

Accettura, Becky

Subject: FW: NACo CEWD November Call Recap Memo

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacobs, Mark <Mark.Jacobs@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US>

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:41 AM

To: Accettura, Becky <baccettura@mncounties.org>; Jannelle Wald Kovar <jwaldkovar@nwpic.net>; Vicki Leaderbrand <VickiL@rmcep.com>; Marie Domiano <marie.domiano@nemojt.org>; Elena Foshay <efoshay@duluthmn.gov>; Barb Chaffee <bchaffee@cmjts.org>; Carrie Bendix <cbendix@swmpic.org>; Diane Halvorson <diane@workforcecouncil.org>; JINNY RIETMANN <JRIETMANN@wdimn.org>; Anne Kilzer <Anne.Kilzer@hennepin.us>; Bahr-Helgen, Debra L. <Deb.Bahr-Helgen@minneapolismn.gov>; nicole.swanson@co.anoka.mn.us; Becker, Ling C <ling.becker@co.ramsey.mn.us>; Rick Roy <rick.roy@co.washington.mn.us>; tammy.biery@csjobs.org; Laura Pettersen <winonawdb@gmail.com>; Wanda Jensen <wjensen@wdimn.org>; Becky A. White <Becky.White@co.anoka.mn.us>
Subject: Fw: NACo CEWD November Call Recap Memo

Here are the notes from our recent National Association of Counties Community, Economic and Workforce Development committee.

There are a couple of WIOA-related items: 1) Legislative priority and 2) funding

From: Daria Daniel <DDaniel@naco.org>

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:11 PM

To: Daria Daniel

Cc: joseph.wood@co.washington.ar.us; Julie Harris; Sarah Gimont

Subject: NACo CEWD November Call Recap Memo

Dear Community, Economic and Workforce Development (CEWD) Steering Committee Members,

On behalf of Chair Joseph Wood, thanks to all who joined the NACo CEWD Steering Committee meeting last Thursday, November 12. This memo will provide a brief recap of the topics discussed during the meeting, including county-based support services for veterans, NACo's report on county economic recovery needs due to COVID-19, the launch of NACo's Counties for Kids Initiative, results from the 2021 CEWD policy priorities survey and legislative update.

Hoping you all have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Best,

Daria

NEXT CEWD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9 at 2:00PM ET. You will receive an email with the Microsoft Teams invitation link and dial in number closer to the meeting.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

In honor of Veterans Day, the CEWD committee was joined by Robert Ward, Education Chair of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO). Mr. Ward discussed the purpose of the organization and the support veterans service officers (VSOs) provided to veterans at the county level.

NACVSO has approximately 1600 members across 30 states. Ward explained that NACVSO's members work at the local and state level to connect veterans to rehabilitation programs and to help service members reenter the workforce. While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused complications, Ward noted that VSOs have figured out the virtual world and are now conducting basic benefits services virtually. For more information, go to www.nacvso.org

NACO COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Katie Sullivan, NACo Program Manager for Resilient Economies and Communities joined the committee to provide an overview of the new Assessment of County Needs in Economic Recovery from COVID-19 <https://www.naco.org/resources/assessment-county-needs-economic-recovery-covid-19> analysis. The report's key takeaways include:

- * Counties are prioritizing individual and small business financial relief
- * Communities of color, minority-owned and woman-owned small businesses have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic
- * Counties are struggling with health impacts that extend beyond the immediate concerns of the virus
- * Counties are prioritizing access to food and suitable housing
- * Long-standing issues are being exacerbated by the pandemic
- * Federal funding programs have not yet met counties' needs
- * Counties are largely satisfied with the information they have access to regarding economic recovering and continue to seek partnerships with organizations like NACo to enhance these experiences

Despite the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Sullivan highlighted that some counties are optimistic about the opportunity revamp internal systems to be more efficient and equitable and increased platforms to collaborate with other counties.

COUNTIES FOR KIDS INITIATIVE

Arabella Pluta-Ehlers, NACo's Program Manager for Children, Youth and Families, joined the committee to discuss NACo's new Counties for Kids Initiative. The Initiative will officially launch in January 2021 and will focus on the integral role counties play in early childhood development. Pluta-Ehlers highlighted the integral role counties play in providing and administering services for children, from food and housing to health care and education, which are of the utmost importance considering the experiences in the first three years of a child's life lay the groundwork for success through their lifetime.

NACo has developed resources for counties interested in championing the wellbeing of children in their communities. These resources can be found here <https://countiesforkids.org/>.

CEWD POLICY PRIORITIES SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all the 55 steering committee members that completed the 2021 Policy Priorities Survey! This committee's top four legislative priorities are the following:

- * Support increased funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The CDBG program has been cut by \$1 billion since FY 2010. For FY 2020, CDBG is currently funded at \$3.4 billion. The House FY 2021

appropriations bill includes \$3.5 billion for CDBG in FY 2021. The Committee will continue to advocate for increased CDBG formula funding levels in FY 2021. CDBG is an irreplaceable funding stream that provides flexible resources to counties for critical community and economic development needs.

* Support Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization and Funding for Workforce Investment – Title I Formula Grants. Congress passed the Workforce, Innovation and Opportunity act (WIOA) in July 2014. The current governance structure that exists under WIOA should be maintained, while adding needed flexibility to meet the needs of employers and jobseekers. The Committee will work to ensure that WIOA reauthorization legislation preserves local governance authority, while promoting innovation and flexibility to meet the needs of employers and jobseekers. The Committee will work to ensure that WIOA reauthorization legislation preserves local governance authority, while promoting innovation and flexibility to respond to local emerging economic realities and business needs. The Committee will also work to ensure Congress continues its support of the local workforce development system by funding WIOA Title I Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth state formula grants and apprenticeships and oppose any efforts to consolidate WIOA funding in a way that would reduce overall funding levels and/or limit access to services for job seekers and employers.

* Assist in the Rehabilitation of Infrastructure and Public Works. Counties must provide and support sufficient infrastructure and support services to generate increased economic activity – i.e., multimodal transportation, power utilities, broadband, water treatment and waste management systems and natural gas distribution infrastructure. NACo strongly supports: a national commitment, shared by all levels of government and the private sector, to increase capital spending; more flexible administration of federal and state mandates to allow cost-effective methods of compliance; accelerated spending of federal highway, transit, aviation and waterways trust funds; prioritization of rehabilitation and improvement of aging infrastructure that negatively affects business retention and attraction in older regions and communities; removal of unwarranted limits on the ability of state and local governments to help themselves through tax-exempt financing and incentives, such as empowerment zones.

* Support federal economic development funding in agencies such as the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NACo will continue to support federal economic development funding for local governments. Traditional economic development program such as grants through the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) and loans through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Section 108 Loan Guarantees program. Some programs have been slated for elimination or consolidation. The Committee opposes cuts to these important federal economic development funding and job creation programs.

NACo will support other policy priorities included in the survey and will continue to advocate for increased funding for community, economic and workforce development programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2020 General Election

The 2020 presidential election has been called for former Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, the first female Vice-President-Elect.

Democrats will remain in control of the House of Representatives in the 117th Congress, though they will have a narrower majority than they did in the 116th Congress. Control of the Senate, however, is a little less clear. Both Georgia Senate seats were up for election this year and both will now be decided by a runoff. While Republicans currently hold

the majority of seats in the Senate, the outcome of these runoffs – which are scheduled for January 5, 2021 – could change that.

NACo will continue to work in a bipartisan manner on county issues with the incoming administration and Congress.

Appropriations

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its long-awaited FY 2021 spending bills. This is the first movement in the Senate on the FY 2021 appropriations process. The House, meanwhile, advanced ten of its twelve annual spending bills this summer. The Senate spending bills include increases and/or level funding for programs important to the committee, including:

- * Community Development Block Grant currently funded at \$3.4 billion, would receive \$3.45 billion under the FY 2021 Senate bill. This is slightly below the \$3.5 billion provided in the House FY 2021 bill.
- * HOME Investment Partnerships Program currently funded at \$1.35 billion, would receive \$1.7 billion under the FY 2021 Senate bill. This is slightly below the \$1.75 billion provided in the House FY 2021 bill.
- * Economic Development Administration currently funded at \$330 million, would receive \$356 million in the FY 2021 Senate bill. This is slightly below the \$350 million provided in the House FY 2021 bill.
- * The Senate FY 2021 bill also includes level funding for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs, whereas the House bill provided increases for WIOA Title I programs.

For more detailed information on CEWD related appropriations, please click here<https://naco-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/sgimont_naco_org/EZpTKwFj9LhBoalF1sAlhlgB1g9aoVtmZP8YXJoc0YgRuw?e=f9yhW3&CID=49FD52D5-037D-498C-83EF-A331C2558454&wdLOR=cB170C87A-BFF7-4B18-A1CE-C336FA524ECB>.

It is likely Congress will pass a year-end omnibus to avoid a government shutdown when the current continuing resolution funding the government expires on December 11.

COVID-19 Relief Package

It is currently unclear what is going to happen with another COVID-19 relief package. However, NACo is continuing to advocate for extending the Coronavirus Relief Fund spending deadline – which is currently set for December 30, 2020. NACo also continues to push for direct funding for state and local governments, including counties of all sizes.

NACO RESOURCES

Below are NACo resources that we encourage you to check out and share:

- * Register for the LUCC/RAC Virtual Symposium: This event will bring together urban and rural county leaders from across the country to exchange ideas and share solutions in an informative, interactive and problem-solving virtual event. To register, please click here<<https://www.naco.org/events/luccrac-virtual-symposium>>.

- * NACo Webinar: Local Response to COVID-19 Housing Impacts: How Counties are Investing Coronavirus Relief Fund Dollars. hear from county leaders about their process for developing and implementing their CRF plans to work towards mitigating the housing impact of COVID-19.

To watch this webinar recording, please click here<<https://www.naco.org/events/local-response-covid-19-housing-impacts-how-counties-are-investing-coronavirus-relief-fund>>.

* NACo Webinar: Building a County Elder Fraud Prevention and Response Network

Thursday, November 19, 3:00PM - 4:00PM ET. Each year, millions of elderly Americans fall victim to some type of financial fraud or confidence scheme, with estimated losses ranging from \$2.9 billion to \$36.5 billion a year. Elder fraud prevention and response networks is an effective tool for local leaders to combat this significant threat to our seniors. Join this webinar to hear from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the Aging Network representatives to provide a roadmap for county leaders to build elder fraud prevention and response networks in your communities. To register, please click here. <<https://www.naco.org/events/building-county-elder-fraud-prevention-and-response-network>>

* NACo Webinar: County Eviction Series, December 4, 2:00PM – 3:00PM ET. The Eviction Crisis Today and Projections for the Future: Join this webinar to learn more about the status of eviction moratoria, possible actions counties can take to address housing insecurity during the pandemic, projections for evictions in 2021 and other concerns. To register, please click here<<https://www.naco.org/events/county-eviction-series-eviction-crisis-today-and-projections-future>>.

* NACo Coronavirus Relief Fund Hub: NACo developed a resource page to provide an overview of how counties across the country are distributing their Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) payments and other federal funds authorized under the CARES Act. To view the resource page, please click here<<https://www.naco.org/covid19/crf>>.

Daria Daniel
Associate Legislative Director
Community, Economic and Workforce Development National Association of Counties
202.942.4212 | ddaniel@naco.org<<mailto:ddaniel@naco.org>>

[cid:A236CE4CC975404DAC4444948737386F@namprd13.prod.outlook.com]
America's counties are on the front lines of our nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic. See NACo's coverage of county efforts and priorities here<<https://www.naco.org/coronavirus>>.

Note: This email and its attachments may contain information protected by state or federal law or that may not otherwise be disclosed. If you received this in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this email and its attachments from all devices.