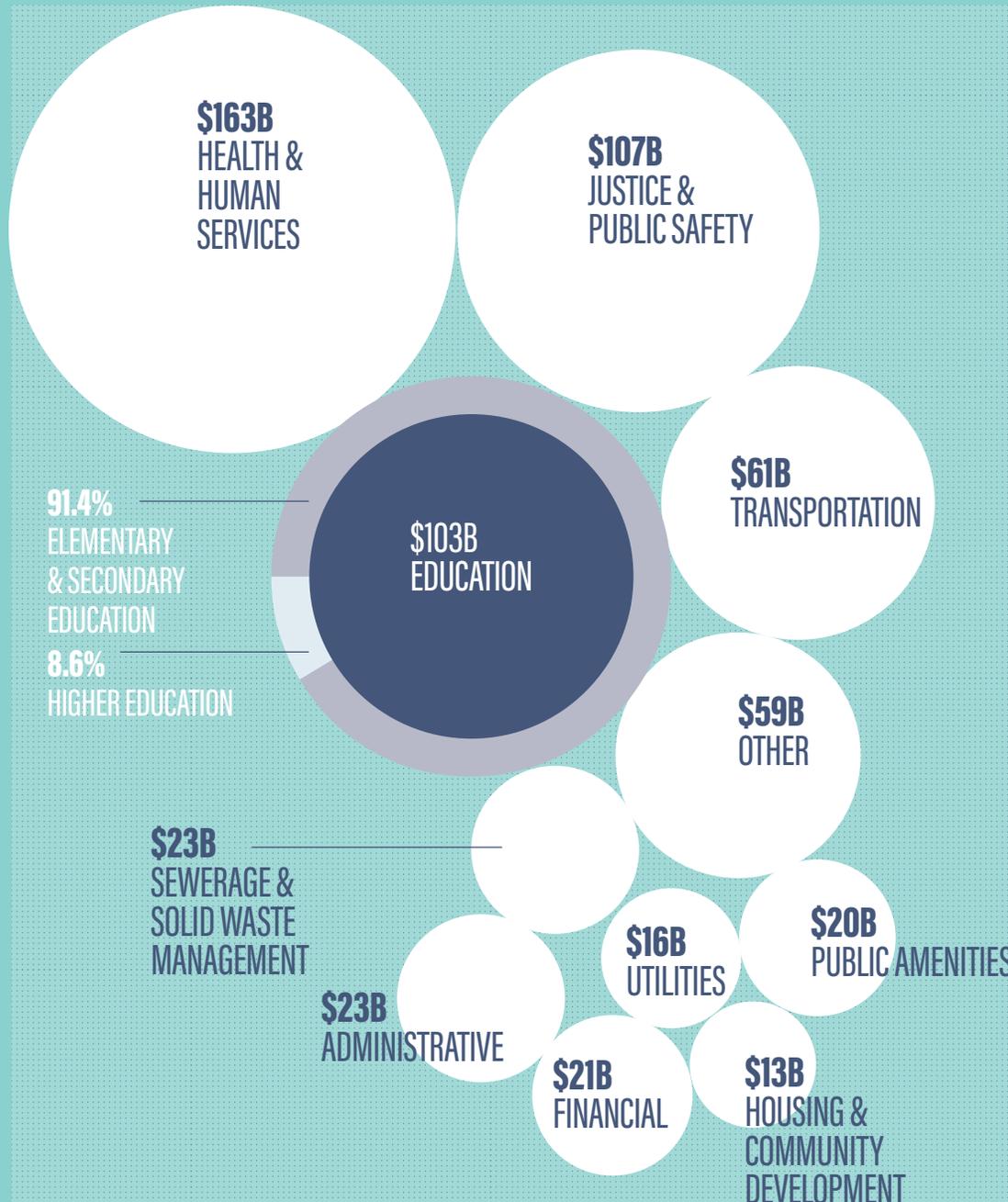
**LOCAL COMMUNITIES RELY ON COUNTIES TO CREATE ECONOMIES THAT THRIVE AND GROW**

# COUNTY EDUCATION INVESTMENTS



Total county education investments, including elementary and secondary education, higher education, current operations, construction, other capital outlay and intergovernmental transfers. Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments: Finance, 2017.

## ANNUAL COUNTY INVESTMENTS



County property taxes provide the primary source of funding for public schools, fully or partially funding school districts in five states.\* Even in states where counties are not responsible for overseeing school districts, county governments share a tax base with those school districts and often provide complementary services to participating children.

\*States where K-12 schools are fully funded by counties include: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Alaska.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted education systems across the nation. Through the ARPA Recovery Fund, counties are supporting programs for children in disproportionately impacted communities.

Counties are also creating opportunities through partnerships with Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools, as well as administering continuing

education and workforce development programs.

CTE programs provide students with academic skills, technical skills, knowledge and training to be competitors in the job market. Similarly, county-administered continuing education and workforce development programs enhance knowledge and skills in a particular area leading to a license or credential.

Counties support the public education system through various mechanisms, including an annual investment of

# \$103 BILLION



**FOSTER  
SAFE AND  
VIBRANT  
COMMUNITIES**



**COUNTIES INVEST \$12 BILLION**  
ANNUALLY IN LOCAL PARKS AND  
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.



**COUNTIES INVEST \$107 BILLION**  
ANNUALLY IN JUSTICE AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY.

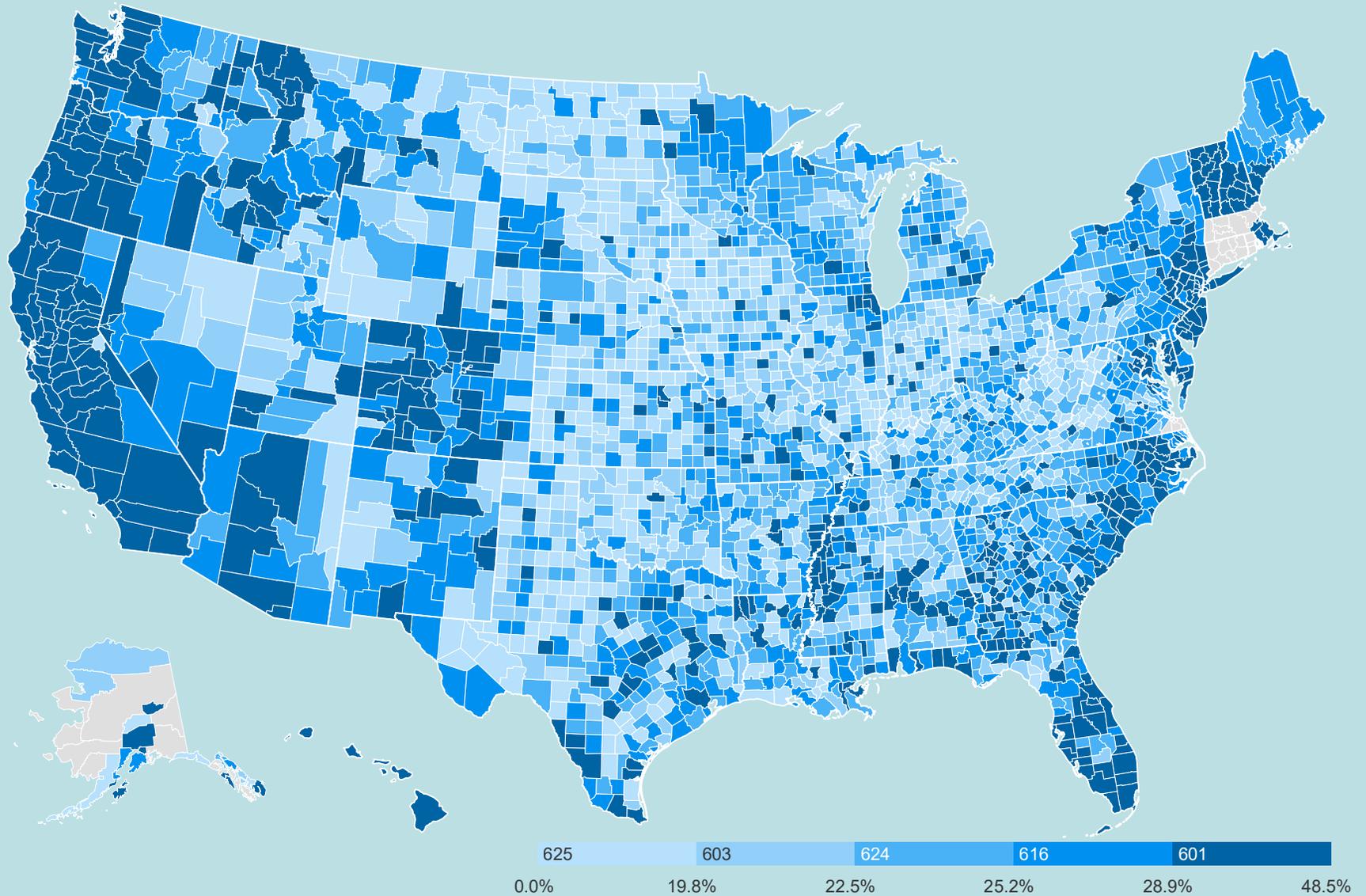


**COUNTIES INVEST \$12.8 BILLION**  
ANNUALLY IN HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.



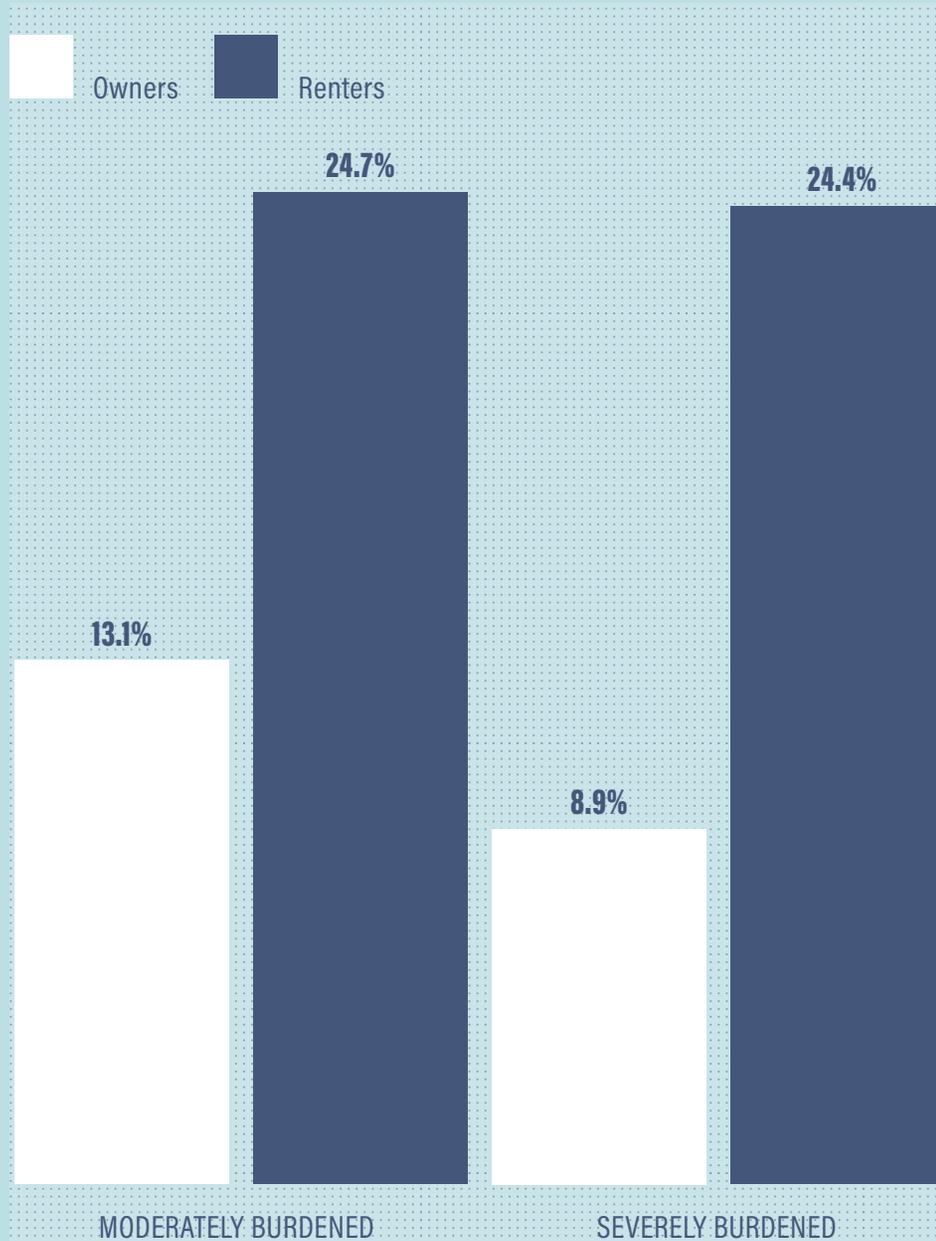
**COUNTIES IN ALL 48 STATES**  
WITH COUNTY GOVERNMENTS  
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OPERATE, MANAGE AND FUND  
OUR OWN PUBLIC-SAFETY  
ANSWERING POINTS, OFTEN  
MANDATED BY THE STATE.

# COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS COUNTIES



The share of households (owners and renters) that spent 30 percent or more of their household income on housing costs. Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 2016-2020 (Tables DP04, B25091 and B25070).

**SHARE OF COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS COUNTIES, 2020**



In 2020, nearly **HALF OF RENTERS (19.1 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS) AND OVER ONE FIFTH OF HOMEOWNERS (16.5 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS)** in counties were cost-burdened – spending more than **30 percent** of their incomes on housing.



Counties are housing stakeholders, investing **\$12.8 billion** annually in the construction, operation and support of housing and redevelopment projects.

**HOUSING COST BURDENS AFFECT BOTH RENTER AND OWNER HOUSEHOLDS AS WELL AS HOUSEHOLDS OF ALL INCOME LEVELS**

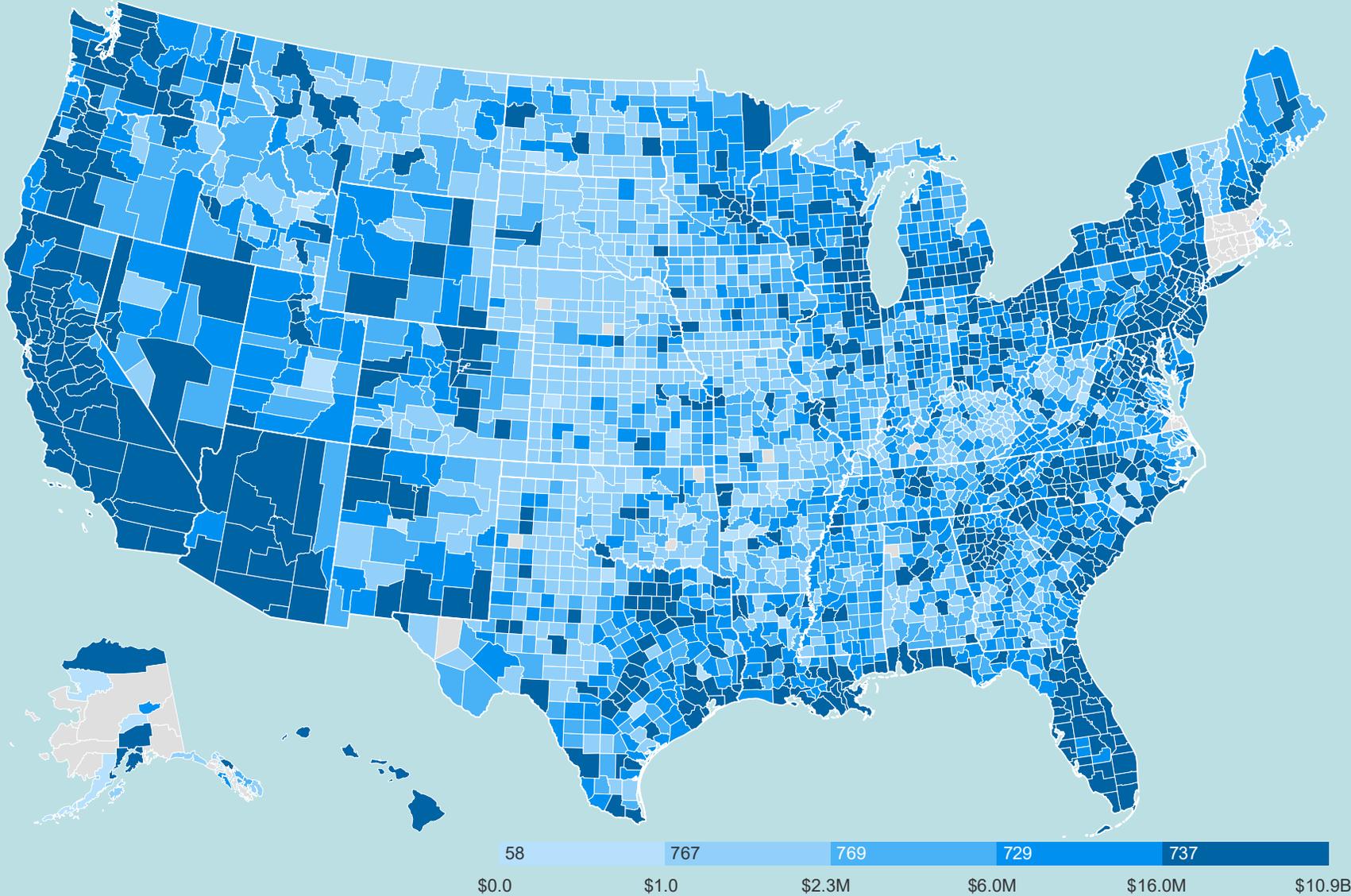
**THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC, COUNTIES ARE DISTRIBUTING FEDERAL RELIEF FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE, EVICTIONS AND FORECLOSURES AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY HOUSING SOLUTIONS** to individuals with disabilities, low-income populations, veterans and those experiencing homelessness.

Counties are key players in community planning, land use, zoning and enacting policies and other regulations that affect housing.

Housing challenges are a longstanding issue. High housing costs are placing great financial stress on individuals and families.

The ongoing public health crisis has highlighted and amplified the existing gaps and challenges in the housing system and counties are investing in solutions to help residents across the nation.

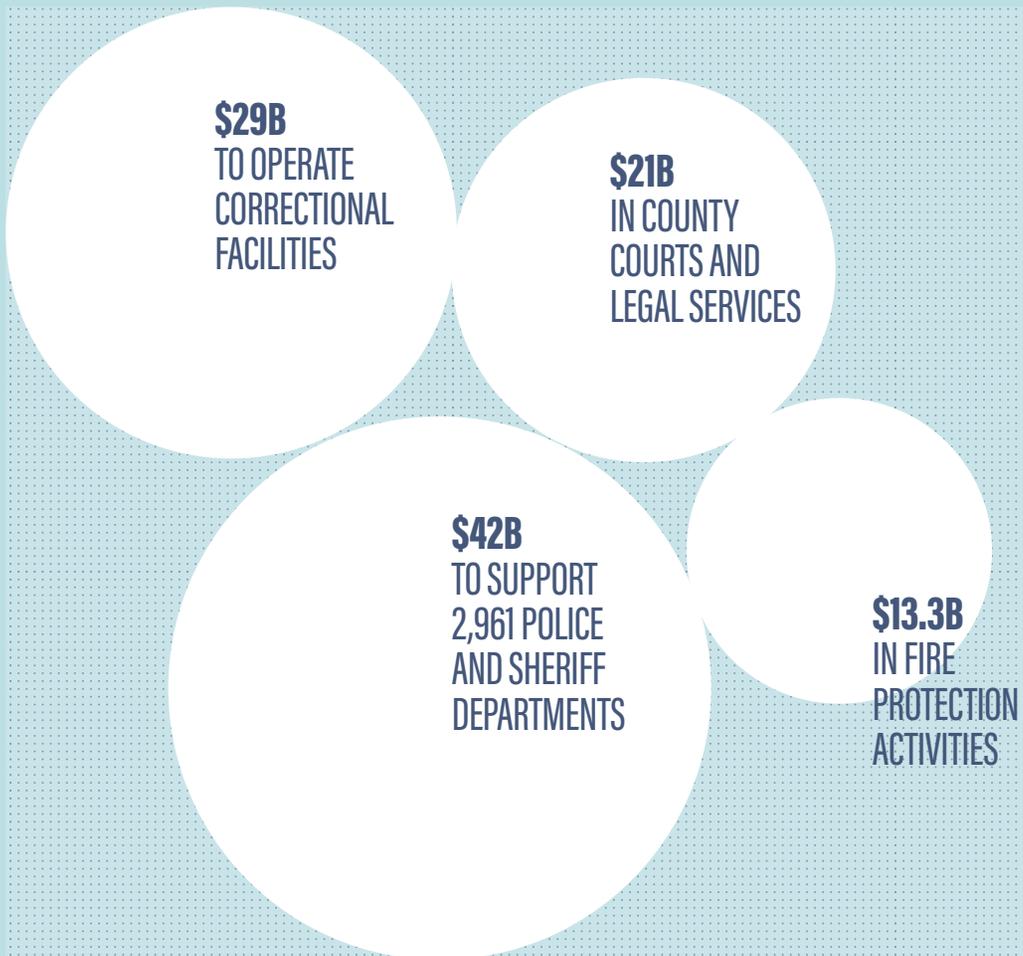
# COUNTY JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTMENTS



Justice and public safety expenditures by county. These include correctional facilities, judicial and legal services, police and fire protection, protective inspection, current operations, construction, other capital outlay and intergovernmental transfers. Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments: Finance, 2017.

Counties play a major role in two distinct areas of justice and public safety: **emergency response and preparedness, and the criminal justice system.**

COUNTIES ANNUALLY INVEST:



Counties operate

**91%**  
of local jails.



Counties are the backbone of the public safety system, operating **91 percent** of local jails and processing over **8 million** admissions each year.

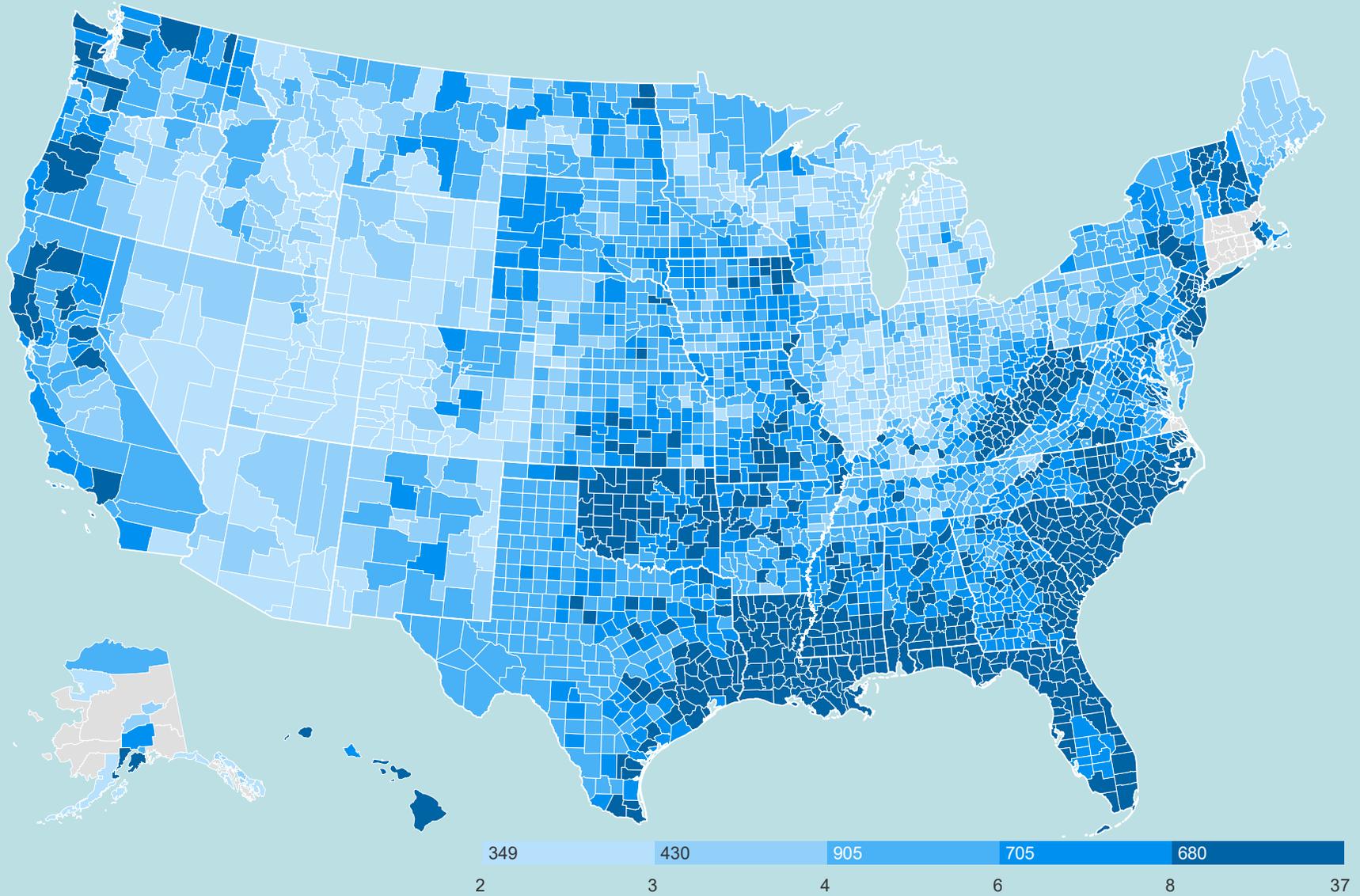
Public safety is a top priority for county residents. County elected officials influence the criminal justice system by passing ordinances, establishing policies, selecting program administrators and staff and making crucial funding decisions that directly and indirectly impact the system.

**COUNTIES ARE THE FIRST LINE OF RESPONSE IN AN EMERGENCY.** All county governments operate, manage and fund our own PSAPs, often referred to as 911 centers.

These answering points function as the vital link between the community and public safety personnel.

**COUNTY, STATE, FEDERAL AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MANAGE, FUND AND OPERATE 7,050 PUBLIC-SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS (PSAPS) THROUGHOUT THE NATION**

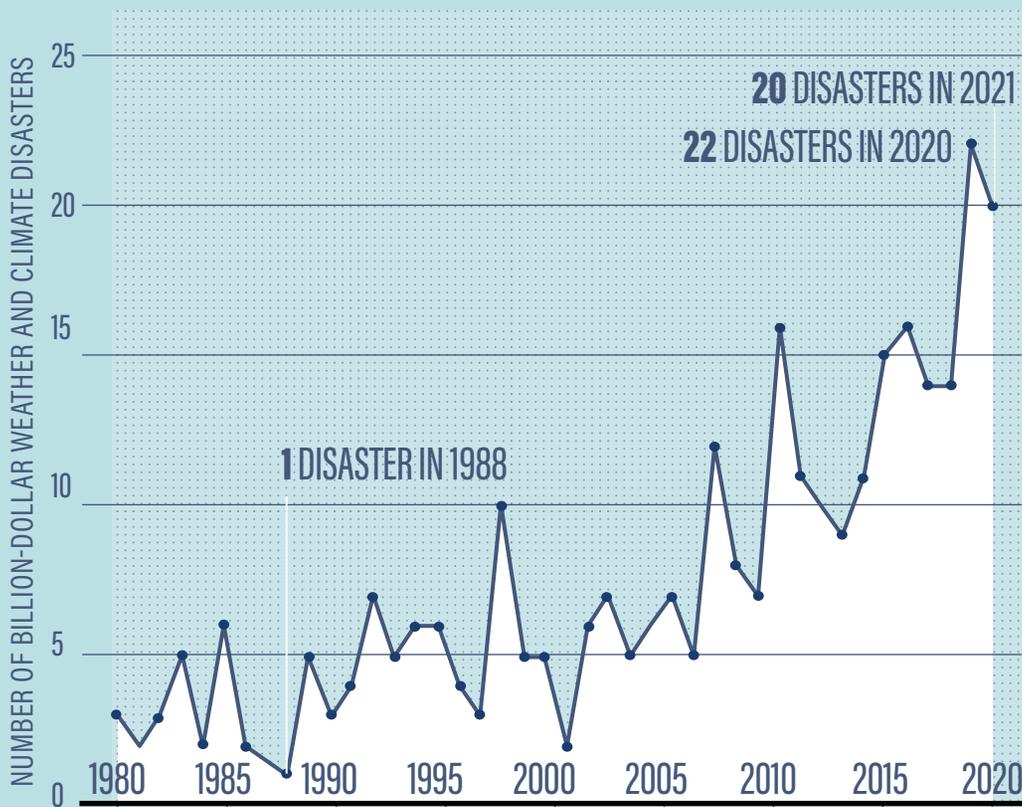
# NUMBER OF FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTERS BY COUNTY BETWEEN 2012 AND 2021



The number of disaster declarations authorized by the President, both major disaster declarations and emergency declarations, for incidents affecting a county in 2012-2021. Source: U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency 2012-2021 Disasters data, 2022.

Over the past 20 years, natural and man-made disasters have increased in frequency, severity and cost. Last year, the nation experienced **20 separate billion-dollar disasters**, totaling approximately **\$145 billion** in damages.

**WEATHER AND CLIMATE BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTERS IN THE U.S. FROM 1980-2021 - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) ADJUSTED**



In 2021, **965 counties**

experienced at least one federally declared major disaster, **590 counties**

had at least one Emergency Declaration and **850 counties** had at least one Disaster Declaration.

**AMERICA'S COUNTIES ENGAGE IN ALL ASPECTS AND PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

planning, preparation, mitigation, response and recovery. As the regularity and costs of disasters increase, counties are working hard to protect our residents, property, infrastructure systems and local economies.

Disasters can have profound impacts on communities across the United States, highlighting the need for county government leadership to ensure local communities are ready to respond when a disaster strikes.



**77%** OF COUNTIES HAVE PRE-DESIGNATED SHELTERS FOR DISASTER EVACUEES

**8%** OF COUNTIES INDICATE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE HOUSING STOCK TO SUPPORT TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR RESIDENTS, NON-LOCAL VOLUNTEERS AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, AS OF 2018



# OUR NATION'S VETERANS

More than

17  
MILLION

veterans live in U.S. counties,  
comprising **7 PERCENT OF  
COUNTY RESIDENTS.**

More than

\$215  
BILLION

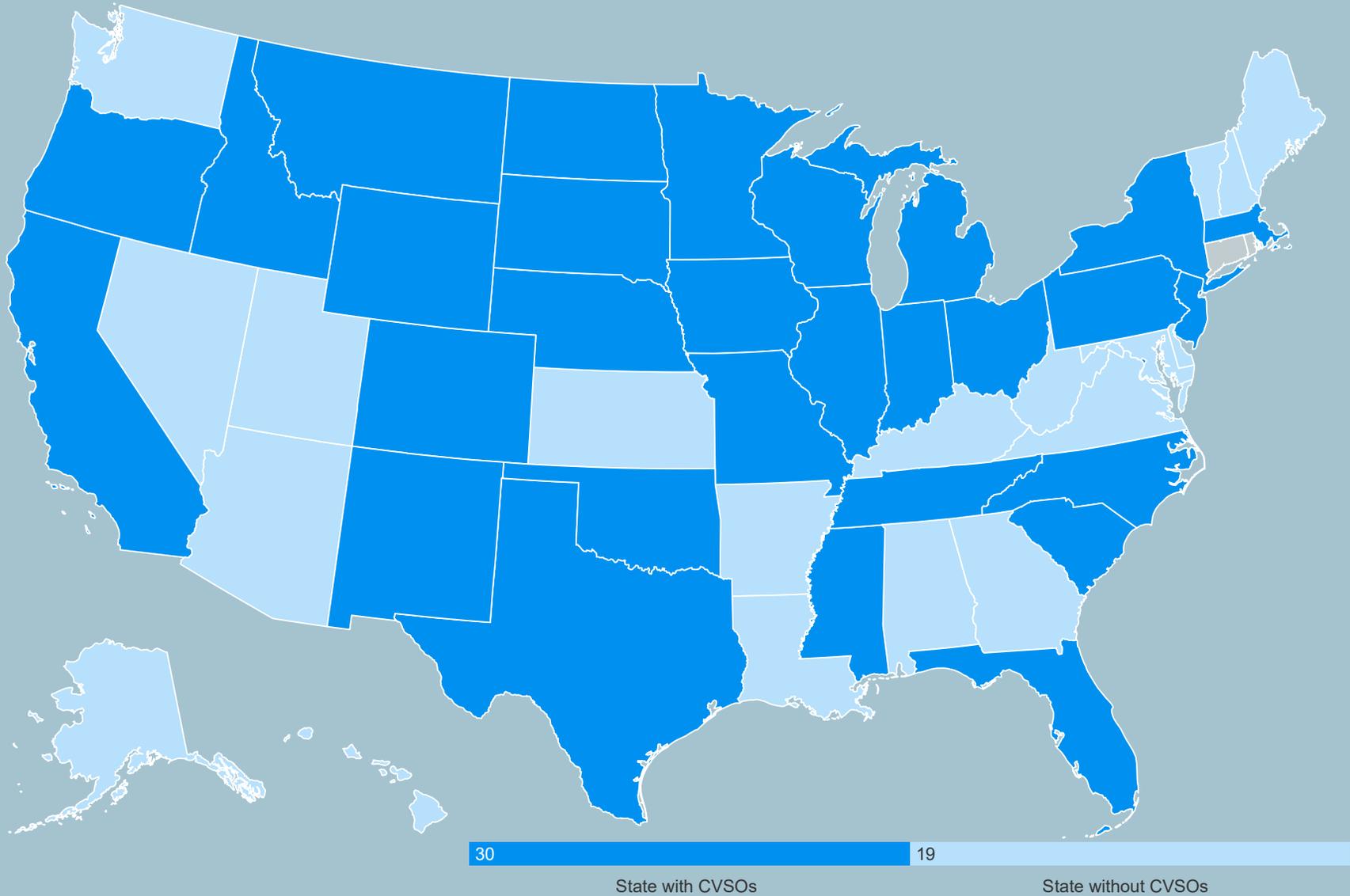
in federal dollars distributed  
to veterans in counties across  
the nation in FY 2021.

County Veteran Service  
Officers (CVSOs) operate in

29  
STATES

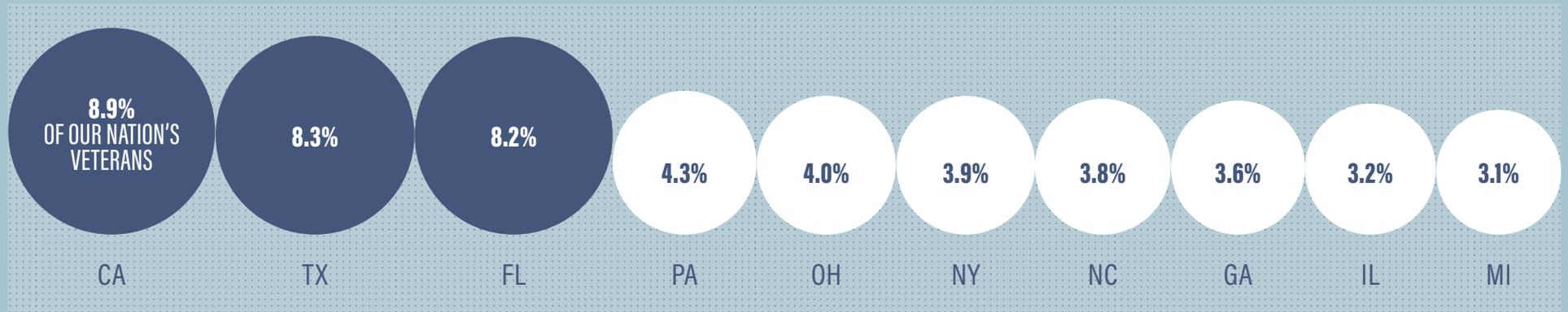
and the District of  
Columbia, and are  
responsible for helping  
veterans access federal  
benefits.

# COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (CVSOS) BY STATE



Indicates whether a state has or does not have County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs). Source: National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (Adapted by Center for a New American Security (CNAS)).

## THE 10 STATES WITH THE HIGHEST SHARE OF THE VETERAN POPULATION, 2020



Over seven percent of county residents are veterans (17.2 million veterans). Half of the 17.2 million veterans reside in the ten states shown above. **The three states with over one million veterans each — California, Texas and Florida — have CVSOs to help veterans access services.**



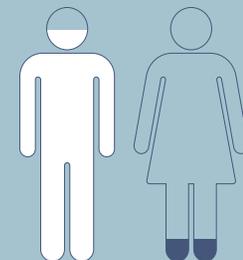
**COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (CVSOS) HELP VETERANS ACCESS A RANGE OF SERVICE-CONNECTED FEDERAL BENEFITS.** These federal benefits include health care, disability, pension, compensation and transition assistance programs.



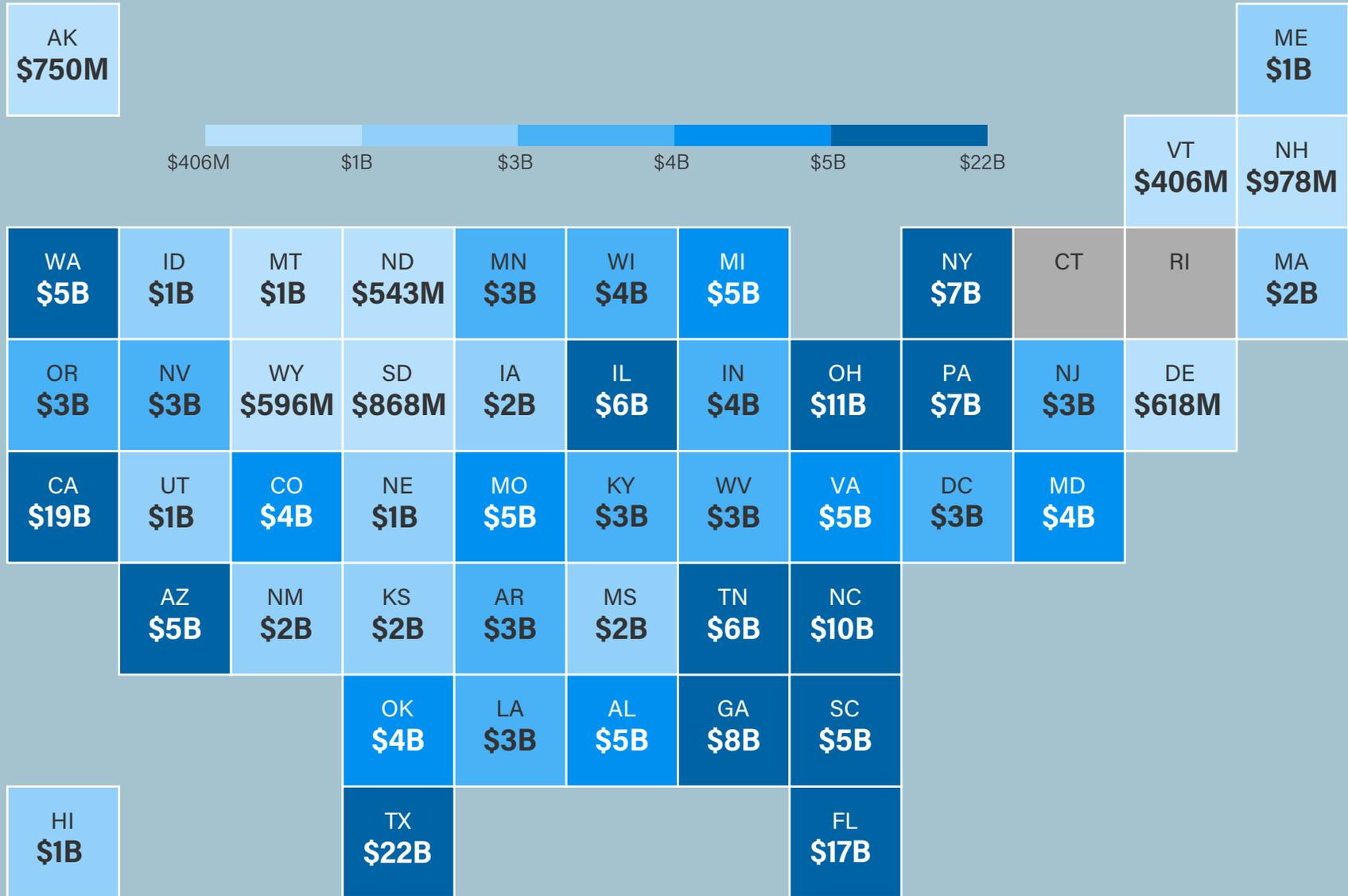
Veterans have attained high levels of schooling. Among veterans 25 years and older, over two-thirds completed at least some post-secondary education, and over **29 percent** completed a bachelor's degree.

**THOUGH CVSOS' PRIMARY FOCUS IS HELPING VETERANS NAVIGATE THE FEDERAL BENEFITS SYSTEM, THESE OFFICES ARE CURRENTLY FUNDED ALMOST ENTIRELY BY COUNTIES**

Though the veteran population is predominantly male (91 percent), women make up a growing share, about 9 percent. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the percentage of female veterans will increase to 17 percent by 2040.



# GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS (VA) EXPENDITURES BY STATE



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) expenditures within the county jurisdiction. Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Data, 2021.

## TOTAL VETERAN AFFAIRS (VA) FUNDING, 2015 - 2021



In FY 2021, **more than \$215 billion in federal dollars** was distributed to veterans in counties across the nation.

### FY 2021 VA FUNDS

**INCREASED BY \$6 BILLION**, representing a **three percent** increase from 2020 expenditure levels. Two VA spending categories—compensation and pension, and medical care—largely drove this increase, comprising **50 percent** and **39 percent** of FY 2021 VA expenditures, respectively.



Texas, California and Florida—the states with the largest veteran populations—also had larger total VA expenditures, which represented **27 percent** of all VA funds in FY 2021.

More than

**\$215  
BILLION**

in VA funding distributed to support veterans and their families

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## **NACo's MISSION**

STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S COUNTIES.

## **NACo's VISION**

HEALTHY, SAFE AND VIBRANT COUNTIES ACROSS AMERICA.



660 North Capitol St. N.W., Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20001

202.393.6226

[www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

[research@naco.org](mailto:research@naco.org)