

NACO E-Line



March 12, 2021



American Rescue Plan Act, From Jon Cannon

On March 10, the US Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act. Part of this Act includes State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds legislation, which specifically allocates \$65.1 billion in direct aid to every county in America. President Biden signed this legislation into law on March 11.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) was instrumental in making sure that counties were provided for in this legislation, and they have a handy tool at their new [COVID-19 Recovery Clearinghouse](#). Under the “State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds” tab, you can find your county’s estimated allocation, as well as [NACo’s legislative analysis](#).

In practical terms, the US Treasury will be making your county’s allocation in two halves – the first half will be within 60 days of the President’s signature, with the second half no sooner than 12 months after.

The funds may be used as follows:

- Responding to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. This includes assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, hospitality, or travel.
- Providing premium pay (up to \$13/hour) to eligible workers performing essential work for the county during the pandemic.
- Replacement of revenue lost due to the pandemic.
- Necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

State and local government may transfer funds to private nonprofit organizations, public benefit corporations involved in the transport of passengers, or special purpose units of State and local government. None of the funds may be deposited into any pension fund. Counties that fail to comply with the federal law and its related guidelines will be required to repay the US Treasury.

We need to be intentional in how we direct these funds. In the coming weeks, NACO staff will be working on developing further guidance for all 93 Nebraska counties. Please text, call, or email me if you would like to discuss this further.

As a final matter, I want to commend NACo for their work in making sure that

counties were at the table when this relief bill was passed. If your county is not currently a member of the National Association, I would strongly encourage you to consider it.

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Your County, Through the Lens

Every E-Line will feature a photograph submitted by one of our readers of their county.

[Click Here to Submit a Photo of Your County](#)



Holt County, submitted by Bill Tielke

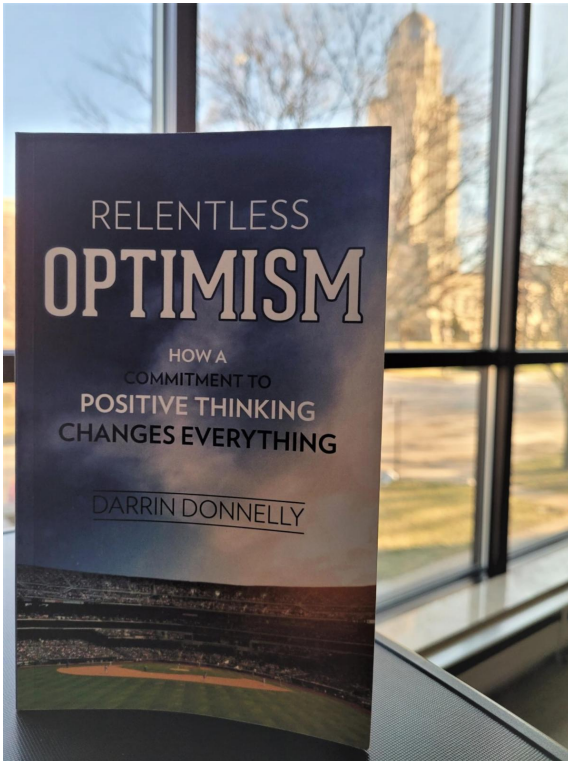
Upcoming Events

District Meetings:

Central, 3.18.2021 – Register with your County Clerk
Northeast, 3.19.2021 – Register with your County Clerk
Panhandle, 3.24.2021 – Register with your County Clerk
West Central, 3.25.2021 – [Register Here](#)

2021 County Budget Workshop:

North Platte, 5.13.2021 – [Register Here](#)
Columbus, 5.14.2021 – [Register Here](#)



NACO Leadership Book Club

Twice a year, NACO hosts our Leadership Book Club. We provide each county with a copy of a book focused around professional development and leadership. The book club offers an opportunity to read, discuss and network with peers. We are excited to announce our next selection for the Leadership Book Club: *Relentless Optimism* by Darrin Donnelly. Copies of the book will be distributed to a representative for each county at our upcoming District Meetings.

2021 Outstanding County Board Member of the Year

Let us know who you think deserves to be recognized for the work they're doing for their community. The Outstanding County Board Member Award is open to county board members who have been in office for at least four terms. Applications are due April 30, 2021.

[Click Here to Submit a Nomination](#)

COOL Network, Series 2 & 3

NACO AND UNL EXTENSION PRESENT:

THE COOL NETWORK

County Official Online Learning Network

- INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PURPOSE, STRUCTURE, AND FUNDING OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT
- DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- NETWORK WITH OTHER COUNTY OFFICIALS



NACO and UNL are excited to bring you The County Official Online Learning Network. The COOL Network is a continuing education opportunity which will help boost your knowledge of county government, develop leadership skills, and create a network of county officials across the state.

Series One will be offered again in the Fall.

Series One is not a prerequisite requirement to take Series Two or Three.

[Click Here to Enroll in The COOL Network](#)

Flag Retirement Boxes

NACO has partnered with the National Association of Counties to provide Nebraska counties with a free flag collection box to aide residents to properly dispose of worn U.S. flags.

U.S. Flag Etiquette Program

5 Steps to Launch Your Initiative

Thanks to the partnership with National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Nebraska Association of County Officials, we're proud to provide a custom flag retirement box to every county in Nebraska.

Here are 5 steps to launch your flag retirement program:

- 1 ARRANGE FOR FLAG COLLECTION** – Many local organizations, like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, veterans groups and sheriffs' departments, regularly hold flag retirement ceremonies. Identify and partner with a group to be responsible for emptying the flag box and retiring the flags in the proper manner.
- 2 DISPLAY THE BOX** – Find a location for the flag disposal box that is both secure and easily accessible. The box is durable but recommended for indoor use.
- 3 ALERT THE PUBLIC** – Announce the box's availability and location to residents through local news, social media and other forms of communication. NACo has a press release template to help announce your flag retirement program, which can be accessed at www.naco.org/NEFlagRollout.
- 4 PROMOTE PROPER FLAG RETIREMENT** – Ensure your residents understand the importance of U.S. Flag care. NACo offers more information on the U.S. flag code, social media posts and flag retirement promotion at www.NACo.org/flag.
- 5 MONITOR THE BOX** – Assign someone, either in the county or a partner, to regularly check the condition of the box. When the box is no longer suitable for use, it can be recycled.



Thank you for the partnership.

NACo delivers unmatched member value to America's 3,069 counties, boroughs and parishes.

To learn more about membership or if you have additional questions about launching your Flag Retirement Program, please contact flag@naco.org, or visit www.naco.org for resources and information.



2021 Membership and Sponsorship Opportunities

The NACO membership program is seeking sponsors for 2021.

The NACO Membership Program provides representatives of the private sector opportunities to become members of the NACO Network through contributions that facilitate our programs.

Want to nominate a company to become a member? Send an email to Tess.Mayer@nebraskacounties.org explaining why they would make a great addition to the NACO Network.

Quick Links

[Associate & Sustaining Members](#)

[2020-2022 Legal Calendar](#)

[County Classified Ads](#)

[National Association of Counties](#)

**Check the NACO website for our Calendar Updates,
Latest News & Featured Links**

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