

## Local governments score major public safety victory

By **JEFF ARNOLD**  
DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Local governments that are in the process of “re-banding” their public safety frequencies won a major victory at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently. In an important decision on behalf of the city of Alexandria, Va., the FCC rejected a proposal by Sprint that would either have temporarily left the city with public safety radios that could not communicate with one another, or forced the city to replace radios at its own expense.

While the FCC decision is limited to the facts of the case, the decision has implications for other localities going through the re-banding process.

### Spectrum Swap Background

In the late 1990s, public safety systems around the country were experiencing frequency interference with commercial providers. The FCC adopted an order in 2004, based on a proposal made by Sprint Nextel, to provide for the swap of public safety systems operating in the 800 Megahertz (MHz) band to new frequencies. Sprint Nextel would retain the 800 MHz band for its own commercial purposes.

However, as a condition of this re-banding Sprint Nextel was required to pay for the cost of switching the public safety systems to new frequencies. One of the reasons the re-banding process remains incomplete, even now, is the need to preserve interoperability among public safety agencies in major metropolitan areas, including Washington, D.C.

Because the multiple public safety licensees in these regions cannot switch all at once from their existing frequencies to the new (re-banded) channels, it is critical that

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Photo by Vito Palmisano

Detroit Metro Airport in Wayne County, Mich. is poised to be the hub of the region's ‘aerotropolis,’ which would encourage airport-related economic development in surrounding counties, cities and townships.

## ‘Aerotropolis’ concept takes flight in Detroit-area counties

By **CHARLES TAYLOR**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Transportation built Detroit and its surrounding counties, where the American auto industry once reigned supreme. But with much of that sector now

in decline, the region is hitching its hopes to another form of conveyance — by air.

Wayne and Washtenaw counties have partnered with seven other Detroit-area jurisdictions and the private sector to develop an “aerotropolis,” a metropolitan

region based on airport-centered economic development. The term is a conflation of “aero” for air and “tropolis” from metropolis.

“The reason why Detroit sits on the Detroit River is because

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### QuickTakes

#### Five Most Economically Stressed Counties

Stress Score

- 1 • Imperial County, Calif. .... 31.34
- 2 • Merced County, Calif. .... 28.09
- 3 • Lyon County, Nev. .... 27.91
- 4 • San Benito County, Calif. .... 26.58
- 5 • Yuba County, Calif. .... 25.47

Source: The Associated Press Economic Stress Index, 2010

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## New funding sources open for rural counties

By **ERIK JOHNSTON**  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

County governments are eligible for three recently announced funding opportunities from USDA Rural Development that address rural housing, business development, telemedicine and distance learning.

These new funding opportunities represent a sample of the many USDA Rural Development programs available for counties. The agency also operates loan and grant programs for development of water and wastewater infrastructure, community facilities, broadband, housing, renewable energy and business

development.

In addition to the three funding opportunities that follow, USDA Rural Development accepts applications on a rolling basis for a broad range of other programs and is still seeking to fund community facility projects with Recovery Act funding that must be used by Sept. 30, 2010.

The Community Facilities Program provides loans and grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities — such as county health departments, police and fire stations, schools, libraries, child care centers and many other facility projects that counties undertake. The program also funds sidewalk construction and county fair facilities. Counties are encouraged to talk with staff from their state

office to find out if their current or planned projects are eligible. Contact information for state USDA Rural Development offices is available at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd\\_map.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html).

### Rural Business Grants Focus on ‘Great Regions’

USDA Rural Development recently announced funding availability for the Rural Business Opportunity Grants of up to \$250,000 which is open to nonprofit and public agencies to improve business opportunities in rural areas. Projects should be designed to help rural communities in the region create wealth so they are self-sustaining, repopulating and thriving economically.

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## ANALYSIS

# Stalled climate bill tries to regain momentum

By JULIE UFNER

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Last year at this time, it seemed almost certain that a comprehensive energy bill would move with a cap and trade component. That momentum has stalled leaving the fate of a climate change bill uncertain.

Congressional leaders are scrambling to regain the momentum. Behind the scenes, a hybrid option seems to be emerging with Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) leading the charge to draft a new basic climate bill. However, as of yet, no bill has been introduced, even though the three men have had numerous meetings with various senators and related industries.

At this point, there are many rumors and uncertainty about how much the new bill by the Senate "trifecta," as the three senators are called, mirrors the House-passed or

Senate-proposed language. The bill is tentatively scheduled for introduction the week of April 19 to coincide with Earth Day.

Rumors aside, the bill reportedly still addresses a carbon-pricing mechanism that includes a phased-in approach for mandatory emissions limits. For example, each industrial category such as electrical, refiners or manufacturers will have different emissions limits and compliance dates. Likewise, the number of allowances allotted to various affected industries will be different.

The real fight will happen when lawmakers start carving out who should get the allowances. To pass a bill it is almost certain that carve-outs and compromises will have to be made for different parts of the country.

There are approximately 25–30 senators, both Democrat and Republican, who have not committed either way on a climate change bill.

The undecided senators may have more than one issue that is a deal-killer for their state, which may in turn, run into someone else's issue.

Some of the senators in coal states such as West Virginia and Pennsylvania argue that the coal industry is vital to the states in question. They ask that a less aggressive emissions target be given for coal usage, while giving emissions allowances back to the consumer to ensure they are not penalized for higher energy prices.

A number of undecided senators come from states that house nuclear power facilities. There is a push to expand the use of nuclear energy by including it in the "Clean Energy Standard" that would allow power sources to count new nuclear capacity as a renewable or alternative energy.

States with trades, such as iron ore, cement and glass, also had concerns with new emissions limits.

One of the more popular ideas — and the most controversial, for possible inclusion in the climate bill — is expanding oil and gas offshore drilling in coastal states (see related story on page 3).

The idea is gaining steam, as long as any offshore drilling provision includes revenue sharing with the states. Currently, the four Gulf Coast states get 37.5 percent of the revenue. Other states may be asked to do with less.

While this provision may capture some undecided senators, it also has the potential to turn some away. Some coastal states, such as Florida, oppose offshore drilling, while Virginia supports offshore drilling.

According to some industry representatives who have been invited to the informal talks sponsored by Kerry, Graham and Lieberman, the potential language allows states to opt-in to offshore drilling up to 35 miles, then from 35–75 miles offshore on federal lands, drilling would be permissible unless the state took official action to stop it.

## Prognosis of Passage

There are many variables that may ultimately affect passage of a climate-related bill. Here are some of the factors that favor passage of a comprehensive climate change bill:

- The president has stated that he is firmly committed to passage of a bill that addresses climate change. The administration has held several meetings with both Democrats and Republicans at the White House to identify barriers and potential compromises to pass global warming-energy legislation. Additionally, the president indicated a willingness to explore more domestic drilling options, a policy the administration opposed previously.

- Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency released its Endangerment Findings, which

gives the EPA the ability to regulate greenhouse gases from a federal level. This proposal is unpopular on Capitol Hill with a number of congressional members who believe that either EPA should be stripped of that authority or that Congress should have the sole authority to regulate greenhouse gases. This may drive passage of a climate-related bill.

- Consumers may drive demand either through high gasoline prices or unexpected electrical blackouts or brownouts. This, in turn, would drive demand for new energy infrastructure.

However, the Senate is running out of time. The 111th Congress will adjourn at the end of 2010, and there still remain a number of bills that Congress must address before it adjourns. This is also an election year. Generally, there is only a small window of time for action to be taken on controversial items, that window may close for climate change before this summer, if not before.

It's more likely, if something is to pass, that less controversial energy provisions will move separately in other vehicles, rather than in a comprehensive climate change bill.

## This Month in ... County News

County News celebrates NACo's 75th Anniversary with a look back at the issues and events that affected counties over the past several decades.

### ● April ●

#### 1983

- NACo President William J. Murphy attended President Reagan's signing of Social Security reform legislation. NACo successfully opposed an amendment that would have required cities and counties to deposit Social Security withholdings immediately to the U.S. Treasury.

#### 1991

- Supported by NACo members, Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) and Rep. Ben Erdreich (D-Ala.) on Capitol Hill, Congress passed legislation establishing National County Government Week (NCGW), now National County Government Month, at the end of its last session. President George H. W. Bush signed the proclamation establishing NCGW on the final day of NACo's Legislative Conference. The proclamation stated "National County Government Week is a fitting time to reaffirm the continued partnership between City, County, State and Federal Government — particularly in areas such as education, transportation and the fight against drug abuse."

- At a news conference, NACo announced it would launch new efforts to stop the imposition of unfunded federal and state mandates, and press state legislatures to allow county governments additional methods to raise revenue. A recent survey from NACo showed 53 percent of county governments with a population of over 100,000 would force an increase in taxes in the current fiscal year.

#### 1995

- More than 1,000 counties held some type of activity in honor of National County Government Week, April 2–8. County officials participated in the national video teleconference on children's issues that originated from Washington, D.C. and was sponsored by NACo. Other counties held special programs locally.

(This Month in County News is compiled by Charlie Ban, staff writer, and Christopher Johnson, editorial assistant.)

## FCC rejects Sprint Nextel re-banding argument

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their portable and mobile radios be capable of using both the older and newer sets of frequencies. Many older radios cannot use both because of capacity limitations and must be replaced. Counties in the D.C. region would be similarly affected.

### Alexandria's Claims

In the Alexandria case, Sprint Nextel had offered to replace portable (hand-carried) radios used by fire and EMS personnel, with radios that could operate in both bands, but was unwilling to replace the mobile radios mounted in fire engines and other medical or rescue vehicles.

Sprint Nextel had argued that the re-banding process inherently involved some disruption and that it would not be necessary for all

radios to be interoperable unless there was some major catastrophe. Sprint Nextel argued that the interoperability functions had not been used often, and the temporary loss of some interoperability was unlikely to present significant public safety risks.

The FCC rejected those arguments. It noted that "Alexandria has equipped itself with the capability of interoperating with other jurisdictions and we are unwilling to impair that ability, even temporarily, on the theory that an incident or incidents requiring interoperability might not occur in the interim."

It found that replacement was required in these circumstances. However, the agency said Nextel could meet its obligation by a temporary loan of higher-capacity mobile radios rather than replacing these units permanently.

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(202) 393-6226 • FAX (202) 393-2630

Published biweekly except August by:

National Association of Counties

Research Foundation, Inc.

25 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.,

Ste. 500, Washington, D.C. 20001

(202) 393-6226 | FAX (202) 393-2630

E-mail | cnews@naco.org

Online address | www.countynews.org

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Mail subscriptions are \$100 per year for non-members. \$60 per year for non-members purchasing multiple copies. Educational institution rate, \$50 per year. Member county supplemental subscriptions are \$20 each. Send payment with order and address changes to NACo, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to  
 County News, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.,

Ste. 500, Washington, D.C. 20001

(USPS 704-620) ■ (ISSN: 0744-9798)

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# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** NACo Members  
**FROM:** President-elect Glen Whitley  
**DATE:** April 2, 2010  
**RE:** 2010–2011 Presidential Leadership and Committee Appointments

Looking ahead to my year as NACo president, I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know about the appointments that I will have the privilege of making to NACo's leadership team. These appointments are for one to three year terms and membership on some of these committees has specific requirements. Following are the appointments along with the qualifications required for each.

**IMPORTANT:** Steering committee membership is not a part of this application process.

The NACo president appoints **only the steering committee leadership. The state associations of counties are responsible for nominating the general steering committee members.** If you are interested in becoming a member of a steering committee you must contact your state association directly.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AN ONLINE APPLICATION IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED FOR A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES OR TO THE NACo BOARD.**

## Steering Committee Leadership

The 11 steering committees will each have a leadership team consisting of a chair, an appropriate number of vice-chairs, and subcommittee chairs and vice-chairs. Those applicants who have been active members of the steering committee will be given preference in consideration for these appointments. The applicant should be willing to help coordinate leadership conference calls, develop the meeting agendas, and testify before Congress if necessary. These appointments are for one year.

## Caucus Steering Committee Leadership and Members

The Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee and the Large Urban County Caucus Steering Committee will each have a chair and an appropriate

number of vice-chairs and committee members. Applicants who have been active members of these caucuses will be given preference in consideration for these appointments. These appointments are for one year.

## At-Large Appointments to the NACo Board of Directors

Each president appoints ten at-large directors to the NACo Board of Directors for a one-year term. These appointments are to add balance to the board with respect to any inequities between urban and rural, gender, geography and minority representation. As with our communities, our strength is in our diversity. These appointments are for one year.

## Standing Committees

The Standing committees are as follows:

**Finance Committee.** Advises the Officers on the annual budget of the association before it is presented to the Board of Directors and provides oversight on other financial issues as directed by the Officers. (Appoints three members for a three-year term with a background in finance or investment.)

**Information Technology Committee.** Advises the Officers on information technology issues and provides oversight on NACo information technology projects. (Appoints the chair, two vice chairs, and 22 members for a one-year term.)

**Programs and Services Committee.** Advises the Officers regarding the development and evaluation of programs and services for NACo members. (Appoints the chair for a one-year term and eight members for three-year terms. Selects one or two vice-chairs from the membership of the committee.)

**Membership Committee.** Actively recruits and retains member counties, parishes and boroughs in order to increase NACo's total membership. (Appoints the chair, vice-chairs and one member from each state for a one-year term.)

## Ad Hoc Committees

The Ad Hoc committees are as follows:

**Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee.** (Appoints the chair for a one-year term and five members from participating entities for a three-year term. In 2010, the open slots are for three appointed county officials, one elected county official, and one executive director of an endorsing state association.)

**NACo Financial Services Center Advisory Committee.** (Appoints nine members for a one-year, renewable term, as follows: county administrator or county executive; county clerk; county commissioner or supervisor; county purchasing manager; county treasurer or finance officer; state association executive; NACo first vice president; and two members from county government.)

**Arts and Culture Commission.** (Appoints the chair, vice-chair and 25 members for a one-year term.)

**Geospatial Information Systems Committee.** (Appoints the chair and vice-chair for a one-year term.)

**Green Government Advisory Board.** Provides information, guidance and support to the NACo Green Government Initiative. (Appoints the chair and 25 county officials as members.)

The Presidential Appointments Application Form must be completed by everyone who wants to be considered for a leadership or committee appointment on a standing or ad hoc committee for the 2010–2011 presidential year. The application form is available online at NACo's web site, [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org). You will find it under "About NACo ► Committees and Caucuses ► Presidential Appointments."

The deadline for submitting your application is June 4, 2010. I look forward to receiving your application and to your active participation in NACo.

Please direct any questions you may have to Karen McRunnel at 202.942.4238 or by e-mail at [kmcrunne@naco.org](mailto:kmcrunne@naco.org).

# Administration opens up coastal areas for drilling

By JULIE UFNER  
 ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The March 31 announcement by President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar that expands offshore exploration and drilling opportunities for a number of coastal areas has been met with a wide range of emotion — from cautious optimism to outright anger by both industry and environmental groups.

Some speculate that the president's announcement is tied closely to a potential climate change bill that may be introduced in the next several weeks in the Senate in an effort to lure undecided senators.

The administration plans to offer four new Gulf of Mexico lease sales

by 2012. The president indicated that further areas in the eastern Gulf may be opened later. The proposal also allows two lease sales 50 miles off the coast of Virginia and in the Cook Inlet in Alaska.

More oil and gas exploration will be permitted in specific areas in Atlantic and Arctic oceans. Under the plan, the Pacific and North Atlantic oceans, and a small part of the Florida coast would not be open for oil and gas exploration and production.

The president's proposal does not address revenue sharing with the states. Currently, only four Gulf Coast states get 37.5 percent of the revenue. Under current law,

See DRILLING page 7

# Colorado county stimulus program aids businesses

By CHARLIE BAN  
 STAFF WRITER

Locally owned businesses that have paid their dues for a few years are getting a little extra help from Arapahoe County, Colo.

The county bought \$18 million in certificates of deposit (CDs) from six local banks, on the condition that the money is loaned to small, locally based businesses that have been operating for at least three years.

"When I heard creditworthy businesses couldn't get loans because of the credit crunch, it was clear we had to do something," said Treasurer Doug Miliken, who formulated the plan.

"This is the crucial point that makes the economy recover — getting loan capital to business people," he said. "I expect this will mean more jobs, expansion for businesses and that it will basically keep businesses alive."

Loans are between \$250,000 and \$750,000, and businesses must meet regular underwriting criteria. The banks determine which businesses are creditworthy. The investment gives a cash infusion to an economic sector hit hard by the credit crunch.

"It wasn't horrible, but like anywhere, it's been difficult for businesses to get credit," said Vic Calonder, president of Millenium

Bank in Englewood. "It's a little easier when you have a partner participating with you."

Arapahoe County has invested more than \$2 million in Millenium Bank. "It's a great cooperative program," Calonder said. "A good faith gesture on all parts. We give the county an interest rate better than what they would get elsewhere and the money goes back into the community. It's a three-way win-win."

One recipient that got a reprieve in difficult circumstances thanks to the local stimulus program was Gateway Battered Women's Services. In December 2009, Development Director Jeneen Klippel-Worden said, cash flow problems were threatening the operation.

"The local stimulus really saved us," she said. "It kept us operating until things smoothed out in the economy, and it was good to know there were options for locally run businesses."

The program is open to expansion, based on demand from businesses. Calonder said at this point his bank has seen strong but not overwhelming demand.

"Getting this money doesn't mean we'll be making bad loans," Calonder said. "It means locally owned businesses have a better chance at securing what is a shrinking pool of money."



## EPA paint, boiler rules take effect, on the way

On April 22, EPA's lead paint rule goes into effect. That means that contractors (including renovation, repair and painting workers, plumbers, electricians, HVAC professionals, for example) working in pre-1978 homes, schools and child-care facilities must be EPA-certified and trained in lead-safe work practices.

If a county uses its own employees to paint or renovate, the county must ensure that at least one of the employees assigned to the project is trained and certified. If the county contracts out the work, the county must ensure that the contractor hired is trained and certified. There is a \$37,000 fine per day associated with non-compliance.

This rule applies to renovation, repair and painting activities that will disturb more than six square feet of painted surfaces on the interior of a building or more than 20 square feet on the exterior.

For more information, go to [www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm](http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm)

### Building Boilers

EPA is under court order to propose an area source rule for industrial, commercial and institutional boilers. "Area" sources are those sources that emit less than 10 tons annually of a single hazardous air pollutant or less than 25 tons annually of a combination of hazardous air pollutants.

This proposed rule should be published in mid to late April with a 45-day comment period with implementation by Dec. 16, 2010, and is expected to have a significant impact on any local governments that use a coal, wood (biomass), or oil combustion boiler in their government buildings.

For more information, contact Julie Ufner, associate legislative director for environmental issues: [jufner@naco.org](mailto:jufner@naco.org), 202.942.4269.

## Counties hope airports can lift their economies

AEROTROPOLIS from page 1

over 200 years ago, that's how commerce moved — on the river," said Robert Ficano, Wayne County executive and a key driver of the initiative. "Then with the industrial revolution, the rail and the highway infrastructure became important. Now with the global economy, the airports have become very important."

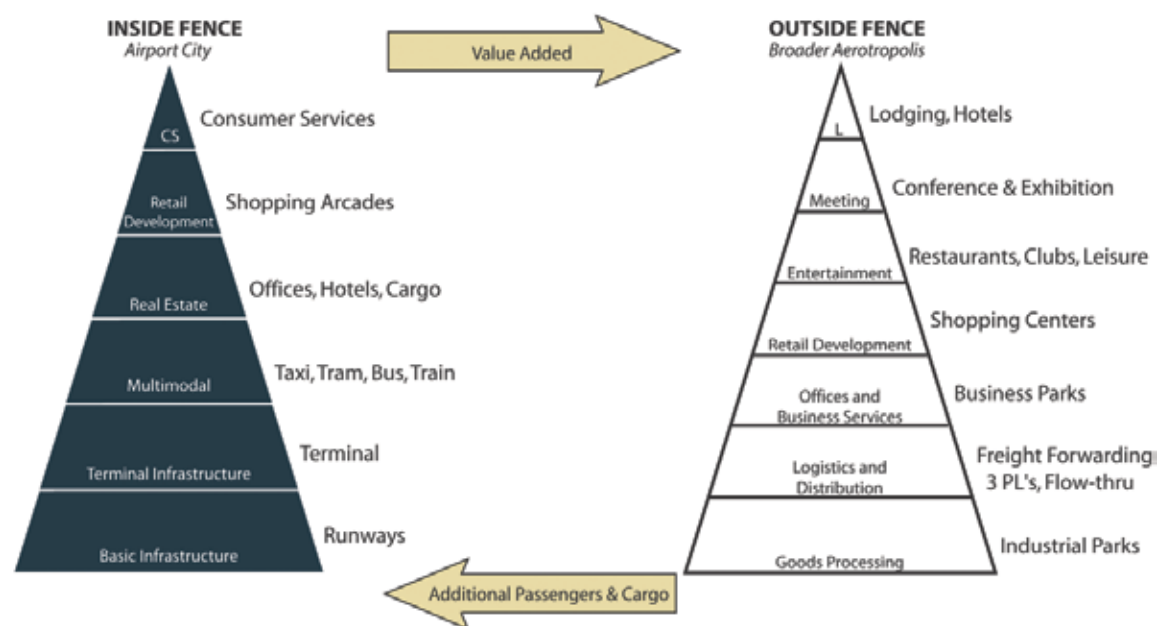
The Detroit Region Aerotropolis ([www.detroitregionaerotropolis.com](http://www.detroitregionaerotropolis.com)) would encourage the location of airport-linked businesses, and commercial and residential development on 60,000 undeveloped acres along the Interstate 94 corridor between Wayne County's two airports, and beyond into Washtenaw County.

Officials estimate it could create 60,000 jobs and \$10 billion a year in investment in the region over a 25-to-30-year period. An aerotropolis typically extends outward up to 20 miles from a major airport and includes such businesses as time-sensitive manufacturing, e-commerce fulfillment, telecommunications, logistics and offices for frequent business flyers. It can also support hotel, retail and residential development.

"The I-94 corridor has become the spine linking our counties together, and in the middle of this corridor sits Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run airports," Roland Sizemore, a Washtenaw County commissioner, said after the nine counties, cities and townships signed an agreement last June to form the Aerotropolis Development Corp. (ADC).

From Memphis, Tenn. to Amsterdam to Seoul, the aerotropolis concept is being embraced globally with an eye towards spurring economic growth, according to John D. Kasarda, director of Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has written extensively on the subject and has served as a consultant to the Detroit region and Memphis, which has designated

### Synergies of Airport-linked Development



Source: Schiphol Group and Dr. John D. Kasarda

### History of the aerotropolis

The aerotropolis movement is being led by newer "greenfield" airports, built in the last 30 years or so, that are less constrained by decades of prior surrounding development.

An aerotropolis is analogous in shape to the traditional metropolis made up of a central city and its rings of commuter-heavy suburbs. It consists of an "airport city" (inside the airport fence) and outlying corridors and clusters of aviation-linked businesses and associated residential development.

A number of such near-airport clusters — Amsterdam Zuidas in the Netherlands, Las Colinas, Texas, and South Korea's Songdo International Business District — have become globally significant airport edge-cities representing planned postmodern urban mega-development.

Source: [www.aerotropolis.com](http://www.aerotropolis.com)

its FedEx-fueled effort America's Aerotropolis.

"The pivotal asset of the Detroit area is Detroit Metro Airport, and particularly its international linkages to Asia," Kasarda said. Detroit Metro (DTW) and Willow Run airports are managed by the Wayne County Airport Authority, a quasi-governmental entity, some of whose members are appointed by the county. Both airports were operated by Wayne County until 2002.

DTW is one of the nation's busiest passenger airports, serving more than 35 million passengers a year. And Willow Run, a small portion of which is in Washtenaw County, serves cargo, corporate and general aviation clients, and moves about 400 million pounds of cargo annually.

Another asset is the region's well-trained technical workforce. Because of the auto industry, Ficano said, the area has "more engineers per capita than any place else in U.S." — and research and development is still major factor

in the regional economy. The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in Washtenaw County, and Detroit's Wayne State University are both public research universities.

Tony VanDerworp, director of strategic planning for Washtenaw County, said Washtenaw was heavily reliant on the auto industry in the eastern part of the county, which borders Wayne County, and has lost high-paying manufacturing jobs there.

"We saw having businesses grow around both airports as being one of the best ways we can share some of that regional job growth and provide jobs for our residents," he said. The aerotropolis is expected to employ workers from throughout southeastern Michigan.

Each aerotropolis jurisdiction, depending on size, contributed \$25,000 or \$50,000 toward formation of ADC, VanDerworp said, and the private sector provided \$1 million in seed money. But other incentives, such as the ability of the ADC to offer tax breaks, will be needed to make the effort a success.

A package of bills, known as the Next Michigan Development Act, is currently making its way through the state legislature. It would broaden the range of companies eligible to receive incentives and give the ADC more flexibility to spend public money on infrastructure that benefits businesses. Wayne and Washtenaw county officials hope the legislation will receive final passage by the end of April.

The effort has not been without controversy: some neighboring jurisdictions expressed concern about the aerotropolis putting them at a competitive disadvantage. Wayne and Washtenaw officials recently reached an agreement in principle with leaders in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Oakland County, that is expected to allay concerns about the aerotropolis "poaching" businesses from other areas of the state.

Washtenaw and Wayne counties, and their partners, also face competition from other nascent aerotropolises in the United States — in Dallas-Fort Worth, Louisville, Ky., Memphis and Indianapolis. However, Ficano says that unlike some regions, Wayne County's airports are not landlocked, and businesses have already begun to locate in the area because of the aerotropolis initiative.

Kasarda said it will take decades of synergistic land use, airport and business site planning to create a visible, functioning aerotropolis — "But even giants are born small."

He credited Ficano's leadership with "mobilizing the appropriate governance to make sure that the communities and counties — municipalities and counties — are working together for a common goal."

### County News invites Letters to the Editor

Do you have a compliment, complaint or different point of view?  
**LET US KNOW.**

Please include a phone number with your letter. Mail, fax or e-mail to:  
County News, NACo, 25 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington, DC 20001; 202.393.2630; [cnews@naco.org](mailto:cnews@naco.org).



# USDA encourages regional approach to rural development

## FUNDING from page 1

New this year is a focus on funding projects with regional approaches to rural development. USDA will give preference to "Great Region" applications, or applications from multi-jurisdictional areas within a state, territory, or federally designated tribal land or crossing such boundaries. This regional approach could be considered a test run for the Regional Innovation Initiative proposed in USDA's budget for FY11, which would create set-asides in a number of USDA programs for applications that are part of a regional development plan. NACo supports this approach, which will help rural communities fund their regional strategic priorities.

Applicants will receive higher rankings if they focus on USDA's five key strategies:

1. Local and regional food systems as a strategy for encouraging production agriculture and related industries in new wealth creation

2. Renewable energy generation, energy conservation, or climate change adaptation or mitigation as strategies for quality job creation

3. Use of broadband and other critical infrastructure as a strategy to facilitate local entrepreneurship and expansion of market opportunities for small businesses

4. Access to capital in rural areas as a strategy to ensure continuous business development and job creation or retention, and

5. Innovative utilization of natural resources as a strategy to expand business opportunities.

Once selected, grantees may be provided with targeted technical assistance by the USDA or other federal agencies. Applications can be submitted to your state rural development office, or online through [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov). A total of \$7.48 million is available. The deadline for applications is June 28. For more specific information go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-6860.htm>.

## Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

USDA Rural Development is offering grants to nonprofits, public agencies and Indian tribes for grants to provide increased access to technology to foster education, training and health care resources for people living in rural areas of America.

Funds may be used to acquire end-user telecommunications equipment, such as videoconferencing equipment needed to provide distance learning and telemedicine services to rural communities. The deadline for applications is May 18. To get more information go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-6007.htm>.

## Rental Housing Loans

USDA Rural Development has issued a Notice of Funding Availability for loan guarantees under the Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (GRRHP) for FY10. Under the program, the agency will provide credit enhancements

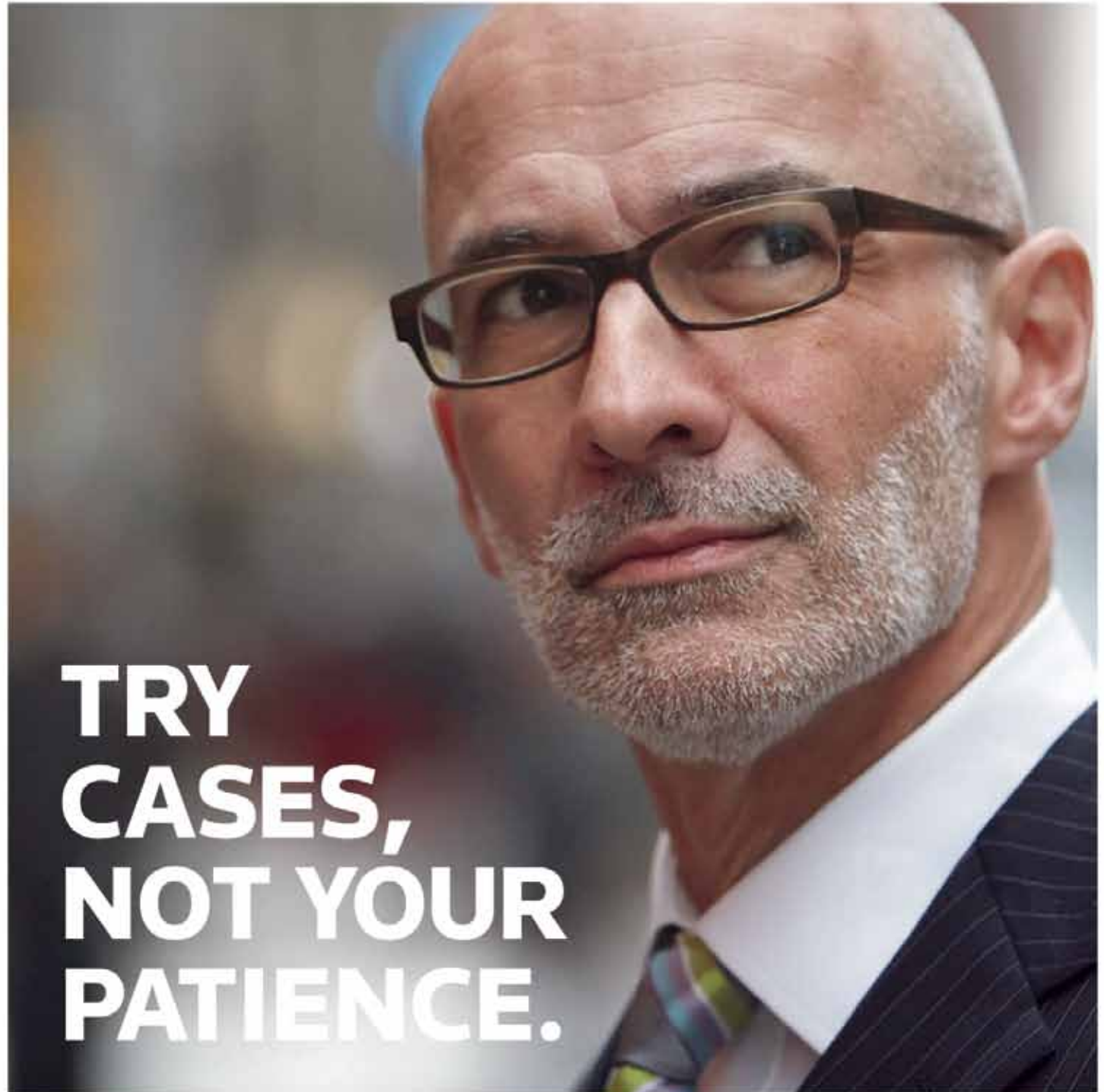
to encourage private and public lenders to make new loans for affordable rental properties that meet program standards. Lenders will be expected to underwrite and service the loans.

Funds may be used for new construction, acquisition with reha-

bilitation or revitalization, or repair and transfer of existing Section 515 housing. The deadline for applications is Dec. 31. For more information, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-3959.htm>.

NACo is a leader in national efforts to bolster funding for these

programs that are increasingly critical to rural counties, which are facing difficult fiscal situations. NACo is also leading efforts to ensure that USDA gives priority to projects that are connected to local government priorities identified in regional development plans.



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CASES,  
NOT YOUR  
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# What will health reform mean for county employees?

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), as amended by the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010, makes significant changes to the way health insurance is regulated. Plans in effect on March 23, including renewals, and coverage for family members and new employees, are exempt from some of the new requirements as “grandfathered plans.”

Beginning in 2014, counties that do not offer affordable basic coverage may be subject to a “free rider” penalty.

Here is an overview of the key provisions that may affect the way that you provide health benefits for your county employees.



- New plans may not limit eligibility for coverage or continued coverage on the basis of salary or wages.

## Jan. 1, 2013

- Contributions to Flexible Spending Accounts limited to \$2,500.

## Jan. 1, 2014

- A county with 50 or more employees that does not offer minimum essential coverage to its employees and their dependents for any month is subject to a penalty if at least one of its full-time employees uses a premium tax credit or subsidy to purchase coverage through a state exchange. The penalty for any month is equal to the number of full-time employees over a 30-employee threshold during the applicable month multiplied by one-twelfth of \$2,000. Premium subsidies will be available to individuals under 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

Minimum essential coverage must pay at least 60 percent of

benefit costs with maximum out-of-pocket limits equal to the annual HSA limits (\$5,950 for an individual and \$11,900 for a family in 2010).

- A county with 50 or more employees that does not offer coverage for all its full-time employees, or offers coverage that is unaffordable, or offers a plan which covers less than 60 percent of the benefit costs, must pay a penalty if a full-time employee uses a tax credit or subsidy to purchase coverage through a state exchange. The penalty is the lesser of \$3,000 per premium credit recipient or \$750 per full-time employee. Coverage is considered affordable if it is less than 9.8 percent of household income.

- New plans must cover ambulatory services, emergency services, hospitalization services, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse services, laboratory services, wellness and preventive services, chronic disease management and pediatric services (including oral and vision).

- Counties with more than 200 employees are required to auto-enroll employees in their group health plan unless the employee opts out.

## Jan. 1, 2017

- States may permit employers with more than 100 employees to purchase coverage from an exchange.

## Jan. 1, 2018

- Health plans costing more than \$10,200 for individual coverage and \$27,500 for family coverage are subject to a 40 percent excise

tax. Retirees between the ages of 55 and 64, employees engaged in certain high-risk professions — like public safety workers — and plans covering an employee population that differs, in age or gender, from that of a national risk pool will have

higher limits.

Plan cost includes total medical premium, health flexible spending account reimbursements, health reimbursement arrangements and employer contributions to health savings accounts.

## Coolidge appointed vice chairman of federal Dairy Advisory Commission

Commissioner Erick Coolidge of Tioga County, Pa. was recently named vice chairman of the newly created Dairy Advisory Commission under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Coolidge, who has been an active member of NACo's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee since 2003, received his appointment to the commission in January.

“I welcome this position and I am humbled. It's a privilege,” Coolidge said. “I have called a number of men and women involved in the industry to ask for their suggestions, and they have responded with ideas on dealing with trade imbalances and price volatility.

“I believe we need to have an honest and forthright discussion that leaves no room for posturing and that we need common sense and consensus in the meetings to get something done quickly,” Coolidge said.

The USDA has described the commission as meeting to review



Erick Coolidge

the issues of farm milk price volatility and dairy farmer profitability, and to provide suggestions and ideas to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on how USDA can best address the issues.

Coolidge is a longtime dairy producer, a fourth-generation dairy farmer with nearly 45 years of experience in the industry both on and off the farm.

## June 21, 2010

- HHS will establish a reinsurance program to reimburse employers, including counties, for up to 80 percent of the cost of providing health insurance to retirees between the ages of 55 and 64, and their spouses and dependents. The fund will reimburse claims in excess of \$15,000 and below \$90,000, indexed for inflation. PPACA appropriates \$5 billion to this fund, which sunsets on Jan. 1, 2014 or when funding runs out.

## Sept. 23, 2010

- Lifetime benefit caps and rescissions must be eliminated, and waiting periods may not exceed 90 days (all plans, new and grandfathered).

- Plans that cover a beneficiary's dependent child must offer coverage until the child's 26th birthday (all plans, new and grandfathered). Grandfathered plans may discontinue coverage if the dependent is eligible to enroll in another employer-sponsored plan.

- Plans may not limit coverage based on health status-related factors for children under age 19 (all plans, new and grandfathered).

- Coverage must include preventive services, immunizations and screenings without cost-sharing requirements (new plans).

## Jan. 1, 2011

- Counties must begin collecting voluntary payroll deductions for long-term care insurance program Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act.

- Cost of coverage must be reported on employee's W-2.

- Over-the-counter drugs are excluded from reimbursement by Flexible Spending Accounts, Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HSA), unless prescribed by a physician.

By **JEFF ARNOLD**  
DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

If your county uses licensed spectrum for public safety in the 150–174 megahertz (MHz) band or the 421–512 MHz radio band you will be required to either reengineer your land mobile radios or buy new equipment to meet a 2013 narrowbanding mandate.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is mandating all Public Safety and Industrial/Business licensees convert existing 25 kilohertz (kHz) efficiency operations in the VHF and UHF bands to minimum 12.5 kHz efficiency analog (or digital operation), and that going forward, local governments may not implement any more 25 kHz efficiency systems.

To implement this mandate, the

FCC developed rules and deadlines that affect both radio users and equipment providers. Here are some of the important deadlines counties using these frequencies should know:

**January 1, 2011** — Applications for new licenses must specify at least 12.5 kHz “efficiency.” The FCC will no longer accept applications for systems operating at 25 kHz efficiency.

**January 1, 2011** — Applications for modifications of existing licenses must specify at least 12.5 kHz efficiency. The FCC will no longer accept modifications for expansion of service areas to systems operating at 25 kHz efficiency. Changes that can trigger such expansion include increasing the antenna height or transmitter power, or adding or

moving a transmitter site, and

**January 1, 2013** — All licensees must convert to and operate in at least 12.5 kHz efficiency.

The 12.5 kHz deadline for new applications or existing license modifications is less than one year away. The deadline for all licensees operating in at least 12.5 kHz efficiency is less than three years away. Here are some suggested preparations licensees should start right now:

- Take an inventory of your radios. Equipment purchased during the last 10 years likely is dual mode 25/12.5 kHz so converting should be a simple process of disabling the 25 kHz mode. Older equipment will likely need to be replaced.

- develop budget requirements and explore funding options

- establish a conversion and implementation schedule

- coordinate your conversion with neighboring public safety agencies to facilitate continued interoperability among your agencies

- conduct tests during conversion to ensure your system continues to provide similar coverage. Determine if transmitter site changes or additions will be required to compensate for possible coverage changes, and

- contact your vendor representative for further information and assistance to ensure that your radio system meets the FCC narrowbanding deadlines and requirements.

In the continuing effort to use spectrum more efficiently and reliably, and provide for interoperability of regional systems, it is critical that counties within these spectrum bands take steps today to meet these requirements. Not to do so could put your first responders at risk.

# How did NACo priorities fare in final health reform law?

By PAUL BEDDOE

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

H.R. 4872, the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010 (HCEARA) which President Obama signed into law on March 30, makes a final — for now — set of adjustments to H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) signed a week earlier on March 23. The action now moves from Capitol Hill to the administration, where Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius bears major responsibility for implementing the law's provisions along with the states.

NACo is monitoring these developments closely and will be providing its members more detailed information about key provisions important to county governments in the weeks and months ahead. In the meantime, here is a preliminary overview of how NACo's priorities fared in the final legislative package:

NACo's core health reform ideas and values were embedded in the policy white paper, *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System*, which was developed by the Health System Reform Working Group under the leadership of President Valerie Brown. It was subsequently endorsed by the Health Steering Committee, Board of Directors and general membership at the annual conference last July in Nashville-Davidson County, Tenn.

## Coverage

At the heart of the white paper was the commitment to expanding health insurance coverage to all Americans. While NACo did not endorse any particular pathway to that end, it appears that the new laws will achieve near universal coverage beginning in 2014 by expanding public programs, such as Medicaid, and by setting up state-based health insurance exchanges — regulated insurance marketplaces — where uninsured individuals and small businesses can buy and compare private insurance policies, and apply tax subsidies for which they are eligible on a sliding scale (think Orbitz or Travelocity for subsidized health insurance.)

Discrimination on the basis of pre-existing conditions, and rescission (the practice of cancelling coverage once a beneficiary falls ill) would be banned. The law will require all individuals, with a few exceptions, to carry at least minimum coverage in order to maintain the largest possible risk pool and prevent an insurance

market "death spiral" — that is, healthy people dropping coverage as sick people enter the market driving up premium costs. It also includes incentives for employers to offer a credible level of health insurance coverage for their employees (see related article on page 6).

## Public Health, Prevention and Wellness

Also at the core of NACo's priorities was the belief that a greater focus on disease and injury prevention, and health promotion is an important way to improve the health of local communities as well as a crucial strategy to begin to rein in runaway health care costs. The PPACA makes significant investments in health promotion and disease prevention activities and recognizes the unique role played by local public health departments. It includes a stable funding stream for chronic disease prevention and support for the local public health workforce, both of which will help to sustain the kind of population and community-based prevention activities which are beyond the reach of health insurers and health care providers.

"This legislation is a giant step towards putting prevention and health back into healthcare," said National Association of County and City Health Officials Executive Director Robert M. Pestronk, in a statement.

## Maintaining a Safety Net

County governments across the country are the payers of last resort for the medically indigent as well as providers of safety net health services through county hospitals and clinics, behavioral health centers and nursing homes. So while supporting an expansion of existing public insurance programs like Medicaid to help cover vulnerable populations, NACo opposes doing so by shifting further costs to counties.

Beginning in 2014, the PPACA and HCEARA will expand Medicaid to cover all individuals under 133 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and provide 100 percent federal funding for the Medicaid expansion, ramping down to 90 percent federal funding in 2019. NACo was successful in including language that prevents states from requiring counties to contribute more to the non-federal share of Medicaid than they contributed in 2009.

The language is also applied retroactively to the enhanced Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) provisions of the Recovery Act. The PPACA has strong

maintenance-of-effort language which extends the Recovery Act's provisions preventing states from changing Medicaid eligibility and enrollment.

The HCEARA fully funds an increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care physicians to the Medicare level in 2013 and 2014 in order to help support access to care for the newly eligible Medicaid beneficiaries.

NACo opposed the \$50 billion in mandatory reductions to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments proposed by the administration last year. The HCEARA reduced the cuts to DSH which were in the PPACA from \$18.1 billion to a total of \$14.1 billion from 2014 through 2019.

## Delivery Systems and Access

Throughout the debate, NACo recognized that health insurance coverage was not enough, that local health care delivery systems had to be reformed and that steps needed to be taken to improve access to quality health care for all. The PPACA establishes a number of promising mechanisms designed to improve access and quality, and potentially help slow the growth of health care costs:

- creates a national Medicare pilot program to develop and evaluate paying a bundled payment for acute, inpatient hospital services, physician services, outpatient hospital services and post-acute care services

- authorizes a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test payment and service delivery models to improve quality and efficiency

- sets up a new Federal Coordinated Health Care Office within CMS to more effectively integrate Medicare and Medicaid benefits, and improve coordination between the federal government and states in order to improve access to and quality of care and services for dual-eligibles

- establishes a new Medicaid state plan option to permit Medicaid enrollees with at least two chronic conditions, one condition and risk of developing another, or at least one serious and persistent mental health condition, to designate a provider as a health care coordinator, and provide states taking up the option with 90 percent federal match for two years

- requires enhanced collection and reporting of data on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, disability status, and underserved rural and frontier populations, and requires collection of access

and treatment data for people with disabilities and requires HHS to analyze the data to monitor trends in disparities, and

- sets up a community-based Collaborative Care Network Program to support local consortiums of health care providers to coordinate and integrate health care services, for low-income uninsured and underinsured populations.

In addition to the increase in Medicaid primary care reimbursements mentioned above, the HCEARA also will invest \$11 billion over 10 years in community health centers — \$2.5 billion more than was in the PPACA — to help extend access to basic health services for underserved areas.

## Health Workforce

NACo members clearly understood the importance of growing the health workforce in a reformed

health system. PPACA includes ambitious programs to plan for and invest in all the health professions. This includes the establishment of a multi-stakeholder National Health Care Workforce Commission to develop a national workforce strategy.

It also includes increasing the number of Graduate Medical Education (GME) training positions by redistributing currently unused slots, with priorities given to primary care and general surgery, and to states with the lowest resident physician-to-population ratios. It increases flexibility in laws and regulations that govern GME funding to promote training in outpatient settings and ensure the availability of residency programs in rural and underserved areas.

PPACA also establishes community-based Teaching Health

See **PRIORITIES** page 16

# Revenue sharing sought for states, counties

**DRILLING** from page 3

a number of affected states would not get any revenue-sharing money, unless Congress authorizes it. It is expected that the Kerry-Graham-Lieberman climate and energy bill will address revenue sharing. However, a number of senators have said they will oppose any bill that includes offshore drilling provisions with revenue sharing.

To read the proposal, go to [www.doi.gov/news/doinews/2010\\_03\\_31\\_news.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/news/doinews/2010_03_31_news.cfm).

## What is Revenue Sharing for Coastal States?

Revenues from off-shore drilling are statutorily allocated among the coastal states, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the National Historic Preservation Fund and the U.S. Treasury.

Only a handful of coastal states have a revenue-sharing agreement with the federal government — Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, California and Alaska. The revenue-sharing agreement differs per state. For example, the Gulf states receive 37.5 percent of the revenue while Alaska receives 90 percent of the revenue shared on public leases. States that have onshore public domain leases, on the other hand, receive 50 percent of the revenue collected.

There are a number of Gulf Coast states that do not have any revenue-sharing agreement with

the federal government. If oil and gasoline production occurs off the coasts of these affected states, the states receive nothing in revenue from the federal government.

There is an effort by a number of coastal states to allow revenue sharing while increasing the portion of revenue allotted to them. Generally, the money is used to address onshore and near-shore oil and gas activities that may adversely affect the coastline.

Much attention has been focused on Louisiana, where many square miles of wetlands are being lost due to the energy development and infrastructure. Additionally, states have in the past (California, for example) shared a portion of the revenue with local governments. Louisiana has directed that all of its monies be used for coastal protection, wetland mitigation efforts and hurricane protection measures. This in turn protects the communities along the coast and the energy infrastructure.

However, revenue sharing is a controversial topic in Congress. Part of the federal share is put into the U.S. Treasury and thus, used to balance the budget. Revenue sharing would cut into the federal share.

NACo supports legislation to provide states and counties of those states which support, and encourage oil and gas production off their shores with a share of revenues proportionate to the royalties generated.



# Health Care Reform ...

## What's Happening — When

### 2010

#### Insurance Reforms

- ▶ Establish a temporary national high-risk pool to provide health coverage to individuals with pre-existing medical conditions. (Effective 90 days following enactment until January 1, 2014)
- ▶ Provide dependent coverage for adult children up to age 26 for all individual and group policies.
- ▶ Prohibit individual and group health plans from placing lifetime limits on the dollar value of coverage and prior to 2014, plans may only impose annual limits on coverage as determined by the HHS secretary. Prohibit insurers from rescinding coverage except in cases of fraud and prohibit pre-existing condition exclusions for children.
- ▶ Require qualified health plans to provide at a minimum coverage without cost-sharing for preventive services rated A or B by the U.S. Preventive Services

Task Force, recommended immunizations, preventive care for infants, children and adolescents, and additional preventive care and screenings for women.

- ▶ Provide tax credits to small employers with no more than 25 employees and average annual wages of less than \$50,000 that provide health insurance for employees.
- ▶ Create a temporary reinsurance program for employers, including local governments, providing health insurance coverage to retirees over age 55 who are not eligible for Medicare. (Effective 90 days following enactment until Jan. 1, 2014)
- ▶ Require health plans to report the proportion of premium dollars spent on clinical services, quality, and other costs and provide rebates to consumers for the amount of the premium spent on clinical services and quality that is less than 85% for plans in the large group market and 80% for plans in the individual and small group markets. (Requirement to report medical loss ratio effective plan

year 2010; requirement to provide rebates effective Jan. 1, 2011)

- ▶ Establish a process for reviewing increases in health plan premiums and require plans to justify increases. Require states to report on trends in premium increases and recommend whether certain plans should be excluded from the Exchange based on unjustified premium increases.
- ▶ HHS secretary begins to set standards for establishing and operating state-based Exchanges for individuals and standards for a state-based Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Exchange. For a SHOP Exchange, a small employer is defined as having one to 100 employees. States can limit SHOP exchange to employers with 50 employees until 2016. Beginning in 2010 and through 2014, HHS could award grants to states for planning and implementation of a state-based Exchange.

#### Medicare

- ▶ Improve care coordination for dual eligibles by creating a new office within the Centers for Medicare

and Medicaid services, the Federal Coordinated Health Care Office.

- ▶ Reduce annual market basket updates for inpatient hospital, home health, skilled nursing facility, hospice and other Medicare providers, and adjust for productivity.

#### Medicaid

- ▶ Provide funding for and expand the role of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission to include assessments of adult services (including those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid).
- ▶ States subject to a maintenance of effort (MOE) on Medicaid eligibility standards, methodologies and procedures until an Exchange is operational in the state. States are also subject to a MOE on eligibility standards, methodologies and procedures for all children in Medicaid and in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), until Sept. 30, 2019. An exception to the MOE is permitted for eligibility policies applying to optional non-pregnant, non-disabled adults with incomes above 133 percent of the FPL for the period Jan. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2013 if the state certifies it has or projects a budget deficit.

#### Quality Improvement

- ▶ Support comparative effectiveness research by establishing a nonprofit Patient-Centered Out-

comes Research Institute.

- ▶ Establish a commissioned Regular Corps and a Ready Reserve Corps for service in time of a national emergency.
- ▶ Reauthorize and amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

#### Workforce

- ▶ Establish the Workforce Advisory Committee to develop a national workforce strategy.
- ▶ Increase workforce supply and support training of health professionals through scholarships and loans.
- ▶ Establish Teaching Health Centers to provide Medicare payments for primary care residency programs in federally qualified health centers.

#### Tax Changes

- ▶ Impose additional requirements on nonprofit hospitals to provide charity care, and to conduct and implement a community health needs assessment in consultation with community leaders and public health experts. Impose a tax of \$50,000 per year for failure to meet these requirements.
- ▶ Impose a tax of 10% on the amount paid for indoor tanning services.



### 2011

#### Long-term Care

- ▶ Establish a national, voluntary insurance program for purchasing community living assistance services and supports (CLASS program).

#### Medical Malpractice

- ▶ Award five-year demonstration grants to states to develop, implement and evaluate alternatives to current tort litigations.

#### Public Health, Prevention and Wellness

- ▶ Improve prevention by covering only proven preventive services and eliminating cost-sharing for preventive services in Medicare; increase Medicare payments for certain preventive services to 100% of actual charges or fee schedule rates. For states that provide Medicaid coverage for and remove cost-sharing for preventive services recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

and recommended immunizations, provide a one percentage point increase in the FMAP for these services.

- ▶ Provide Medicare beneficiaries access to a comprehensive health risk assessment and creation of a personalized prevention plan and provide incentives to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries to complete behavior modification programs.
- ▶ Provide grants for up to five years to small employers that establish wellness programs.
- ▶ Establish the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council to develop a national strategy to improve the nation's health.
- ▶ Require chain restaurants and food sold from vending machines to disclose the nutritional content of each item.

#### Medicare

- ▶ Require pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide a 50% discount on brand-name prescriptions filled in the Medicare Part D coverage gap beginning in 2011 and begin phasing-in federal subsidies for

generic prescriptions filled in the Medicare Part D coverage gap.

- ▶ Provide a 10% Medicare bonus payment to primary care physicians and to general surgeons practicing in health professional shortage areas. (Effective 2011 through 2015)
- ▶ Prohibit Medicare Advantage plans from imposing higher cost-sharing requirements for some Medicare covered benefits than is required under the traditional fee-for-service program.
- ▶ Reduce annual market basket updates for Medicare providers beginning in 2011.
- ▶ Provide Medicare payments to qualifying hospitals in counties with the lowest quartile Medicare spending for 2011 and 2012.
- ▶ Create an Innovation Center within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

#### Medicaid

- ▶ Prohibit federal payments to states for Medicaid services related to health care acquired conditions.
- ▶ Create a new Medicaid state

plan option to permit Medicaid enrollees with at least two chronic conditions, one condition and risk of developing another, or at least one serious and persistent mental health condition to designate a provider as a health home. Provide states taking up the option with 90% FMAP for two years.

- ▶ Create the State Balancing Incentive Program in Medicaid to provide enhanced federal matching payments to increase non-institutionally based long-term care services.
- ▶ Establish the Community First Choice Option in Medicaid to provide community-based attendant support services to certain people with disabilities.

#### Quality Improvement

- ▶ Develop a national quality improvement strategy that includes priorities to improve the delivery of health care services, patient health outcomes and population health.
- ▶ Establish the Community-based Collaborative Care Network Program to support consortiums of health

care providers to coordinate and integrate health care services, for low-income uninsured and underinsured populations.

- ▶ Establish a new trauma center program to strengthen emergency department and trauma center capacity.
- ▶ Improve access to care by increasing funding by \$11 billion for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps over five years; establish new programs to support school-based health centers and nurse-managed health clinics.

#### Tax Changes

- ▶ Exclude the costs for over-the-counter drugs not prescribed by a doctor from being reimbursed through an HRA or health FSA and from being reimbursed on a tax-free basis through an HSA or Archer Medical Savings Account.
- ▶ Increase the tax on distributions from a health savings account or an Archer MSA that are not used for qualified medical expenses to 20% of the disbursed amount.



# Where will health care be five years from now?



## 2012

### Medicaid

► Create new demonstration projects in Medicaid to pay bundled payments for episodes of care that include hospitalizations (effective Jan. 1, 2012 through Dec. 31, 2016); to make global capitated payments to safety net hospital systems (effective fiscal years 2010 through 2012); to allow pediatric medical providers organized as accountable care organizations to share in cost-savings (effective Jan. 1, 2012 through Dec. 31, 2016); and to provide Medicaid payments to institutions of mental disease for adult enrollees who require stabilization of an emergency

condition (effective Oct. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2015).

### Quality Improvement

► Require enhanced collection and reporting of data on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, disability status, and for underserved rural and frontier populations.

## 2013

### Insurance Reforms

► Create the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program to foster the creation of nonprofit, member-run health insurance companies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to offer qualified health plans. (Appropriate \$6 billion to

finance the program and award loans and grants to establish CO-OPs by July 1, 2013)

► Simplify health insurance administration by adopting a single set of operating rules for eligibility verification and claims status (rules adopted July 1, 2011; effective Jan. 1, 2013), electronic funds transfers and health care payment and remittance (rules adopted July 1, 2012; effective Jan. 1, 2014), and health claims or equivalent encounter information, enrollment and disenrollment in a health plan, health plan premium payments, and referral certification and authorization (rules adopted July 1, 2014; effective Jan. 1, 2016). Health plans must document compliance with these standards or face a penalty of no more than \$1 per

covered life. (Effective April 1, 2014)

### Medicaid

Increase Medicaid payments for primary care services provided by primary care doctors for 2013 and 2014 with 100% federal funding.

### Quality Improvement

Require disclosure of financial relationships between health entities, including physicians, hospitals, pharmacists, other providers, and manufacturers and distributors of covered drugs, devices, biologicals and medical supplies.

### Tax Changes

► Increase the threshold for the itemized deduction for unreimbursed medical expenses from 7.5% of adjusted gross income to 10% of adjusted gross income for regular

tax purposes; waive the increase for individuals age 65 and older for tax years 2013 through 2016.

► Increase the Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) tax rate on wages by 0.9% (from 1.45% to 2.35%) on earnings over \$200,000 for individual taxpayers and \$250,000 for married couples filing jointly and impose a 3.8% assessment on unearned income for higher-income taxpayers.

► Limit the amount of contributions to a flexible spending account for medical expenses to \$2,500 per year increased annually by the cost of living adjustment.

► Eliminate the tax-deduction for employers who receive Medicare Part D retiree drug subsidy payments.

## 2014

### Individual and Employer Requirements

► Require U.S. citizens and legal residents to have qualifying health coverage (phase-in tax penalty for those without coverage).

► Assess employers with more than 50 employees that do not offer coverage and have at least one full-time employee who receives a premium tax credit a fee of \$2,000 per full-time employee, excluding the first 30 employees from the assessment. Employers with more than 50 employees that offer coverage but have at least one full-time employee receiving a premium tax credit, will pay the lesser of \$3,000 for each employee receiving a premium credit or \$2,000 for each full-time employee. Require employers with more than 200 employees to automatically enroll employees into health insurance plans offered by the employer. Employees may opt out of coverage.

### Insurance Reforms

► Create state-based American Health Benefit Exchanges and Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Exchanges, administered by a governmental agency or nonprofit organization, through which individuals and small businesses with up to 100

employees can purchase qualified coverage.

► Require guarantee-issue and renewability, and allow rating variation based only on age (limited to 3 to 1 ratio), premium rating area, family composition, and tobacco use (limited to 1.5 to 1 ratio) in the individual and the small group market and the Exchanges.

► Reduce the out-of-pocket limits for those with incomes up to 400% FPL to the following levels:

- 100–200% FPL: one-third of the HSA limits (\$1,983/individual and \$3,967/family);

- 200–300% FPL: one-half of the HSA limits (\$2,975/individual and \$5,950/family);

- 300–400% FPL: two-thirds of the HSA limits (\$3,987/individual and \$7,973/family).

► Limit deductibles for health plans in the small group market to \$2,000 for individuals and \$4,000 for families unless contributions are offered that offset deductible amounts above these limits.

► Limit any waiting periods for coverage to 90 days.

► Create an essential health benefits package that provides a comprehensive set of services, covers at least 60% of the actuarial value of the covered benefits, limits annual cost-sharing to the current law HSA limits (\$5,950/individual

and \$11,900/family in 2010), and is not more extensive than the typical employer plan.

► Require the Office of Personnel Management to contract with insurers to offer at least two multi-state plans in each Exchange. At least one plan must be offered by a nonprofit entity and at least one plan must not provide coverage for abortions beyond those permitted by federal law.

► Permit states the option to create a Basic Health Plan for uninsured individuals with incomes between 133–200% FPL who would otherwise be eligible to receive premium subsidies in the Exchange.

► Allow states the option of merging the individual and small group markets. (Effective Jan. 1, 2014)

► Create a temporary reinsurance program to collect payments from health insurers in the individual and group markets to provide payments to plans in the individual market that cover high-risk individuals.

► Require qualified health plans to meet new operating standards and reporting requirements.

### Premium Subsidies

► Provide refundable and advanceable premium credits and cost sharing subsidies to eligible individuals and families with incomes between 133–400% FPL to purchase insurance through the Exchanges.

### Medicaid

► Expand Medicaid to all individuals under age 65 (children, pregnant women, parents and adults without dependent children) with incomes up to 133% FPL based on modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) with 100% FMAP for newly eligibles.

► Reduce states' Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotments by \$500 million.

### Prevention/Wellness

► Permit employers to offer employees rewards of up to 30%, increasing to 50% if appropriate, of the cost of coverage for participating in a wellness program and meeting certain health-related standards. Establish 10-state pilot programs to permit participating states to apply similar rewards for participating in wellness programs in the individual market.

### Tax Changes

► Impose fees on the health insurance sector.

## 2015 →

### Insurance Reforms

► Permit states to form health care choice compacts and allow insurers to sell policies in any state participating in the compact. (Compacts may not take effect before Jan. 1, 2016).

### Medicaid

► 100% FMAP for newly eligibles in 2015 and 2016; 95% in 2017; 94% in 2018; 93% in 2019 and 90% in 2020 and each year thereafter.

► Reduce states' Medicaid DSH allotments by \$600 million in 2015; \$600 million in 2016; \$1.8 billion for 2017; \$5 billion for 2018; \$5.6 billion for 2019 and \$4 billion for 2020.

### Tax Changes

► Impose an excise tax on insurers of employer-sponsored health plans with aggregate values that exceed \$10,200 for individual coverage and \$27,500 for family coverage. (Effective Jan. 1, 2018)

### Sources

*The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590)*

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# GUEST COMMENTARY: Better broadband can make nationwide public safety wireless network more effective

By PAUL H. FITZGERALD  
SHERIFF, STORY COUNTY, IOWA

AND  
HARLIN R. McEWEN  
CHIEF OF POLICE (RET.), ITHACA, N.Y.

Sheriff's deputies, police officers, fire, medical and other emergency professionals must have access to modern and reliable communications capabilities, including high-speed data and video, to communicate with each other and with federal officials across agencies and jurisdictions during emergencies. A hardened broadband network designed to meet public safety operational requirements and provide seamless nationwide roaming capability is essential for public safety to meet its ever-increasing responsibilities.

## Action Required

Such a broadband wireless network is achievable if Congress and the FCC work with us and take action to support public safety as follows:

1. Pass legislation directing the FCC to remove any auction requirements for the D Block and to allocate it directly to public safety as part of the nationwide Public Safety Broadband License (PSBL). This will result in public safety having access to 20 MHz of broadband spectrum that is essential to meet public safety's expanding requirements and to maximize efficient use of broadband technologies.

The legislation should direct the FCC to adopt rules that will authorize the PSBL to allow providers of public safety services to construct and operate local, regional or state

broadband systems that are fully interoperable and in conformance with the technology standards adopted by the PSBL.

The legislation should also expressly provide the PSBL and local entities flexibility to deploy and control their own networks or enter into network-sharing and infrastructure-sharing agreements with commercial or nonprofit entities. Such Congressional action will allow the rapid deployment of a nationwide public safety wireless broadband network in both populated centers and rural areas.

2. Identify and provide an annually recurring and dedicated funding source to build and maintain the nationwide public safety wireless broadband network. In addition to funding to build and maintain the network, a source of funding is needed by the PSBL to help ensure implementation of a nationwide framework for interoperability. Such funding will support the volunteer board members of the PSBL in their efforts to identify and retain strategic planning, technical, and legal assistance needed for ongoing discussions with the FCC and potential commercial partners. To date, the PSBL has operated without any government funding.

## Background

The goal is for the public safety community to have priority access to a nationwide, interoperable, wireless broadband network that supports high-speed data and video, incorporates the latest technologies utilized by the private sector, and is built and maintained to meet public safety requirements for coverage and reliability. To sup-

## NACo Policy: Use of Spectrum for Interoperable IP-Based Public Safety Communications

**Issue:** Use of spectrum for interoperable IP-based public safety communications.

**Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the use of wireless spectrum for interoperable IP-based public safety communications, and calls on the FCC to expeditiously allocate such spectrum for secure public safety uses.

**Background:** For many years public safety communications focused on voice over a traditional mobile radio system. As technology moved forward, public safety agencies moved to "trunked" radio systems to facilitate voice traffic. Often these systems were exclusive to the agency using them, and not interoperable with other agency systems. With the experience of September 11, 2001, the inadequacy of the communications systems became readily apparent.

The responding public safety agencies could not talk to one another and could not share data in real time in a meaningful way. Nearly a decade later the technology has advanced sufficiently to allow public safety agencies to share information over Internet Protocol (IP) based systems, both for voice (IP-based radios), and data (mobile data terminals). What is needed is sufficient wireless spectrum to be dedicated to public safety uses, and on a sufficient scale to allow for national interoperable response. This includes adjacent "D-Block" spectrum currently available.

**Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impacts:** This would allow public safety agencies maximum flexibility to meet any natural or man-made disasters more efficiently.

Adopted by the NACo Board of Directors March 8, 2010

port this effort, the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST), a not-for-profit corporation, was established in June 2007.

The PSST is governed by a board of fifteen members representing a cross-section of the national public safety community. In November 2007, the FCC issued the PSST the nationwide broadband license (the PSBL) for 12 MHz of spectrum in the upper 700 MHz band (10 MHz of broadband spectrum and 2 MHz of guardband spectrum). The FCC also adopted rules to form a public-private partnership between the PSST and the licensee of the adjacent D Block, which was to be auctioned.

The spectrum defined in the PSBL is one half of the 24 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band allocated to public safety in 1997 as required by the Congress. Many local and state public safety agencies are implementing or planning to implement locally managed and licensed land mobile systems in the other 12 MHz of this spectrum for additional mission-critical public safety narrowband voice channels. In much of the country, the 700 MHz spectrum was occupied by TV broadcasters and did not become available for public safety use until June 12, 2009.

Almost all of the 700 MHz spectrum, with the exception of the D Block, was sold in a 2008 auction with the proceeds reaching almost \$20 billion. The D Block auction was not successful. On March 20, 2008, the FCC issued an order delaying further D Block action until further notice.

It is essential that public safety be able to access a broadband network that is capable of providing reliable high-speed applications. Developing 4G broadband technologies will require a minimum of 20 MHz of spectrum (PSBL 10 MHz and D Block 10 MHz) to efficiently meet the current and future needs of public safety. In this regard, a minimum of 20 MHz of broadband spectrum is critical if this proposal is to be in concert with the stated objectives of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of an eventual convergence of voice and data networks for public safety.

The vision is that a Nationwide Wireless Broadband Network would give public safety:

1. Broadband data services (such as text messaging, photos, diagrams and streaming video) not currently available in most existing public safety land mobile systems.

2. A hardened public safety network with infrastructure built to withstand local natural hazards (tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, etc.) that would include strengthened towers and back-up power with fuel supplies to withstand long-term outages of public power sources.

3. Nationwide coverage, roaming and interoperability for local, state, and federal public safety agencies (police, fire and EMS) and other emergency services such as transportation, health care and utilities.

4. Access to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) similar to current commercial cellular

services.

5. Push-to-talk, one-to-one and one-to-many public safety-grade voice capability.

6. Access to satellite services to provide reliable nationwide communications where terrestrial services either do not exist or are temporarily out of service.

President Obama, in his weekly remarks to the nation on Jan. 24, 2009 said, "Finally, we will rebuild and retrofit America to meet the demands of the 21st century. That means repairing and modernizing thousands of miles of America's roadways and providing new mass transit options for millions of Americans. It means protecting America by securing 90 major ports and creating a better communications network for local law enforcement and public safety officials in the event of an emergency. And it means expanding broadband access to millions of Americans, so business can compete on a level-playing field, wherever they're located."

State-of-the-art public safety communications are essential to provide the public with the protection and security it deserves. Public safety touches every facet of our lives, including the safety of our families and economic growth, and we urge Congress and the administration to work with us so the nation's citizens will be able to receive the best possible public safety services.

(Reprinted with permission, Sheriff Magazine, March-April, 2010, National Sheriffs' Association.)

## In Case You Missed It ... News to Use from Past County News

### ► County Courthouse Awards applications available

NACo is now accepting applications for the 2010 County Courthouse Awards. The awards recognize elected county officials from NACo-member counties who demonstrate innovative and effective leadership to improve the quality of life of residents. Three award categories: rural, suburban and urban.

Applications and information are now available on the NACo Web site at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) under the Awards section. Applications must be received by May 7 to be considered. If you have questions, please contact NACo Associate Legislative Directors Dalen Harris or Erik Johnston at 202.393.6226 or by e-mail at [dharris@naco.org](mailto:dharris@naco.org) or [ejohnston@naco.org](mailto:ejohnston@naco.org).



# Counties cited for technology excellence

By DALE BOWEN  
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, PTI

Public Technology Institute (PTI) has announced the winners of the 2010 Technology Solutions Awards. This annual program recognizes local governments that demonstrate how the successful use of technology can improve government performance and the delivery of services to their communities.

“As government services come under increasing scrutiny during these difficult budget times, cities and counties must continue to invest in sound technology tools and practices. In the entries that PTI received, I think you will see where those investments definitely paid off,” said Alan R. Shark, PTI executive director.

Winners received their awards at the 2010 PTI Technology Solutions and Innovations Conference, March 24–25 in Washington, D.C.

Entries are grouped by technology category and population size. Winning entries from counties, and counties recognized for Significant Achievement are listed below.

## Sustainability

### Washtenaw County, Mich. – Healthy Home Portal

Like many governments, Washtenaw County’s departmental and

service delivery structure doesn’t map perfectly to the way citizens think of their needs. Like many governments, it has attempted different organizational structures to better match citizen expectations.

Like many governments, the county has tried different approaches to present services and information in a way that is easy to navigate and that feels less bureaucratic. After various attempts at “A to Z” lists, three columns, four columns, “uber departments” and more, a team from eight departments was looking at a list of dozens of overlapping services and departments, scratching their heads, when a team member offered his skills as a cartoonist. The response: The Washtenaw County Health Home

Portal is an approachable, easy-to-use, easy-to-market conglomeration of services and information related to environmental issues around the home — displayed graphically in cartoon-like format.

## GIS

### Guilford County, N.C. – In-house Collection of Street-Level Photographs

Guilford County’s property appraisal staff is preparing for a 2012 countywide real property reappraisal. As part of the research for this project, it was decided that street level photos of each improved parcel would enhance the accuracy of the project and provide the taxpayer with additional confidence in

the process. Due to other ongoing initiatives within the county, this project had to be accomplished using existing internal resources.

The initial goal was to acquire as many street-level photos as possible in preparation for the March 2010, rollout of a new tax system. In May 2009, Tax Department staff, using common digital cameras, began taking photographs of single-family residential structures. The project began simply, with the image names being manually edited on a daily basis.

It quickly became evident that if any substantial progress was to be made, a more sophisticated workflow was needed. This entry examines the evolution of this project from the partnership between the

Tax and GIS departments to how GIS and GPS technologies were used to increase productivity and create a more efficient and effective workflow.

### Los Alamos County, N.M. – Orthophotomosaic Map Series

The Los Alamos County Orthophotomosaic Map Book is a product of the Information Technology Division, GIS Services. It is a compilation of six of the county’s geospatial data layers such as the county’s parcel cadastral layer, 10-foot contour layer, trails layer, the streets and address annotation layer, and the September 2008 orthophoto imagery.

The map book is for use by the public to enhance community awareness in a spatial context and by those departments that have direct public contact to help in displaying spatial relationships.

# Web sites awarded for transparency

By CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Seventeen counties’ Web sites were among 50 sites recently awarded the annual Sunny Award. The award recognizes the best state and county government Web sites in America for transparency.

County award winners were chosen from among 5,000 government Web sites to earn a “perfect” transparency grade — all items from

a checklist is included — or an “A” transparency grade — all but one item from a checklist is included.

Sunshine Review’s Transparency Checklist analyzes Web sites for information on budgets, meetings, elected and administrative officials, permits and zoning, audits, contracts, lobbying, public records and local taxes. The checklist measures what content is available on government Web sites against what it believes should be provided.

“Sunny Award winners are recognized for making information available to citizens and for setting a transparency standard that all governments can and should meet,” said Mike Barnhart, president of Sunshine Review.

Anderson County, S.C. was one of seven counties to receive a perfect score for their county Web sites. The county upgraded its Web site in June 2009, taking additional steps by posting its checkbook register and credit card accounts.

“Anderson County is looking to get back to its roots: a government for the people and by the people,” said Angie Stringer, public information director. “We want to go the extra step and bring the government to the people and change their inherent distrust.”

Tulsa County, Okla. also received a perfect score after upgrading and adding information that was not originally on the site. The County Board members jumped to upgrade their Web site and achieved the perfect score. Since October 2009, it is still the only Oklahoma county Web site with a perfect score.

Richmond County, Ga. was one of 11 counties that received an “A” grade, having every section

required by the Sunshine Review on its page. However, the county was given an incomplete on its lobbying section as they disclosed membership to the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, a taxpayer-funded lobbying association, but didn’t provide information on lobbying by the county.

Since its inception in 2008, Sunshine Review has analyzed the Web sites of all 50 states, more than 3,000 counties, 805 cities and 1,560 school districts.

For more information on these winners and how to enter your county’s Web site, visit <http://sunshinereview.org/index.php/sunnyawards>.

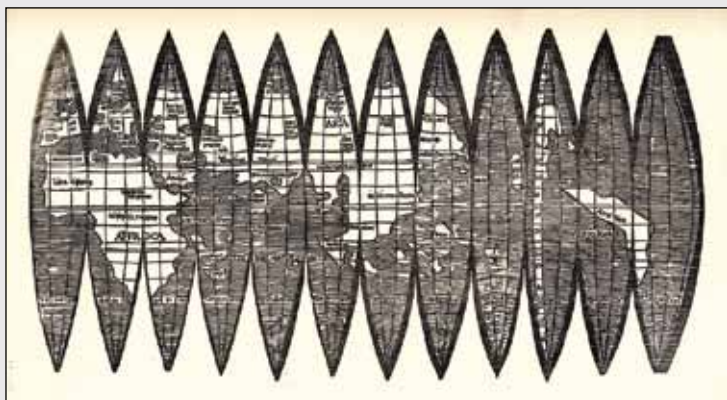
### Counties that received perfect scores (all elements included)

- Anderson County, S.C.
- Clayton County, Ga.
- Cobb County, Ga.
- Duval County, Fla.
- Harris County, Texas
- Los Angeles County, Calif.
- Tulsa County, Okla.

### Counties that received a grade of A (most elements included)

- Aiken County, S.C.
- Clay County, Mo.
- DuPage County, Ill.
- Lake County, Ill.
- Philadelphia County, Pa.
- Pinal County, Ariz.
- Richmond County, Ga.
- Salt Lake County, Utah
- San Francisco County, Calif.
- Williamson County, Texas

## Who Named America: It’s 500 Years Old



On April 25, 1507 at Ville St. Die, France, the German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller printed the first projection of earth with a grid of continents and approximate circumference. This map is the first one to use the name “America.”

Visit the Web site [www.whonamedamerica.com](http://www.whonamedamerica.com) to download a proclamation declaring April as World Geography Month and in the process increase your community’s “earth literacy” — and join in the celebration of America’s 500th “Naming” Birthday and Extravaganza being celebrated through 2012.

For more information, please contact: Riccardo Gaudino, historian and national director, Organizing Committee, 3616 Far West Blvd. 117–250; Austin, Texas 78731; 831.915.7837; [goldenbearpress@yahoo.com](mailto:goldenbearpress@yahoo.com).

### Montgomery County, Md. – Mapping School Absenteeism for Managing H1N1 Influenza Outbreak

The Montgomery County Department of Technology Services’ Geographic Information Systems (DTS-GIS) team, in cooperation with the County’s Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, developed an ArcGIS-based Mapping School Absenteeism Application (MSAA) to provide the public health emergency planning and response team with useful geographic and attribute data information and to improve Public Health staff efficiency for obtaining information about absenteeism in schools and student exclusions due to flu-like symptoms in school during the H1N1 influenza pandemic.

The MSAA application functionality includes geographical data display, and information from Public Health Services databases, including school service areas, high school clusters, all school locations, number of excluded students from the school due to flu-like illness symptoms, and percentages of individual school absences.

Staff need only call up the application to develop daily maps that can update to depict the school absenteeism patterns across the county, provide delineations by school enrollment area, and update the percent absent for each reporting school excluding schools with no submitted absenteeism rates. The county’s geographic information data presented in the MSAA reflects information downloaded daily by a DTS-GIS staff member.

See AWARDS page 14





## News From the Nation's Counties

### ► CALIFORNIA

The proposed **RIVERSIDE COUNTY** Regional Detention Center won't detain wildlife thanks to a planned **underpass to allow animals to move freely** around increased traffic in the area. The jail would go on a 200-acre site just north of Interstate 10, in the unincorporated community of Whitewater.

A draft environmental impact report released in November indicated that the increased traffic might affect wildlife moving through the Stubbe Canyon corridor, connecting the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains, according to county officials, the *Desert Sun* reported.

### ► FLORIDA

• **Privatizing probation services** may save **BREVARD COUNTY** nearly \$900,000 a year, *Florida Today* reported.

An outside firm would provide services including overseeing people on probation or released until trial, people under community supervision or those ordered to do community service. Additionally,

the vendor would handle drug testing.

County Manager Howard Tipton called it a cost-saving idea at a time when projections show the county could face a \$37.5 million funding shortfall during the 2010–11 fiscal year.

• **LEON COUNTY** commissioners tentatively approved an ordinance designed to give **protection to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community**. Members of the county's Human Relations Advisory Committee, which drafted the ordinance, will work on revisions with the County Attorney's Office. It's expected to come back to commissioners next month before going to public hearing in May, according to *Tallahassee.com*.

• **COLLIER COUNTY** commissioners weighed in recently against a federal **proposal to tighten Florida's water quality standards**.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a numeric limit for nutrients in the state's

streams, canals and lakes as part of a settlement of a lawsuit with environmental groups in 2009.

The new limit would replace a more general state standard that requires only that nutrients not upset the natural balance of a water body, the *Naples News* reported.

### ► INDIANA

The **ALLEN COUNTY** commissioners approved an ordinance designed to **protect patients of physicians with no ties to the local community**, the Associated Press reported.

The ordinance would regulate medical care — including vasectomies, colonoscopies, liposuction and abortions — done by physicians who live outside Allen County or contiguous counties and do not have admitting privileges to a hospital in Allen or a contiguous county. It requires out-of-town medical service providers to give contact information to other area health providers.

### ► MARYLAND

**FREDERICK COUNTY** rejected a **proposal to secede from Maryland**, which some commissioners called "outlandish" and a "public relations gimmick."

The proposal to secede was offered up by Commissioner Lennie Thompson, who is fed up with state lawmakers' financial irresponsibility. For example, he is opposed to the possibility of shifting teacher pension costs to the counties, *WRC-TV* reported.

### ► MICHIGAN

• **VAN BUREN COUNTY** commissioners will **establish a land bank** to deal with dilapidated single-family homes and downtown retail property. The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority would purchase blighted or foreclosed properties which could then, at the expense of the Land Bank, be improved and placed back on the tax rolls.

The Land Bank, a separate and distinct governmental agency, would have its own governing board consisting of five members, with the county treasurer as chief executive director. Proposed to fill the remaining four seats would be a certified public accountant, a licensed attorney, one member representing local governmental agencies and one member from the local Economic Development Corporation or Brownfield Board, *Paw Paw Flashes* reported.

• **MACOMB COUNTY** commissioners **rejected a proposal to**

**add term limits** to their seats and that of the county executive. The commissioners shot down the proposal to amend the county's new charter, 15–10.

If passed, the measure would have asked voters to limit the executive to eight years in office and commissioners to 12.

"Term limits make you a lame duck in the very next election cycle," said Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel. "It puts you at a competitive disadvantage with Wayne and Oakland counties right out of the chute, and that's not what the intention of the charter commission was," the *Detroit News* reported.

### ► NEW YORK

• **NASSAU COUNTY** and its elections commissioners are **suing the state** of New York for mandating that computerized voting technology be used rather than pull-lever voting machines, according to Courthouse News Service. In the suit, they say the new technology "is notoriously vulnerable to systemic hacking, tampering, manipulation and malfunction."

The change was required by the New York Election Reform and Modernization Act of 2005. County and elections officials allege the ES&S electronic voting system, certified by the state, was selected based solely on "vendor promotional materials."

• **SARATOGA, WASHINGTON, WARREN, RENNELAER and ALBANY counties** plan to **sue the Hudson River Black River Regulating District** over its plan to assess fees on several counties to fill a \$4 million budget hole.

The district's board maintains water levels in Sacandaga Lake and other bodies of water via a series of dams and reservoirs. In the past, the board levied permit fees on hydroelectric power generators, but a federal court ruling outlawed that practice. So the board has turned to the counties.

• Expansion of **SCHENECTADY COUNTY's Canadian prescription drug program** is expected to save the county \$4.2 million in this year. The program will now cover 90 percent of county employees belonging to two unions, up from 60 percent.

"Schenectady County's savings in prescription drug costs have exceeded \$9.4 million in our first five years utilizing the Canadian drug program," said Susan Savage, chairwoman of the County Legislature. "Expanding this highly

successful program means that both taxpayers and employees will enjoy even bigger savings than in past years."

### ► NEBRASKA

A dozen counties' elected officials have asked the Nebraska Environmental Trust to **revoke grants it has tentatively awarded for wildlife conservation**.

Supervisors and commissioners from 14 counties oppose using trust funds to acquire land and perpetual easements, the *Journal Star* reported. They say setting property aside for wildlife hurts county tax bases and removes the land from potential agricultural use.

The counties oppose five grants worth nearly \$750,000 in value.

### ► NORTH CAROLINA

• **A fire that destroyed CHATHAM COUNTY's** historic courthouse was caused by a worker using a soldering iron to repair the building's gutters, according to fire officials, *WRAL-TV* reported.

"We still do not have an estimate of the potential rebuilding cost until we know for sure what parts of the existing courthouse can be saved," Board of Commissioners Chairwoman Sally Kost said. The courthouse was built in 1881 and is listed on the National Historic Registry.

"It is the heart of the community. It is the symbol of Pittsboro," the county seat, local business owner Katie O'Leary told *WRAL*. Its fate remains undetermined; however, the county had already approved a new justice center, set to break ground this fall.

• **ORANGE COUNTY** will own, maintain, insure and operate a **proposed Food and Agricultural Processing Center** that would serve four counties — **ALAMANCE, DURHAM, CHATHAM** and Orange. The Orange County Board of Commissioners recently approved an agreement outlining the terms, the *News & Observer* reported.

Alamance County Manager Craig Honeycutt said the center will be an "incubator for the farmers to market their products and to have some place to process their wares...."

The facility would serve 16,214 farms in 22 counties within a 75-mile radius of Hillsborough in Orange County and draw from a customer base of 3.3 million people, according to an agreement among the counties.

See NEWS FROM page 13

## NACo on the Move

### » In the News

NACo and **National County Government Month** were mentioned in the article "Douglas County to host open house events," in the *Echo Press* March 31.

### » NACo Officers and County Officials

• **Geney Terry**, GIS analyst for El Dorado County, Calif., was named the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) chair for 2011. Terry will serve as chair-elect in 2010 with her duties as chair beginning Jan. 1, 2011.

• Harris County, Texas Judge **Ed Emmett** was awarded the LBJ School of Public Affairs' Distinguished Public Service Award March 26 at the University of Texas in Austin.



Ed Emmett

### » NACo Staff

• **Jeff Arnold**, deputy legislative director, was a guest lecturer at an IT Management course at Marymount University March 24 in Arlington County, Va. Arnold spoke on the role of county government in our federalist system, and the challenges faced by county officials managing their IT resources.

• **David Keen**, director, Finance and Administration, was appointed to the Not-for-Profit Solution Center's Customer Advisory Board March 23. The newly formed board comprises leaders at Not-For-Profit as well as companies that provide critical business services to executives at those organizations.



David Keen

(On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson, editorial assistant.)

Keep up with NACo online ...

**WWW.naco.org**





# Model Programs

FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES

## County Garden Meets Summer Food Demands

By CHARLIE BAN  
STAFF WRITER

When school's out for the summer in Johnson County, Kan., the pinch is in for more than 300 families' budgets.

Summer vacation means 10 more meals a week, breakfast and lunch each weekday, that families eligible for free meals in public schools must provide for their children. Families with several children, all of whom are growing, can see their food demand grow geometrically at about the time when food bank donations, plentiful around the winter holidays but barely sufficient other times, start to wane.

Johnson County's Human Services Department has tried to put a dent in the food deficit and within two years volunteers surprised themselves with the output of the Seeds that Feed the Need program, more than 800 pounds of vegetables over two years.

It's a simple garden that grows produce: potatoes, green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions and lettuce, among other crops. The effect on the recipients beyond nutrition is more complex.

"It means a lot to receive something fresh, versus canned food," said Cherie Asante, assistant manager of Johnson County Human Services Department. "People feel a little bit more special when they get fresh produce. There's a connection — that people have been toiling in the garden for months on end to grow this food."

Approximately 20 volunteers broke ground on April 1 behind the Roeland Park Community Center for the garden's third season. The park is on a landfill, and most of the earth is clay, so planting there meant building raised beds and using compost material donated by the county's parks department. The parks department also contributes water for the garden, which is about 30 feet by 50 feet.

Using seeds donated by various sources and a few tools discounted by the local Lowe's, work began on the plants Asante and manager



Photo courtesy of Johnson County, Kan.

Volunteers from Johnson County, Kan. show off the crop yield from the 2009 growing season in the Seeds that Feed the Need garden.

Jane Hurst expect will start yielding vegetables by the end of May. Demand is up, as usual in the summer, so everyone's hoping for a big year.

"Last year was a very good year, but every year is different," said John Forbes, a master gardener who, with his wife Betty, volunteers at the garden. "Gardening involves a lot of things you can't always control, but when you do well one year, it raises your expectations the next."

The Kansas State University Extension Office has lent some help, testing and adding nutrients to the soil and providing the underlying expertise — what crops will work in that environment and how to cultivate the garden to its optimal output.

Asante stressed the importance of coordinating the volunteers.

"Everything is timely in the garden," she said. "The plants have to be watered regularly, and if something is ready to be pulled, you need to pull it or it goes to waste. It takes a lot of volunteers."

Division of labor comes into play, too. Not all volunteers can easily get down on their hands and knees to work in the soil, so they clean the vegetables or sort the seeds. The Mission Springs Garden Club has been a major player contributing labor to the project.

After the first year, the county doubled the size of the planting bed,

which motivated volunteers to achieve more.

"We didn't set out to reach a number," Forbes said of last year's yield. "The more we produced the more excited we got and that fed our ambition. The number egged us on to keep doing the best we could."

With donated seeds, water and soil provided by the county's parks department and an eager corps of volunteers, Johnson County has found a food source to contribute to the food bank at minimal cost. The first major expenditure, a \$1,500 storage shed, is actually one of the trappings of the project's success, because it has taken off enough to warrant a permanent structure to support the garden.

"Hunger is a year round situation, if there was any way we could get started earlier in the spring we would try to do it," Forbes said. "But, we're gardeners, not farmers."

For more information, please call the Roeland Park Community Center at 913.826.3130.

(Model Programs from the Nation's Counties highlights Achievement Award-winning programs. For more information on this and other NACo Achievement Award winners, visit NACo's Web site, [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).)

## Research News

### County Census Numbers Show Economic Impact

The recently released 2009 county population estimates from the Census Bureau show the impact of the difficult economic times on county populations.

The data shows that older Americans are staying put instead of moving to popular retirement destinations, which are counties that attract a large number of people 60 and older.

Despite the large percentage of the population reaching retirement age, the population figures show that annual growth of retirement counties declined from 3.1 percent between 2000 and 2007, to 1.7 percent between 2007 and 2009.

Overall, 126 of the 440 retirement counties lost population during the recession, many of them in areas such as Florida, Arizona, New Mexico and California. In Florida, 33 of its 43 retirement counties grew more slowly. Hillsborough County, Fla. led

growth with a 1.7 percent increase. Seven other counties, including Volusia County, lost population.

Retirement counties in other parts of the nation such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio saw significant declines, too.

In addition, rural counties continue to see a decline. For example, in Idaho, the data shows that 23 rural Idaho counties had more people moving out than moving in during a 12-month period ending in June 2009.

This marks the largest number of counties recording out-migration since 2000 and 2001, when the last major recession hit the state. During that time, 26 of the state's 44 counties experienced this same trend.

In contrast, some areas continue to see population growth.

One area is Texas where a stronger labor market and immigrant growth fueled substantial population growth. In fact, half of the 20 fastest-growing counties from 2008 to 2009 are either in Georgia or Texas, with each state having five counties in the top 20. In addition, Harris County, Texas, had the largest numeric increase from 2008 to 2009, with an increase of 90,000.

St. Bernard Parish, La. was the nation's fastest growing county among counties with populations 10,000 and more with a 7.9 percent increase in population. Overall, the New Orleans area grew 1.8 percent last year to nearly 1.2 million, just short of its pre-Hurricane Katrina level of 1.3 million.

Other larger counties such as Los Angeles County, Calif., Cook County, Ill., and counties in the Washington, D.C. region also saw gains.

The estimates are the last population data for counties before the official 2010 Census is completed later this year. Data from the 2010 Census, now under way, will be used to redraw legislative boundaries and distribute more than \$400 billion in federal aid.

For the current population estimate for your county or to track your county's response to the 2010 Census, please visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

(Research News was written by Kathryn Murphy, research associate.)

### Virginia dips into counties' pockets

NEWS FROM from page 12

#### ► VIRGINIA

State lawmakers are dipping into the pocketbooks of Northern Virginia counties and cities to the tune of \$120 million to make up a state budget shortfall, the *Washington Examiner* reported.

A "reversion" program, begun in 2009, was originally excluded from the coming year's state budget. But the General Assembly decided to include and expand the policy. **Counties and cities will have to cough up \$60 million** to the state in each of the next two years. The payments must be made by August.

"The state legislature couldn't quite balance their books, so they figured they'd just take \$60 million from localities and let them figure out how they want to pay it," said Bernard Caton, legislative director for the city of Alexandria.

(News From the Nation's Counties is compiled by Charles Taylor and Charlie Ban, staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please e-mail [ctaylor@naco.org](mailto:ctaylor@naco.org) or [cban@naco.org](mailto:cban@naco.org).)



## The H.R. Doctor Is In

# Meet Me at the Corner

Let's meet right away at the landmark three-way intersection between Vision, Preparation and Opportunity. The intersection is "landmark" because if you plan the route diligently, act to get there with a compelling sense of urgency and with optimism, you will reach the goal.

The intersection of these three dimensions is accessible to any one of us, including the small ones of us — our children. It is accessible to people as they retire or as they begin their careers. Sadly, many people get lost trying to find this great location, or they never realize it exists. The HR Doctor has written before about this latter group of people who go through life as cast members of *Night of the Living Dead*. How to get to this amazing intersection is the subject of this brief article.

The first of the required GPS headings is vision. Another way of thinking about having a personal and professional vision of your own future relates to the word "dream." To have a life of joy, passion and success — to find the intersection

— requires you look beyond your current situation and dream of a future that could be for yourself. Then you unleash the warrior inside yourself. It requires that you carefully balance prudent conservatism in your behavior with a willingness to take risks, to reach out and to reach goals. It requires you to have goals in the first place.

Join the HR Doctor in visiting a high school class now and then. See with me the concern which jumps out right away during such a visit when you see the number of students who appear to be semi-conscious, not interested in the curriculum or even in their own general education and development. They appear to be playing a game of billiards with their lives. They move along, or are pushed along in one direction, until they reach some wall or obstacle and then bounce along in another direction without a purpose. In that same class, to the contrary, there are students who appear actively engaged and are already reading maps about how to get to the intersection described above.

Education in high school and in life generally is about far more than teaching to some fixed curriculum, preparing for some standardized state test or memorizing a set of facts. It is about learning how to dream and how to take the steps now to make that dream come true. It is about learning now how to prevent

**The best professionals and the happiest people overall are those who make engagement in service to others and constant learning integral parts of their lives.**

your dreams from being derailed by forces or events which you could have prevented if you had planned and anticipated.

GPS devices do not work well unless they have more than one heading, more than one satellite. In addition to vision or dreams, the next key heading is preparation. You prepare best by creating a network in

your life, representing yourself, your family and your employer in a very positive way. Preparation means planning, studying and listening far more than speaking. It means being thoughtful, respectful and innovative. It also means speaking out — or speaking up — when you have an idea about a better way to do something, a need unmet or when you see something you don't believe is right.

Preparation is another form of the search for mastery. Mastery is an idea consistent with many forms of philosophies in the world, such as those involving meditation and introspection.

A life master is a multi-dimensional professional, skilled not only in the technical aspects of your particular job but also diverse in other pursuits which help them balance pressures in one area with joys in another. The balance often involves active, outdoor pursuits with quiet, introspective ones. It may involve technical interests with artistic ones. The best professionals and the happiest people overall

are those who make engagement in service to others and constant learning integral parts of their lives.

Democracy does not work when people are chronically disengaged. On the other hand, it works brilliantly when each of us takes seriously the obligation to contribute actively to a better society. Those who are not prepared by education and action may have dreams, but they will soon forget them as they move on to higher priorities such as watching *American Idol* or hurrying to the nearest coffee shop for the latest cappuccino.

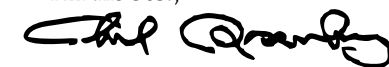
The most accurate GPS readings come with at least three benchmarks for guidance. Here is where vision and preparation can be at their best when opportunity appears or is created. Opportunity can be synonymous with chance — the chance to take a bold step, make a decision and move ahead. Contrary to the military folklore of never volunteer, opportunity means actively seeking out chances to grow and to volunteer. This can be done by mentoring others as well as creating a professional network. It can be done through self-counseling; that is, having meaningful conversations with yourself regularly, asking "What am I not doing that I should be doing?"

The follow up is to then take action to create opportunities for yourself for more contribution and joy. Going to a concert, working with a charity, traveling, meeting new friends, starting a graduate degree program are examples. Sometimes creating new opportunities might mean a new job and a move far away to a new community.

When opportunity connects with preparation and vision, the result will be success in careers, in personal relationships and in any major life event, such as retirement. Ironically, stopping formal or structured work, which is how we think of traditional retirement, may be the greatest opportunity in our lives to jettison routines, commuting, and other wastes of energy in favor of hiking your way to the great landmark intersection described in this article.

The HR Doctor strongly recommends that you move quickly and effectively to meet me at the corner.

All the best,



Phil Rosenberg

The HR Doctor • [www.hrdr.net](http://www.hrdr.net)

## Counties honored for 'technology solutions'

AWARDS from page 11

### Telecom and IT

#### Johnson County, Kan. – Wise Path Cyber Security Awareness Campaign

The vast majority of people who work in the computer industry are well aware of the threat from cyber criminals. Johnson County's Information Technology Services department provides multiple levels of protection from cyber security risks including, desktop and server virus scanning, spam blocking, and intrusion detection, for example. However, the most vulnerable component of the network is the county's staff. Information Technology Services felt a responsibility to address potential security issues arising from county employees' use of the county computer systems.

This campaign is specifically designed to reach the County's nearly 3,700 employees, and make them aware of their responsibility and role in cyber security matters.

#### Washtenaw County, Mich. – Data Center Collaboration

Washtenaw County's former data center was located in the lower

level of a 100 year old building. The infrastructure had significant problems with water leakage as well as coolant, mechanical and electrical problems. Additionally, there were mold issues which posed health concerns among staff.

The county evaluated purchasing or retrofitting alternative buildings, however the cost was between \$1.3 and \$1.6 million.

Washtenaw County partnered with the city of Ann Arbor and consolidated data centers. Washtenaw County was able to save approximately \$1 million in cost avoidance by relocating to Ann Arbor's data center. The combined data center now serves all Washtenaw County and of Ann Arbor staff and citizens.

### Web and E-Government

#### Fairfax County, Va. – Public Engagement on Fairfax County's FY10 Budget

Fairfax County faces the challenge of eliminating a projected revenue shortfall of \$650 million for the 2010 fiscal year, which began July 1, 2009, the county turned to its citizens for help. The public was encouraged to participate through face-to-face meetings, an extensive

media campaign, an outreach program with extensive use of social media and a one-stop shop on the county's revamped Web site. The goal was to create a budget that included the appropriate level of services that, in light of the projected shortfall, were both sustainable and acceptable to the community.

The county held 20 face-to-face community dialogue sessions, with 718 members of the public attending; and five employee brown-bag lunch sessions, with 197 employees attending. Concurrently, the county used online and telephone (integrated voice response) technology for public questions, comments and suggestions. More than 1,497 distinct comments were recorded electronically.

An extensive media campaign for the effort included news releases, newspaper advertisements, 1,900 fliers to school and community groups, 200 posters in county and school facilities, video segments broadcasted on the county's television station, and information and videos posted on the county's Facebook and YouTube sites.

#### Johnson County, Kan. – Line Management Program

The Line Management Program

is an innovative concept utilizing text messaging, online reservations and self check-in touch screens to enhance customer service and operational capabilities for the Motor Vehicle Division. The Treasurer's Department views technology as a driver for transforming change, while increasing organizational effectiveness, thus creating a better customer experience and providing statistical measures used for trend analysis and future forecasting.

The Line Management Program is a partnership between county government and the private sector providing options to waiting in lines in offices by using several points of entry for customers; self check-in touch screens, text messaging, calling 1-888-9-JOCO-KS, and online reservations via the Internet.

The main feature of the program, which is an entirely new technological approach for the public sector, is the ability for customers to "place themselves in line" by providing their cell phone number either in the office, online or by phone. This feature enables a customer to receive text or voice message updates regarding their place in line while waiting for service.



## Financial Services News

# NACo's Entrepreneurial Arm

Although most members think of NACo as a pre-eminent advocacy organization that works with Congress and the federal administration on issues that affect county government, many do not know of the 30-year history of its for-profit corporation. Now known as the NACo Financial Services Corporation, this arm of NACo was formed to provide NACo members and other local governments with value-added products and services.

In 1980, NACo endorsed and began marketing deferred compensation plans to county employees through its affiliation with the Public Employee Benefit Services Corp. (PEBSO). That relationship continues today with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (the successor company to PEBSO), serving more than 365,000 active county employees, and an estimated 900,000 employees and

retirees since the inception of the plan. With \$9 billion in assets in the NACo program, the deferred compensation plans have assisted nearly 1 million county employees in saving for their retirements.

In 1994, NACo decided to expand its entrepreneurial efforts by creating the Financial Services Center, a joint venture partnership with the private sector to broaden value-added offerings and to diversify the revenue base of NACo. The center helped create and expand the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance in the late '90s. This program now offers 21 cooperative buying contracts to over 37,000 registered public agencies and nonprofits across the United States. The program saves public agencies \$250 million every year and has achieved cumulative savings of \$1.5 billion since its inception.

In 2007, the NACo Board of Directors approved a restructuring

of the for-profit enterprises and merged all of these activities under one board of directors. The NACo Financial Services Corporation (FSCorp) board comprises six NACo-nominated directors and six outside directors. These 12 individuals set policy for the FSCorp, work with their advisory committees to

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**... deferred compensation plans have assisted nearly 1 million county employees in saving for their retirements.**

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strengthen existing programs, and work with FSCorp staff to identify and offer new services.

The board of directors has two meetings a year: one in the spring to do long-term planning and one in the fall to approve the annual business plan and budget for the coming year. In recent years, this board has approved the creation of a number of new services to counties and related public agencies, including the Network of Care program, an Internet-based information and referral service targeting vulnerable populations as well as veterans and service members.

On March 25, board members met in Maricopa County, Ariz. for their long-term planning and visioning session. They were joined by representatives of county governments and premier corporate members of NACo to discuss "megatrends" in technology and in retirement plans. Harold Tuck, chief information officer, San Diego County, Calif. provided the board with a history of the county's complete outsourcing of technology and the unique characteristics of the contract they manage with the private sector. With the baby boom retirements peaking in the next three years, many counties will be examining their core functions and determining what should be done in-house and what can be better done through a performance-based contract. The FSCorp will work with the NACo Research Foundation to identify these core functions and also to validate the needs of counties as the workforce changes occur.

Rick Jones, director for public sector strategy, Cisco, and Richard McKinney, government technology advisor, Microsoft, provided the board with an overview of

cloud computing, shared services models and "smart communities" efforts both in the United States and across the globe. They emphasized the need for ubiquitous broadband in order for the United States to compete with the rest of the world in the creation of new products, services and industries.

The board authorized staff to work with NACo's premier corporate members to create pilots in cloud computing, shared services and smart communities.

Peter Torvik, an outside director of the board, facilitated a discussion of the megatrends in the retirement sector. With the substantial losses experienced by many defined benefit government retirement plans, public agencies are seeking ways to lower their long-term pension obligations while at the same time providing for their employees' retirements. Many counties are looking at the results of the switch from defined benefit plans in the private sector to defined contribution plans (401k). The results are not promising, as the average balance in a 401k plan today is just \$60,000, a figure too small to allow for a comfortable retirement.

The board discussed how to bring forward a program that includes

secure and definable benefits, low costs, transparency to the employee and the public, excellent education and training for employees, as well as a market with integrity and transparency. Staff expects to continue this discussion and formulate a plan by the time the board meets again in November.

NACo members are well served by their for-profit operations. Nearly 47 percent of all NACo revenue is earned through these programs. The obvious benefit to members is that dues are kept at low rates due to these earned revenues. In addition, these programs have provided significant member benefits, both by providing cost-saving programs and by providing access to the economies of scale of large cooperative agreements.

For more information on the FSCorp activities and programs, visit the NACo website at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) and click on "cost saving programs." To see articles about each of the programs and services, visit [www.clicksavings.org](http://www.clicksavings.org).

*(Financial Services News was written by Steve Swendiman, managing director/CEO, NACo Financial Services Corporation.)*



## What's in a Seal?

### » Hamilton County, Tenn.

[www.hamiltontn.gov](http://www.hamiltontn.gov)

Hamilton County, Tenn. was established in 1817 as part of a treaty with the Cherokee Indians. As depicted in the county seal, the city of Chattanooga, the county seat, sits in the heart of a beautiful region where the Tennessee River winds through the convergence of several mountain ranges. Ross's Landing on the downtown shore, was originally the site of a Cherokee trading post and subsequently, the main staging area for the Cherokee Indians' infamous trek west known as the "Trail of Tears." Chattanooga's location on the Tennessee River below several mountain ranges made it a formidable natural obstacle and a focal point for opposing armies in the Civil War.

Chattanooga's future as the manufacturing center of the South was assured in the late 1880s when the Western and Atlantic Railroad selected it as its northern terminus. Chattanooga became home to the world's first Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in 1894.

Through a series of community visioning projects, Chattanooga has experienced a renaissance with the restoration of the city's downtown riverfront, business revitalization, affordable housing development and creation of more job opportunities. Now widely known as the "environmental city," Chattanooga is also redeveloping brownfields, bringing in green industries, and is considered to be leaps and bounds ahead of many American cities in balancing ecology with economic growth.

*(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Christopher Johnson at 202.942.4256 or [cjohnson@naco.org](mailto:cjohnson@naco.org).)*

## Job Market / Classifieds

### ► ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SPECIALIST – OTTAWA COUNTY, MICH.

Salary: DOQ.

For a complete job description and to apply online, please visit [www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org).

### ► ASSISTANT PLANNING DIRECTOR – SANTA CRUZ, CALIF.

Salary: \$115,252 – \$154,440; DOQ.

The beautiful coastal community of Santa Cruz County is seeking an Assistant Planning Director. Under administrative direction of the Planning Director, the Assistant Planning Director plans, organizes and directs one or more divisions of the Planning Department, acts as the director in the absence of the Planning Director, and does other work as required.

A typical way to qualify would be: A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in planning, geography, engineering, public administration, or a related field AND five years of increasingly responsible professional planning experience including 2 years of supervisory responsibility.

For more information and to apply online visit our website at

[www.santacruzcountyjobs.com](http://www.santacruzcountyjobs.com) or call 831.454.2600 for an application packet. Hearing Impaired TDD# 831.454.2123. Last day to apply is April 30. EOE.

### ► BUSINESS SYSTEMS ANALYST I (WEB EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN) – SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIF.

Salary: \$58,074 – \$74,339; DOQ.

Business Systems Analyst I (Web Emergency Operations Center (EOC) System Technician) Contract Employment.

San Bernardino County Fire is recruiting for Business Systems Analyst I (Web Emergency Operations Center (EOC) System Technician). Req's one of the following: Four (4) years exp with design and management of SQL-based web app. or Web EOC Implementation -or- an Associates Degree and one year qual. exp. -or- B.A. in Information Technology or closely related field. Must have a valid Calif. Class C Drivers license. Please see website for additional info. Apply by 5 p.m. April 23. San Bernardino County Fire Dept. 157 W. 5th St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415. Call 909.387.5940 or visit [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org).



# Act promotes community-based care for elderly, disabled

## PRIORITIES from page 7

Centers, ambulatory patient care centers, including federally qualified health centers and other federally funded health centers that are eligible for Medicare payments for the expenses associated with operating primary care residency programs.

PPACA will increase workforce supply and support training of health professionals through scholarships and loans; support primary care training and capacity building; establish a public health workforce loan repayment program; promote training of a diverse workforce; promote cultural competence training of health care professionals; support the development of interdisciplinary mental and behavioral health training programs; and establish a training program for oral health professionals.

It will also address the projected shortage of nurses and retention of nurses by increasing the capacity for education, supporting training programs, providing loan repayment and retention grants, and creating a career ladder to nursing.

It supports training programs that focus on primary care models such as medical homes, team management of chronic disease, and those that integrate physical and mental health services.

It creates a state grant program to support health care providers who treat a high percentage of medically underserved populations.

PPACA authorizes grants for medical schools to establish programs that recruit students from underserved rural areas who want to practice in their hometowns and also sets up programs to provide students with specialized training in rural health issues, and assists them in finding residencies that specialize in training doctors for practice in underserved rural communities.

### Health IT

NACo supports the president's goal of implementing a secure and interoperable nationwide electronic health record for all Americans within five years. That initiative began under the authority of the HITECH Act, which was incorporated into the Recovery Act.

PPACA did, however, include a provision to set health information technology enrollment standards and protocols. It requires the development of standards and protocols to promote the interoperability of systems for enrollment of individuals in federal and state health and human services programs. The standards would allow for electronic data matching and electronic documentation. The HHS secretary may require states or other entities to incorporate such standards as a condition of receiving federal health information technology funds.

### Long-term Care

With regard to long-term care, NACo argued that federal policies should encourage the elderly and disabled to receive the services they need in the least restrictive environment. Since counties provide and otherwise support long-term care and other community-based services for the elderly and disabled, county officials believe that state and federal regulations, and funding programs should give them the flexibility to support the full continuum of home, community-based

or institutional care for persons needing assistance with activities of daily living.

To that end, PPACA includes the CLASS program, a national, voluntary insurance program for purchasing Community-Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS). Following a five-year vesting period, the program will provide individuals with functional limitations a cash benefit of not less than an average of \$50 per day to purchase non-medical services and supports necessary to maintain community residence. The program is financed through voluntary payroll deductions: all working adults will be automatically enrolled in the program, unless they choose to opt out.

Likewise, PPACA extends the Medicaid Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration program through September 2016. It provides states with new options for offering home and community-based services through a Medicaid state plan rather than through a waiver for individuals with incomes up to 300 percent of the maximum SSI payment, and who have a higher level of need,

and permits states to extend full Medicaid benefits to individuals receiving home and community-based services under a state plan.

It also establishes the Community First Choice Option in Medicaid to provide community-based attendant supports and services to individuals with disabilities who require an institutional level of care and provides states with an enhanced federal matching rate of an additional six percentage points for reimbursable expenses in the program for five years.

### Jail Health

NACo urged Congress and the administration to incorporate the provisions of H.R. 2209, the Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act, into health reform legislation, making conviction of a crime and sentencing to secure detention the trigger for the suspension or termination of Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP and SSI. Though NACo's efforts were unsuccessful, PPACA does include a provision that allows inmates in custody pending disposition of charges to maintain their eligibility for insurance from the exchanges.



## Western Interstate Region

# 2010 Conference

Register by April 14 and save ...

The conference will focus on recently passed health care reform, immigration issues, rural development, tribal intergovernmental relations, alternative energy development as well as public lands and other western issues.

Yellowstone County, Montana  
May 26-28, 2010

Register online at [www.naco.org/wir](http://www.naco.org/wir)

