



## Collaboration with our Nation's Counties

NOSORH Annual Conference  
September 25, 2008

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



- Presentation Overview
  - Overview of NACo
  - Technical Assistance
  - Ideas for Collaboration
  - Policy Priorities
  - Q/A

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### What is NACo?

- The only national organization that represents counties in the US
- A full service organization serving America's 3,068 counties:
  - Research
  - Public Affairs Assistance
  - Enterprise Services
  - Legislative Affairs
  - Technical Assistance

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



- Nearly two-thirds of the nation's 3,066 counties are rural
- Rural Action Caucus - [www.ruralcounties.org](http://www.ruralcounties.org)
- Two of NACo's 11 Steering Committee's:
  - Agriculture and Rural Affairs
  - Health

Steering Committees' and Caucus' drive NACo's Programs and Policy Priorities

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



- NACo's Technical Assistance
  - [www.naco.org/techassistance](http://www.naco.org/techassistance)
    - Criminal Justice
    - Family Success/Economic Development
    - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
    - Homeland Security
    - Air Quality
    - Climate Protection Program - Energy Management

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



- NACo's Technical Assistance
  - [www.naco.org/techassistance](http://www.naco.org/techassistance)
    - Green Government Initiative
    - Land Use
    - Water Quality
    - Health
      - [www.healthycounties.org/database](http://www.healthycounties.org/database)
      - Rural Health Works – Funded through Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Rural Health Works

- Proportion of uninsured higher in rural areas than in urban or suburban areas
- Rural Americans more often report fair/poor health
- Rural Americans more often diagnosed with chronic conditions
- 10% of physicians practice in rural areas, which are home to 20% of the population
- Local health care services account for up to 20% of the rural economy

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Rural Health Works

Goal: To strengthen rural economies through improvements to the local health system

- Perform an assessment and evaluation of local health system
- Determine the economic activity in terms of dollars and jobs produced by the health care sector
- Understand how the community uses health services, where they receive services, and their opinions regarding quality
- Compile a directory of health and human services provided in the county

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Rural Health Works

Since 2005, a total of 9 grants have been awarded, totaling \$144,000. Program funded for one more year. Funded Counties include:

- Mason County, WA
- Pondera County, MT
- Grand County, CO
- Grand County, UT
- Adams County, OH
- Linn County, MO
- Summers County, WV
- Grimes County, TX
- Holmes County, FL

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Ideas for Collaboration

- NACo Affiliates
- NACo State Associations
- Lobbying Efforts at the Federal Level

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Ideas for Collaboration

#### **NACBHDD – National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors**

- NACBHDD is a non-profit membership organization comprised of county/local behavioral health authorities with responsibility for the planning and delivery of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services and the state associations that represent their interests. The mission of NACBHDD is to promote excellence in the delivery of county/local behavioral health services. <http://www.nacbfd.org>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Ideas for Collaboration

#### **NACCHO - National Association of County and City Health Officials**

- NACCHO is the national organization representing local public health agencies. NACCHO works to support efforts that protect and improve the health of all people and all communities by promoting national policy, developing resources and programs, seeking health equity and supporting effective local public health practice and systems. <http://www.naccho.org>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Ideas for Collaboration

- **NACHFA – National Association of County Health Facility Administrators**
- **NALBOH – National Association of Local Boards of Health**  
<http://www.nalboh.org>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Ideas for Collaboration

- **State Association’s of Counties (47)**
  - Conferences
  - Publications
  - Policy Coalitions
  - Outreach
  - Best practices

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Health Policy Priorities

- Blocking implementation of seven new administration policies which would cut Medicaid payments to states and counties – particularly for county hospitals and clinics and county-based rehab services (we got moratoria enacted on six out of the seven regulations)
- State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization (passed an extension into early 2009)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## USDA Rural Development

- President FY 2009 Budget proposed to **terminate or reduce 33 USDA programs**, for \$2.3 billion savings
- **Rural Development request at \$2.1 billion**, proposed cut of nearly \$300 million
- **Reduces RD grant support**, while replacing with direct loans and loan guarantees
- Every Year Appropriators restore most of these cuts, but overall, these critical investments are slipping
- Appropriations Outlook?

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## FY2009 USDA Budget Proposal

Programs slated for **elimination** include:

- Community Facility Grants (Cut of \$45 M)

Programs slated for **major cuts** include:

- Water and Waste Disposal Grants (Cut of \$249 M)
- Broadband Grants (Cut of \$13.5 M)
- **Telemedicine Grants** – (Proposed Cuts of \$15 million, but Senate Appropriations Committee recommends 2008 level of around \$35 million)

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Rural Development Campaign

- Formed by NACo; Colleen Landkamer, NACo Immediate Past President, as Chair
- More than 28 Diverse National Groups, Including Health, Energy, Education and Government
- Promote Rural Development to Enhance Rural America's Economic Competitiveness
- [www.ruralcampaign.org](http://www.ruralcampaign.org)

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Rural Development Campaign

- **Primary Challenges**

- Farm Bill Is Called "Farm Bill" for a Reason!
- No One Opposes Rural Development, **But No One Makes It A Top Priority!**
- Competes with Nutrition and Food Safety for limited appropriations
- Decreasing Numbers of rural legislators

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Recap: Rural Development in 2002 Farm Bill

- \$1.03 Billion within \$52.16 Billion Six-Year Total
- 7 Mandatory RD Funding Programs
  - **\$360 M Water and Waste Disposal Backlog**
  - **\$240 M Value-Added Ag Market Development Grants**
  - \$100 M Rural Broadband
  - \$100 M Rural Business Investment Company
  - **\$100 M Rural Strategic Investment Program**
  - \$80 M Rural Local TV Signal Guarantees
  - \$50 M Rural Firefighter & Emergency Personnel Grants

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 2008 Farm Bill Proposals

- Senate Mandatory Spending included:
  - **\$135 million:** Regional Collaborative Investment Program
  - **\$40 million:** New entrepreneurship grant, loan and technical assistance program
  - **\$40 million:** New child daycare facility loans, loan guarantees and grants
  - **\$50 million:** Rural hospital facility improvement loan and loan guarantees
  - **\$135 million:** Backlog of pending water and sewer grant and loan applications

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 2008 Farm Bill: What We Got

- Mandatory Spending included:
  - **\$150 million in mandatory funding for** backlog of pending water and sewer grant and loan applications, Rural Micro Enterprise Assistance Program and Value Added Agriculture Market Development Grants
- Some Authorized Programs with uphill battle for funding (Around \$50 Billion in Discretionary)
  - **\$135 million:** Regional Collaborative Investment Program (RCIP)
  - **\$30 million:** Rural Firefighters and

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Community Facilities

- USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Programs has invested \$1.2 Billion in rural communities. Of the \$1.2 Billion in the loan portfolio, **33% is invested in rural health care** and 27% in public safety (Fire and EMS)
- Dental Clinics
- Nursing Homes
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Physicians Clinics
- Boarding Homes for the Elderly
- Hospitals (General & Surgical)
- Medical Rehabilitation Centers
- Psychiatric Hospitals
- Outpatient Clinics

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Grassroots Action Needed!

- **Target:** House & Senate Appropriators, especially Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Subcommittee.
- **Message:** Increase USDA Rural Development Program Funding

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Erik Johnston  
NACo Associate Legislative Director  
(202) 942-4230  
ejohnston@naco.org  
*www.naco.org*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---