

@NACoTweets
#NACoLeg

2022 NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 12-16 WASHINGTON HILTON WASHINGTON, D.C.



Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee Joint Subcommittees Meeting

Saturday, February 12, 2022

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM (EST)

Location: Columbia 9 & 10, Terrace Level





Agenda

- 9:00 AM | Call to Order and Welcome
- 9:10 AM | Strengthening Supports for Current and Former Foster Youth
- 10:00 AM | Federal Priorities for Stabilizing the Child Care Sector
- 10:30 AM | Phase Two of the Expanded Child Tax Credit: Outreach and Education Opportunities
- 10:50 AM | Updates from the Counties Future Lab
- 11:10 AM | Open Discussion
- 11:30 AM | Meeting Concludes







LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Welcome & Introductions





Housekeeping

- Tent cards for in-person committee members.
- Use standing microphones for questions and comments.
- Virtual attendees may raise their hands to be recognized or ask questions and make comments in the chat.
- Please always use a microphone for the benefit of those tuning in virtually!







LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Human Services and Education (HSE) Leadership Committee





HSE Committee Leadership

Chair	Hon. Craig Rice, Council Member	Montgomery County, Md.
Vice Chairs	Hon. Deborah Lieberman, Commissioner	Montgomery County, Ohio
	Hon. John Peters, Supervisor	Mono County, Calif.
	Hon. Nancy Sharpe, Commissioner	Arapaho County, Colo.
	Hon. Cami Bremer, Commissioner	El Paso County, Colo.
	Hon. Nick Maddox, Commissioner	Leon County, Fla.
	Hon. George Hartwick, Commissioner	Dauphin County, Pa.







Aging Subcommittee

Chair	Hon. Mary Ann Borgeson, Commissioner	Douglas County, Neb.
Vice Chairs	Hon. William Cox, County Commissioner	Rich County, Utah
	Hon. Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh, County Commissioner	Clare County, Mich.
	Hon. Michael Norton, Supervisor	Winnebago County, Wis.
	Ms. Catherine Senderling-McDonald, Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association of California	Calif.
ASSOCIATION NACO.	Ms. Sheryl Graham, Sr. Director, Social Services	Monroe County, Fla. S @NACoTweets #NACoLeg



Education, Children, and Families Subcommittee

Chair	Hon. Sonya Fischer, Commissioner	Clackamas County, Ore.
Vice Chairs	Hon. Kathryn Whittington, Commissioner	Ashtabula County, Ohio
	Hon. Kelly Long, County Supervisor	Ventura County, Calif.
	Hon. Anthony Bartie, Police Juror	Calcasieu Parish, La.
	Hon. Yvonne McBride, Council Vice-Chair	Richland County, S.C.
	Hon. Nancy Carriere, Council Member	St. Landry Parish, La.
	Ms. Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator	Franklin County, Ohio







Social Services Subcommittee

Chair	Hon. Natalie Hall, Commissioner	Fulton County, Ga.
Vice Chairs	Hon. Mary Perkins-Williams, Commissioner	Pitt County, N.C.
	Hon. Michael Smith, Police Juror	Calcasieu Parish, La.
	Hon. Tracy Johnson	Washington County, N.C.
	Ms. Claudia Tuck, Director, Community Support Services	Alachua County, Fla.
	Mr. J. Glenn Osborne Social Services Director	Wilson County, N.C.





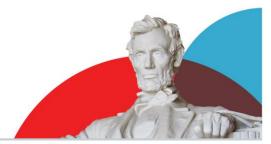


LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Strengthening Supports for Current and Former Foster Youth







Strengthening Supports for Current and Former Foster Youth



Mr. Binley Taylor System Change Program Director FosterClub







FOSTERCLUB IS THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

IN FOSTER CARE



what does it mean to be in FOSTER CARE?

- Separation from family.
- New schools.
- Lost pets.
- Government vehicles.
- Living with strangers.
- Belongings gone.
- People asking questions.
- Stigma.
- Court systems.
- Vulnerability.
- Grief.
- Uncertainty.



With resources and connections, young people can make it and thrive...

And can help find a way to make the foster care experience better for the next kid.



THE FOSTERCLUB WAY



DIRECT SUPPORT

Provide direct support to young people who experience foster care



SYSTEM CHANGE

Drive change in the child welfare system that is informed by young peoples' lived experience in the foster care system

WE DRIVE SYSTEM CHANGE THAT IS INFORMED BY

LIVED EXPERIENCE



POLICY PRIORITIES

THE TIMELINE



DIRECT SUPPORT

- Emergency Funds to youth.
- Peer Resourcing
- Teams of Peer Navigators



SYSTEM CHANGE

- Youth Polls
- Hill & Stakeholder Meetings
- Media & Public Awareness



WHAT'S NEXT

- Lived Experience Engagement at all levels including peer service delivery
- Improving services for older youth in foster care



HOW WE ENGAGE OUR LEX LEADERS

PARTNERS VS. TOKENISM





LIVED EXPERIENCE PERSPECTIVES

NATIONAL POLICY COUNCIL & FAMILY VOICES UNITED

OUR WORK IN SYSTEM CHANGE

DEEPENING CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT TRAINING



DISCOVER FOSTER PARENTING

HOW WE CAN HELP



LEX PERSPECTIVES Family Voices United familyvoicesunited.org

National Policy Council nationalpolicycouncil.org



CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT TRAINING



DISCOVER FOSTER PARENTING

Give us a call: 503.717.1552

Visit Here discoverfosterparenting.org

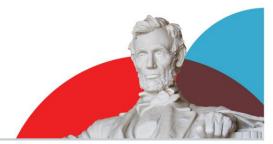


E-MAIL: systemchange@fosterclub.com

PHONE: (503) 717 1552

WEB: www.FosterClub.com

CONTACT US



Strengthening Supports for Current and Former Foster Youth



Ms. Veronica Chase Legislative Assistant Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-Mich.)







Strengthening Supports for Current and Former Foster Youth



Hon. Kathryn Wittington Commissioner Ashtabula County, Ohio





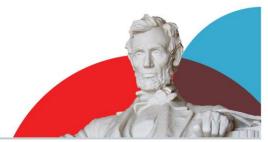


LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Federal Priorities for Stabilizing the Child Care Sector







Federal Priorities for Stabilizing the Child Care Sector



Ms. Carmel Martin Deputy Director, Economic Mobility White House Domestic Policy Council







LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Phase Two of the Expanded Child Tax Credit: Outreach and Education Opportunities







Phase Two of the Expanded Child Tax Credit: Outreach and Education Opportunities



Ms. Deborah Weinstein

Executive Director Coalition on Human Needs (CHN)





Public Agencies' Role in Helping Families Claim the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit

Deborah Weinstein Coalition on Human Needs www.chn.org February 12, 2022



Partnership for America's Children

- Over 50 members multi-issue child advocacy organizations -in 40 states
- Mission: to support its network of state and community child advocacy organizations in effective advocacy



Coalition on Human Needs

- Alliance of national groups service providers, faith groups, policy experts, and labor, civil rights, and other advocates
- Mission: advocate at the federal level to meet the needs of people with low incomes and increase knowledge of positive outcomes from current or proposed programs



Agenda What is the expanded CTC?

How do families claim it?

Common barriers and concerns

How you can help families claim the CTC

Resource toolkit



The Opportunity: The 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) • American Rescue Plan Act expanded the CTC for tax year 2021 from \$2000 to \$3000/\$3600 and increased eligibility for the poorest families

- They can get the full credit paid to them without any earned income
- Most families got half paid in advance in monthly payments July-December
- **But...** Families must file a tax return in 2022 to claim the second half of the credit or the full credit if they did not receive advance payments that started in July 2021.

The Challenge

- While most families received advance CTC payments automatically in 2021, many families with no or very low incomes needed to take action to get the credit
- These families are "nonfilers"--they didn't file a 2019 or 2020 tax return and they didn't claim their economic stimulus payments
 - 4 million or more children at risk of missing out on CTC payments.
 - Because their families have no or very low incomes, they are not required to file taxes and may not have filed taxes ever or recently.
 - These families may not have received 2021 advance CTC payments and will miss out on the credit altogether if they do not file taxes this year.
 - Black and Latinx children were disproportionately excluded from the full CTC before it was expanded and are now more likely to miss out on it, even if eligible.
- Public agencies are trusted and can help these families claim the CTC.
- You do *not* have to be tax experts to help families.

How much money is at stake? *Example:* Family of 1 adult and 4-year-old, 13-year-old and 15-year-old children:

- In total for the 2021 CTC, the family will receive \$9,600 (\$3,600 + \$3,000 + \$3,000)
- Family may qualify for additional money through stimulus payments or other tax credits
- CTC estimated to reduce child poverty by about 40%

Who is eligible for the expanded CTC?

- Adult may have an SSN or ITIN; children must have SSN's
- Child must be the adult's child (including adopted), grandchild, or stepchild; younger sibling, step-sibling, half-sibling, or their descendent; or a foster child placed by a government agency
- Child must have lived with the adult in the U.S. for more than half the year
- Child did not provide over half of their own support in 2021

Filing 2021 Tax Returns: Timeline

- January 24th- tax filing season began
- January-April or later- local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites open
- April 18th- people obligated to file must either have filed or requested an extension
 - Individuals not required to file taxes can continue to file returns throughout 2022 even if they do not request extensions
- Spring (estimated April or May)- simplified online filing portal opens, probably <u>www.getCTC.org</u>, where individuals not required to file can claim the CTC; perhaps also the 3rd economic stimulus payment or EITC
- Late fall 2022- online portal closes

Filing 2021 Tax Returns: Where?

Free Tax Assistance

- To get alerts when free tax assistance becomes available, families can sign up at: <u>https://www.getyourrefund.org/en</u> (English) or <u>https://www.getyourrefund.org/es</u> (Spanish)
- GetYourRefund will guide people to the type of service best for them:
 - Do-it-yourself: use free tax-filing software TaxSlayer –to submit returns, with chat assistance available
 - Virtually: upload tax documents and work with an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to file virtually
 - In-person: find local VITA sites
- You can identify a local VITA site for people you're helping, using <u>GetYourRefund</u>

Filing 2021 Tax Returns: Where?

More Free Tax Assistance

• AARP Foundation Tax-Aide sites provide free in-person and virtual tax assistance for individuals who are over 50 or have low-to-moderate income: <u>https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaid</u> <u>e/locations/?intcmp=FDN-LOCATOR-HOMEPAGE-BTN</u>

 Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITC) help individuals with low incomes who have tax disputes with the IRS: <u>https://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/about-us/low-</u> <u>income-taxpayer-clinics-litc/#finder</u> Filing 2021 Tax Returns: Where?

Paid Tax Services

- Free tax assistance may be overwhelmed (pandemic means fewer volunteers, increased demand)
- Families choosing paid preparers should be careful that preparers are submitting accurate returns on their behalf
- Guidance for individuals using paid tax preparers: https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tipsto-help-people-choose-a-reputable-taxpreparer

How Immigrants Can Obtain Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs)

- For families to claim the CTC, dependents must have Social Security Numbers (SSNs)
- The parents/caregivers can have SSNs or ITINS
- To obtain ITINs, individuals must submit Form W-7, proof of identity, and foreign status documents with tax returns
- Typically a 2-step process: prepare ITIN application and then file application with tax return
- To avoid mailing in personal documents, appointments can be made at IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers:
 - For locations, appointment info and available languages: <u>https://www.irs.gov/help/tac-locations-</u> <u>where-in-person-document-verification-is-provided</u>
- For the Form W-7, a list of required documents and information on expired ITINs: https://www.irs.gov/formspubs/about-form-w-7

Required Documents to File Taxes



<u>https://www.taxoutreach.org/blog/what-to-bring-to-</u> <u>a-tax-appointment-tax-checklist/</u>



Other Credits Families or Individuals Can Claim

- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)--depends on income and number of children, up to \$6728 for three or more children, adult must have SSN; EITC newly helps 19-24 year olds and those over 65 without dependent children and nearly triples the maximum benefit (to about \$1,500)
- The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit—up to \$8,000 for two children, parent and child can have ITIN
- Credit for Other Dependents \$500 per dependent

Focus Group Findings: Common Barriers and Concerns

- Don't know CTC was expanded; people who weren't eligible in past now are
- Believe they had to work to get the credit
- Fear having to pay IRS back if not entitled to credit
- Fear they owe back taxes
- Fear they will lose other benefits
- Immigration concerns
- Language barriers/access
- Claiming a child born in 2021 couldn't be done on portal but now can be done via tax return
- Difficulty getting through to the IRS if they have a question
- A desire for in-person help
- Our toolkits address these barriers

CTC Outreach: What Works

- Outreach is integrated into existing programs and communications
- Families receive information in their own language, in different ways, multiple times
- Outreach must include clear referral info, with different options for how people can ask questions or get tax prep assistance
- Broad communication is most effective when paired with targeted outreach or follow-up
 - Communication with high volume of families, while connecting more deeply with those at risk of missing out on the CTC

CTC Outreach: What Works

- Government benefits agencies are among the most trusted sources of information for families
- Text messages, for example from agencies or schools, have been especially effective, although robocalls, emails, and mailers can also be effective
- In addition to hearing from trusted community messengers, families may need to hear from tax, immigration or family law experts

Federal agencies engaged in tax credit outreach The <u>Biden Administration announced</u> examples of federal agency outreach efforts that local governments and others can partner with:

- HUD: will connect 3,000 Public Housing Authorities and other housing service providers to VITA centers
- HHS, Administration for Children and Families: will partner with VITA sites to focus on immigrant communities, teen parents, grandparents, and parents in mental health and recovery programs
- Americorps: projects in Baltimore and Colorado, more
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service: providing outreach info to stakeholders including community organizations,, program operators, online platforms...

Level 1 Outreach Activities

Send mass text messages, robocalls and/or emails

Texts have proven to be especially effective, but it's helpful to communicate to families through a combination of methods

Sample text from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP)

Kick off the New Year by getting money to help with the cost of raising your family. The Child Tax Credit is putting money in your family's hands, even if you don't normally file taxes or have recent income. Visit GetYourRefund.org to find out more about how to get your money this year. Sample voice message from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP)

Hi, I'm calling from [name of organization]. This is a message for [insert name of individual for outreach]. Do you know about the Child Tax Credit? If you have kids under 18, you're likely eligible for up to thirty-six hundred dollars per child from the federal government to help with the cost of raising them. This is not a loan and doesn't change any public benefits you may receive. All you have to do is file a tax return this year, even if you have no recent income or don't normally file taxes. Learn more by visiting this website: Get Your Refund dot org (GetYourRefund.org) or calling 2-1-1 today. Thank you!

Level 1 Outreach Activities

Record a phone hold message or video message for waiting room/office screens

Sample hold message from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP)

Have you heard about the Child Tax Credit? If you have kids under 18 in your household, you may be eligible for up to thirtysix hundred dollars per child from the federal government to help with the cost of raising them. Anyone who has a child with a Social Security number is eligible, even if you don't have a Social Security number for yourself. This money is not a loan and doesn't change public benefits you may receive. All you have to do is file a tax return this year, even if you have no recent income or don't normally file taxes. Learn more at Get Your Refund dot org or by calling 2-1-1.

Level 1 Outreach Activities

Hang posters in waiting rooms & other public spaces

Distribute flyers/send home flyers in backpacks







Get money to help with the cost of raising your kids with the Child Tax Credit

You could get up to \$3,600 per child under 6 years old and up to \$3,000 per child between 6 and 17 years old from the government.

The Child Tax Credit is not a loan.

Who qualifies?

Almost all families qualify for the Child Tax Credit. Even families that don't normally file a tax return or don't have recent income.

Anyone with a child who has a Social Security number can get the Child Tax Credit, even if they don't have a Social Security number themselves. Receiving this tax credit won't change any public benefits you receive.

When will I get the money? You will get the money after you file your 2021 tax return by **April 18, 2022**.

How do I get the credit? File a tax return even if you normally don't file taxes and even if you got advance Child Tax Credit payments in 2021. Beware of scams. The IRS will NOT contact you by phone, email, text or social media.

Visit GetYourRefund.org, call 211 or use the QR code to learn more about how to get your money.



Sample flyer from CBPP

Level 1 Outreach Activities

Send out a message in a regular newsletter

Post on social media



Sample social media from Digital Community Activation Creative Toolkit, collaborative effort of the U.S. Census Bureau, the Recovery Program Outreach Office, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Partnership for America's Children, CHN, UnidosUS, & CBPP

Level 2 Outreach Activities

Hold a phone bank or conduct peer to peer texting

Host a Q and A with a tax specialist, immigration attorney or other subject matter expert

Can be held in-person, via Zoom, or on Facebook Live, among other options

¿Qué pasa si soy inmigrante?

Si no tiene un número de seguro social:

- Si tiene u obtiene un ITIN (Número de identificación de contribuyente individual), es posible que pueda obtener el Pago de estímulo 2021 (\$1400) y el Crédito tributario por hijos para sus hijos que tienen números de seguro social.
- Si no tiene un ITIN, puede solicitar uno ahora o con una declaración de impuestos de 2021.



Sample slide from presentation from FindYourFunds, Shah Family Foundation, Greater Boston Legal Services, Children's HealthWatch, MassCap, and MA Law Reform Institute

Level 2 Outreach Activities

Help families schedule VITA appointments

Work in collaboration with local tax sites and partners to make tax prep services accessible

Help coordinate language interpretation, childcare during appointments, transportation to tax sites, etc.

Organize tax filing or document preparation events

Work with VITA volunteers, local universities and/or other tax specialist volunteers to host tax prep events or to help families prepare necessary documents before VITA appointments



Toolkits

https://bit.ly/agencyoutreach

Our digital Toolkits include the following materials, from the IRS and national partners as well as us:

Outreach Materials:

- Flyers and posters
- Messaging and press materials (including press release and pitch templates and radio PSA script)
- FAQ for service providers
- Social Media Toolkit
- Call, Text, Hold Line, and Newsletter Copy Scripts
 <u>Materials to Help Pick a Tax Preparer and Get Ready for Appointment</u>
 <u>Resources for Immigrant Families</u>

Best Practices and Lessons for Child Tax Credit Outreach

- Report on Lessons Learned About Benefits Agency and School Outreach from the Shah Family Foundation
- Findings from Focus Groups with "Non-Filers" and Services Providers on the Child Tax Credit
- Tracking outcomes

Sign up for Our Child Tax Credit Outreach List; Get OurToolkits; Outcome Tracking

<u>https://bit.ly/3AV18uf</u> <u>https://bit.ly/agencyoutreach</u> <u>https://airtable.com/shrHvPtoDS8VzSOXN</u>

Please also email jbeebe@chn.org



2022 NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Updates from the Counties Futures Lab







Updates from the Counties Futures Lab



Ms. Arabella Pluta-Ehlers

Program Manager Children, Youth, and Families National Association of Counties





COUNTIES FUTURES LAB UPDATE: CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

ARABELLA PLUTA-EHLERS, PROGRAM MANAGER

COUNTIES FOR KIDS

- Launched the Counties for Kids initiative
 - New resources for counties to message their early childhood wins
 - Virtual Peer Learning Network convenings to connect counties with their peers
 - Webinars and blog posts sharing expertise from county leaders and national experts



FCJDFS is joining @NACoTweets #CountiesForKids, a public awareness campaign for county leaders who are committed to making investments in young children. Read our Op-Ed that highlights our investments & commitment to equity in early learning.

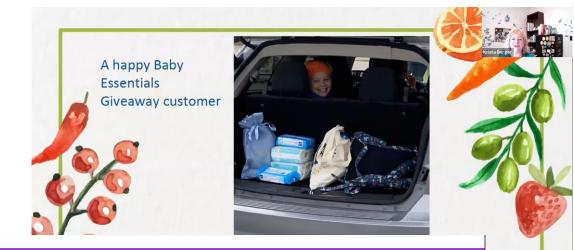
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PN-3 PEER LEARNING NETWORK

Past topics have included:

- Improving Children and Families' Access to Services
- Strategies for Building the Supply of Child Care at the County-Level
- Creating Public-Private Partnerships with Local Foundations
- Leveraging County ARPA Funds for Infants, Toddlers and Families



ECIF - IMPLEMENTATION

The Early Childhood Impact Fund (ECIF) will invest up to \$10 million

in programs and interventions

to improve early childhood in Harris County. We are looking for service providers, organizations, researchers, and best-in-class programs to implement promising or evidence-based initiatives that have the potential to:

- Dramatically improve early childhood and family outcomes
- Eliminate or reduce racial, ethnic, and income disparities in early childhood health and development



Generate new evidence about how to meet the specific needs of infants, toddlers, and their families in Harris County

Harris County Early Childhood Impact Fund | Evaluation RFP Info Session | harriscountykids.com/impactfund

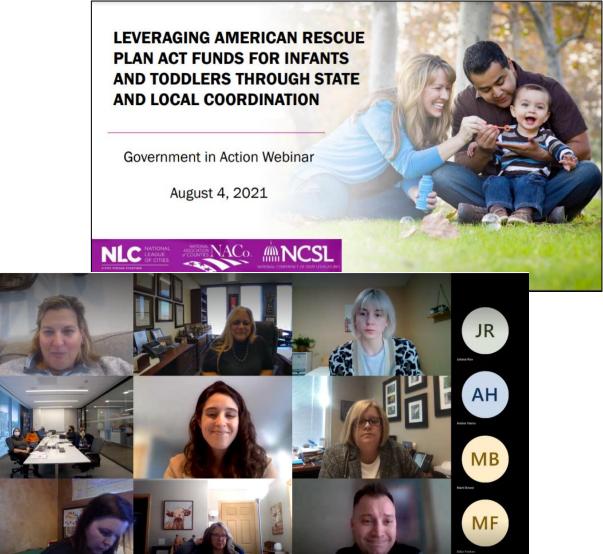
PN-3 COUNTY LEADERS ACADEMY

- Federal Relief Supporting Families with Young Children: Opportunities and Challenges During COVID-19
 - Featured national experts, including NACo's Rachel Mackey, Associate Legislative Director for Human Services and Education
- Equitable Recovery for Child Care Post-COVID
 - Featured Franklin County, Ohio and King County, Wash.
- Coordinating Services for Children and Families
 - Featured Pierce County, Wash., Ramsey County, Minn. and Durham County, N.C.
- Building and Sustaining Public Will for Prenatalto-Three Investments
 - Featured Tarrant County, Texas



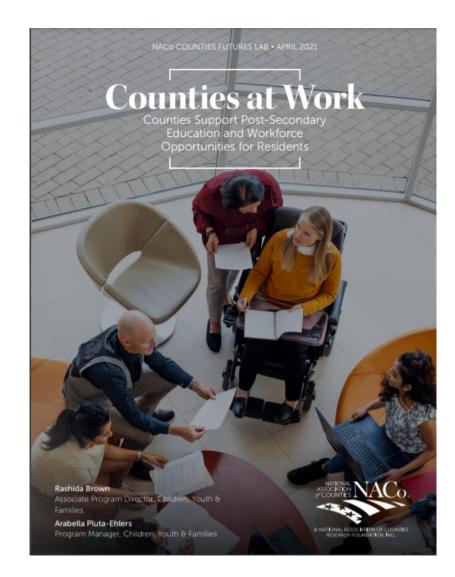
STATE AND LOCAL COORDINATION

- Kicked off the Government in Action collaborative with the National League of Cities and National Conference of State Legislatures
- Piloted working with state associations of counties on PN-3 in Ohio
- Expanding to a cohort of seven state associations to support more PN-3 content



COUNTIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS

- Released Counties at Work: Counties Support Postsecondary Education and Workforce Opportunities for Residents Report & Case Studies
- Held webinars and workshops featuring counties profiled in the report's case studies
- Exploring a two-year grant opportunity with the ECMC Foundation
 - New, small cohort of workforce development, human services and community college leaders to promote workforce preparedness
 - New national resource hub for counties on college and career success



TRANSFORMING COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

- Virtual Learning Series for county leaders
- Socializing the following concepts:
 - Data and information sharing
 - Child welfare prevention/child well-being
 - Racial equity
 - Local financing
- Launched January 2022



County Human Services Transformation

Each year, counties invest \$58 billion in federal, state and local dollars on human services while serving as the frontline social safety net. County-delivered human services administer federal programs and provide critical supports that can serve as a foundation for moving individuals, children and families out of poverty and improving immediate and long-term health outcomes. Federal programs include the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Care and Development Block Grant and other programs. Traditional health and human services models use transactional approaches for determining eligibility, processing applications and making referrals for services. Programs, data systems, processes and funding have historically operated in silos, creating barriers for achieving cross-systems collaboration and leaving counties pressed to find solutions for managing a complex system.

Human services transformation shifts the focus from program compliance to positive, whole family outcomes. By transitioning to a person or family-centered approach, counties can focus efforts on services and supports that enable and empower residents to achieve their economic goals such as food security, financial literacy, job retention, housing stability and education attainment. This is an effective strategy for breaking multigenerational poverty cycles. Systems transformation embraces coordinated, integrated service delivery models that are outcomesdriven, equitably administered, and promote alignment among human services and other cross-sector systems to achieve common goals. County leaders have found that successful transformation occurs by applying forward thinking, innovative approaches and implementing policies and practices that support coordination across multiple services, systems and sectors. Through NACo's platforms and in partnership with national partners, county leaders can explore flexible financing strategies, technology solutions and approaches for advancing human services transformation.



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Open Discussion





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Meeting Close

NACo Staff Contact: Rachel Mackey Associate Legislative Director, Human Services and Education <u>rmackey@naco.org</u>

