

July 24, 2026



The Ninety-Three

Reflections from the NACo 2026 Annual Conference in Orleans Parish

NACO Deputy Director Candace Meredith and other local county leaders recently had the opportunity to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2026 Annual Conference, held July 17–20 in Orleans Parish, Louisiana. As always, the conference delivered a rich mix of policy conversations, peer learning, and practical takeaways.

[Head to our blog](#) to read her full takeaways from the conference!



[NACO Blog](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

New Laws Effective July 18

A batch of new legislative changes took effect July 18, 2026, touching fees, publication requirements, county operations, taxes, law enforcement, and planning and zoning. [Click here](#) for the list of changes, along with the relevant bill and section numbers.

New Laws Effective July 18th

Nebraska's 2026-2027 NACo Presidential Committee Vice Chairs and Sub-Committee Vice Chairs

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 NACo Presidential Committee Vice Chairs and Subcommittee Vice Chairs from Nebraska. Visit NACo's website to learn more about NACo Policy Steering Committees & Caucuses:

<https://www.naco.org/page/policy-steering-committees-caucuses>

If you are interested in joining a committee or caucus, reach out to Candace Meredith to submit your name to NACo.

Lancaster County Commissioner Christa Yoakum

Advisory Council on Immigration and Intergovernmental Affairs

Vice Chair

Lancaster County Commissioner Christa Yoakum

Health Policy Steering Committee

Subcommittee Vice Chair - Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Buffalo County Commissioner Bill Maendele

Health Policy Steering Committee

Subcommittee Vice Chair - Public Health and Healthy Communities Subcommittee

NACO Annual Conference to be held December 16-18 in Kearney

Hotel Room Reservation and Registration will open on Wednesday, September 9th at 1:30 PM MT/2:30 PM CT.

More information will be provided regarding the hotel reservation form submission in the coming weeks.

BEAD Non-Deployment Funds: Awaiting NTIA Guidance on Public Safety Communications

We continue to closely monitor the status of NTIA guidance regarding the use of BEAD non-deployment funds. Based on recent conversations with national associations and representatives, we are optimistic that public safety communications will be included as an eligible use under the forthcoming guidance.

In anticipation, more than 60 county leaders across the state have already signed a letter to Governor Pillen urging support for upgrades and enhancements to public safety communications infrastructure. However, we are holding delivery of that letter until the NTIA guidance is officially released, ensuring our request aligns precisely with the finalized rules.

We will provide an update as soon as the guidance is published.

Send Us Your County Fair Photos!

As we head into county fair season, NACO wants to help share photos from your fair! Snap pictures of the rides, the food, the animals, or any other fun moments, and email them to lauren.franken@nebraskacounties.org so we can feature your county fair on our social media!



Apply Now to Pilot New Tool for Behavioral Health Interventions in Your County

With support from Arnold Ventures, the CSG Justice Center is now offering county leaders a chance to get **free, hands-on support** to identify evidence-informed behavioral health and legal interventions best suited for their community. Provided as part of our new initiative, [*Counties Aligning Health & Safety*](#), leaders will have an opportunity to use a decision tool uniquely designed to help them identify the right policies and investments to improve outcomes for people with behavioral health needs at a critical and often overlooked moment: the period between booking and case resolution.

Grounded in the local challenges specific to each community and based on a new post-booking behavioral health framework, this tool will help leaders generate real cost savings and make meaningful improvements in the behavioral health outcomes of people leaving jail.

[Watch this recent webinar to learn more about the framework.](#)

Counties that are interested in participating should complete and submit their application by Friday, July 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. E.T.

Register for the Institute of Excellence

Strong leaders build strong counties. Elevate your leadership skills and increase your impact with the NACO Institute of Excellence!

Visit [ccc](#) to register!

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

INSTITUTE OF EXCELLENCE

Building Leadership Skills to Move Your Nebraska County Forward



**AUG
6**

LEADING WITH YOUR STRENGTHS

In-person, Kearney
9am -12 pm CT

**AUG
13**

THRIVING THROUGH CHANGE

Virtual
12pm CT/ 11am MT

**AUG
20**

AI ESSENTIALS FOR OFFICIALS

Virtual
12pm CT/ 11am MT

**AUG
27**

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

In-person, Kearney
9am-12pm CT

TO REGISTER:

go.unl.edu/NACOIOE



Registration Fee: \$200

Registration Deadline: August 1, 2026

Registration Open for Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference

Registration is now open for the Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference!

Big conversations. Even bigger ideas. Join hundreds of people working for Nebraska's future.

This conference brings together people from across Nebraska who know that thriving communities don't happen by accident. They happen when educators, child care providers, business leaders, health professionals, advocates, nonprofits, and local champions come together to focus on Nebraska's most pressing early childhood challenges.

This year will feature inspiring speakers, practical breakout sessions, real stories from Nebraska communities, and plenty of opportunities to connect with others doing meaningful work in early childhood across the state.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Here's what to know:

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026

Younes Conference Center North

Kearney, Nebraska

Even better? It's free to attend.

Visit the [conference website to register](#).

2026 NACO Business Members

Support provided by our generous business members helps NACO expand our educational programming for Nebraska county officials. Business members enjoy a number of benefits, including features on our website and social media pages. We also offer our business members discounts on sponsorships and 15% off the cost of booking our NACO West Training Center in Ogallala.

2026 business memberships are still open. Click the button below to learn more.

2026 Business Memberships

20 BUSINESS 26 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



PREMIUM MEMBERS



RESOURCES

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County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar

2026 Election Calendar

Property Assessment and Taxation Calendar



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