

WHY COUNTIES MATTER!



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation and infrastructure are critical components that support the economies of our counties and improve the standard of living for all Americans. By providing efficient transportation and transit options such as buses, trains, light rail and subway systems, counties are the driving force connecting communities. Counties invest in building the schools where students learn, the hospitals that treat and provide care to the community and the jails that house and rehabilitate wrongdoers. From cleaning up storm debris and restoring safety to the community to cleaning the water we drink by maintaining reservoirs, purification plants and pumping stations, counties provide the basic services that are often taken for granted.

Services include:

- ★ Transit
- ★ Roads
- ★ Bridges
- ★ Airports
- ★ Construction of public facilities
- ★ Water and sewage systems
- ★ Solid waste management
- ★ Utilities like gas and electricity

COUNTIES ARE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF **30%** of public airports

COUNTIES OWN **228,238** bridges

COUNTIES OWN AND MAINTAIN **45%** of America's roads

COUNTIES ARE INVOLVED IN **27%** of public transit systems

COUNTIES INVEST **\$52.2 BILLION** in construction of public facilities annually

COUNTIES INVEST **\$106.3 BILLION** IN BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTAINING AND OPERATING PUBLIC WORKS ANNUALLY

COUNTIES INVEST **\$18.6 BILLION** in sewage and solid waste management annually

HEALTHCARE

Counties create support systems to keep you healthy from the time you are born until the time you grow old. Many counties operate hospitals and health facilities that provide clinical services, cancer and cardiac care, and emergency and trauma care. County nursing homes offer restorative care and rehabilitation, and promote quality of life and wellness to the elderly. From preventative measures like administering flu shots to educating the public with health information, county health departments ensure the everyday health of their residents.

Services include:

- ★ Hospitals
- ★ Nursing homes
- ★ Behavioral and mental healthcare
- ★ Immunizations
- ★ Testing services
- ★ Indigent healthcare
- ★ Health code inspections
- ★ Health clinics
- ★ Public health

COUNTIES SUPPORT **960** HOSPITALS WITH A TOTAL OF **96,228** BEDS THAT SERVE MORE THAN **14 MILLION** PATIENT DAYS

COUNTIES ARE INVOLVED in promoting public health through more than **1,550** local health departments

COUNTIES INVEST **\$69.7 BILLION** for community health and hospitals annually

COUNTIES OWN **676** nursing homes, which represent **76%** of the publicly owned nursing homes

COUNTIES INVEST **\$70.2 BILLION** TOTAL in justice and public safety services annually, of which ...

JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

Counties keep communities safe, by providing law enforcement and promoting crime prevention. From patrolling and policing the streets, to operating and maintaining county detention facilities, to serving as the arm of the county courts, county sheriffs and police departments are the linchpin of the criminal justice system. The other key players in the system are judges, district attorneys, public defenders, court clerks, jail directors and coroners.

Criminal justice components include:

- ★ Sheriffs departments
- ★ County police departments
- ★ County court systems
- ★ Jails and correctional facilities
- ★ Juvenile detention and justice services
- ★ District attorneys
- ★ Public defenders
- ★ Coroners

THERE ARE **3,105** county police and sheriffs departments

\$30.2 BILLION IS SPENT ON POLICE AND SHERIFFS DEPARTMENTS

\$23.3 BILLION IS SPENT ON CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

11.6 MILLION people were admitted to county and other local jails in 2012

\$16.7 BILLION IS SPENT ON COUNTY COURTS AND LEGAL SERVICES ANNUALLY

COUNTY MANAGEMENT

Counties provide vital services to all Americans, from issuing birth certificates and marriage licenses to operating 911 call centers. Counties often build and maintain the parks, swimming pools, community centers and cultural centers where you spend time with family and friends. Counties are responsible for running elections, from presidential to local. While balancing numerous administrative responsibilities, counties deliver essential services to ensure safe, healthy and resilient communities for their residents.

Services include:

- ★ Record keeping
- ★ Tax assessments
- ★ 911 call centers
- ★ Elections and polling places
- ★ Recreation and parks
- ★ Arts programs
- ★ Housing, community and economic development

Every **TWO** years ...

COUNTIES FUND AND OVERSEE MORE THAN **114,000** polling places

THERE ARE MORE THAN **19,300** elected county board members and elected executives; **711** are elected county executives

AND COORDINATE MORE THAN **692,000** poll workers

ANNUALLY, COUNTIES INVEST **\$25.6 BILLION** into economic development

COUNTIES INVEST **\$9.3 BILLION** to build and maintain parks and recreational facilities annually



19,300 elected county board members and elected executives



\$482.1 BILLION total expenditures annually



3.3 MILLION county employees



Service to **296 MILLION** county residents

NACO's VISION: HEALTHY, VIBRANT, SAFE, AND RESILIENT COUNTIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

