



Illinois Association of County Officials

NEWS

"...improving the quality of public service through education."

SPRING 2024

www.iacoonline.org

2024 IACO OFFICERS:

President

Rebecca C. McNeil - McLean County Treasurer

President Elect

Erin Cartwright Weinstein - Lake County Circuit Clerk

Vice President

Karen Stukel - Will County Recorder

Secretary / Treasurer

Chris Marsh - White County Coroner

Immediate Past President

Melissa Hurst - Coles County Circuit Clerk

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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April Palmer - Rock Island County

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Michelle Mueller - ROE #40

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Veterans Assistance Commissions

Michael A. Iwanicki - McHenry County

INDUSTRY PARTNERS:

Scott LePenske - Devnet

Chuck Venvertloh - Computer Information Concepts

Becky Jansen - PayCourt

Illinois Association of County Officials

P.O. Box 9296 - Springfield, IL 62791-9296

www.iacoonline.org

Message from the President

Rebecca C. McNeil
McLean County Treasurer



According to our articles of incorporation and bylaws, the purpose of the Illinois Association of County Officials organization is to provide educational materials and meetings for Illinois County Officials to promote uniform procedures in Illinois Counties in order to better serve the public. In order to promote professionalism in county government service, IACO conducts annual meetings, seminars, and in-service training sessions. Additionally, IACO facilitates professional networking. These efforts are designed to maintain and enhance public confidence in county government.

During the Fall 2023 conference, we had almost 500 registered attendees between our members and vendors. That was amazing. However, bringing 9 different affiliates and so many vendors under one umbrella is a tough job. Despite that, we are so grateful to have the opportunity to gather again around the same table. Our conferences have offered numerous opportunities for you to get away to a quiet space where you can stop, listen, and think. More importantly, to have the opportunity to develop camaraderie and relationships with those around you. The challenges and opportunities we each face within the walls of our individual offices and counties are somewhat the same, yet still very different. Clearly, we are stronger when we work together.

Now we shift our focus to the IACO Spring Conference. We have some great educational sessions in the works! Our vendors also provide unique opportunities for learning new technologies or new ways of tackling old problems. AND, we are bringing back casino night at the Spring Conference. Casino night is a chance to try your hand at casino games without any risk. We will give you chips to use at the casino tables, and everyone should have a great time. Even if you are a novice, the craps, blackjack or poker dealers will help you learn. **Make plans now to join us May 15-17th at the Crowne Plaza for a great event!**

As a County Treasurer, I work with numbers every day. However, I can also tell you that not all the counts can be counted. I am so appreciative of you, your affiliate, our vendors, the Board of Directors, the Executive Board, and especially our IACO Administrator, Tamiko Kinkade. Together, we have and will continue to accomplish great work. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2024 IACO President.

Rebecca "Becky" McNeil, McLean County Treasurer

*PS - Do you have a college student in your family? Check out the **Scholarship Application**. included in this newsletter! We have increased the amount we are awarding... it is worth your time to apply! Let your students know! Deadline: April 12, 2024*

2024 IACO Spring Conference May 15-17, 2024 (Wed - Fri)

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Springfield, IL

REGISTER TODAY at www.iacoonline.org

Legislative Update

Mark Armstrong
Legislative Chair
Kane County Assessor



This past winter marked the beginning second year of the 103rd General Assembly. This Assembly was originally seated in January 2023, and will run until a new one is seated in 2025.

Historically, the second year of a General Assembly typically has fewer bills introduced than the first year, and this one is no exception:

Year Introduced	2023	2024	Total
House Bills	4,315	1,474	5,789
Senate Bills	2,644	1,275	3,919
Total	6,959	2,749	9,708

The deadline for introduction of new bills in each chamber was February 9. After that, committee work began, with committees in each chamber reviewing bills until the committee deadline, which was March 15 in the Senate and April 5 in the House. After committee action floor debates take place. The Senate has set a deadline of April 12 to act on bills originating in the Senate; the House has set a deadline of April 19 for its bills.

Any bill passing in the initial chamber must repeat the process in the opposite chamber during April and May. Both chambers have set May 3 as a deadline to have bills out of committee, and May 17 is the deadline for final action. Adjournment is scheduled for May 24.

Once a bill has passed both chambers, it must be transmitted to the Governor within 30 days; the Governor then has 60 days to act on those bills.

The IACO Legislative Committee continues to monitor the work of the General Assembly. The legislative chair of each affiliate organization monitors legislation that will impact the duties and responsibilities of its membership. When legislation is proposed that impacts more than one affiliate, the IACO Legislative Committee works to promote cooperation among the affiliates for a positive result for all involved.

At the Spring conference, be sure to join us for our legislative breakfast on the morning of Thursday, May 16. Our guest will be Jessica Basham, a Springfield veteran with more than two decades experience as a senior legislative aide, and was the first woman to be the Chief of Staff to an Illinois House Speaker. Jessica will talk about the inner workings of the Illinois legislature, and will answer questions from the audience as time permits.

County Auditors

April Palmer
Rock Island County Auditor
IACO Board Member



REMINDER: [Public Act 103-318](#)

Effective July 1, 2023 provides that a separate additional Special Revenue Fund be set-up to record receipt of the annual State of Illinois Stipend payments for the officers eligible in each county in the offices of County Assessor, Auditor, Coroner, Sheriff, & Treasurer. The state will now be sending payments directly to the County. This does NOT affect the Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, or Recorder. They will receive a check directly made out to each as in the past years. The County payroll clerk will need to be notified of receipt to issue a check to the correct recipient through the County payroll system within 10 business days after. These payroll checks will include all applicable payroll taxes and pension payments as any other received by the same official.

Donate Your Pop Tabs

Did you know Ronald McDonald House® Charities of Central Illinois collects pop tabs? It pays off in a big way, too! Each year, they collect approximately 40 million tabs. That cashes out to about \$10,000 for our charity! So the next time you grab a can of soda, remember to save the tab for us and the many families we serve. This initiative is good for Ronald McDonald House families, local schools and the environment. We can all do a little to make a big difference in our community!



What is a pop tab?

Pop tabs are the little aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, some pet food, canned fruits, vegetables and more.

How do pop tabs help the Ronald McDonald House?

Once the pop tabs are collected, they are taken to be recycled in exchange for dollars, which support the children and families we serve at our Houses.

START COLLECTING NOW!

Bring your tabs to the IACO Conferences! We will get them to the Ronald McDonald House Charities!

2023 County Official of the Year (COTY)

Kathy Keefe - McHenry County Circuit Court Clerk

During the 2023 IACO Fall Conference, we had the distinct honor of recognizing Katherine "Kathy" Keefe, McHenry County Circuit Clerk, as our 2023 County Official of the Year. The nomination that her friends, family, and close colleagues put together shined a light on her as an outstanding public servant. Kathy has provided 36 years of servant leadership within the walls of McHenry County Government and has served in a variety of capacities. For the last 15 years, she has served as the elected Circuit Clerk. She leads an office of over 50 employees who serve the 6th most populated County in the State of Illinois. The depth of her knowledge, experience, service, and leadership has been recognized county-wide. Kathy has leveraged technology in numerous ways to promote communication, collaboration, and change. Change that has resulted in millions of dollars in current and future savings for McHenry County citizens. She leads one of the most technologically advanced and efficient public offices in the State of IL and was one of the first to move her county to electronic filing.

Kathy was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Judicial Conference, developing a strategic agenda for the Illinois Judicial Branch. She was appointed by the Illinois Association of Court Clerks on the Statutory Court Fee Task Force, serving as chairperson of the Criminal/Traffic Subcommittee, which is charged with making recommendations to the Illinois State General Assembly to address barriers to access to justice and additional issues associated with fees and other court costs in Civil, Criminal and Traffic Proceedings. She was also appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Illinois Judicial College as a member of the Committee on Education. She has improved court processes by affording her vast court experience to the IL Judicial College which trains Circuit Clerks who then take that knowledge back to their local courts to implement legislative changes as taught by the Judicial College. Her service to her affiliate runs deep. After all of this, she still steps up to the plate and serves as her affiliate as zone chair. Her contributions have been recognized by officials at the local, County, and State level. Kathy has a servant's heart that goes beyond the office. She volunteers, supports numerous community organizations, and was awarded the Turning Point Peace and Justice Award in 2011. Her nominators contributed the following to further describe her dedication to public service.

County Official Memorials

Please submit the names of current or former **county officials that have passed away**. We will honor them at the 2024 IACO Spring Conference in May. Please forward to me anyone that has passed since May 2023. You can forward the information to Tamiko Kinkade at tkcps@comcast.net.



Above: IACO President Rebecca McNeil presenting Kathy with the COTY Award.

Left: Kathy Keefe, McHenry County Circuit Clerk accepting the 2023 COTY Award.

"She is always on top of her game and has a very special characteristic that not many public servants have, empathy."

"She exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. She understands. She is always welcoming and available to help her colleagues throughout the state."

"Her pursuit of excellence and vision has propelled the 22nd judicial circuit into an electronic court system which is now viewed by others in the judicial branch as something to strive for. She serves with gratitude and humility. All she has done has been done in service to others and to further access to the court and to aid in the administration of justice."

Congratulations to Kathy and the Illinois Circuit Clerks Association!

Start thinking now about who you wish to nominate for the 2024 County Official of the Year. Nominations will open late summer.

Future Conference Dates:

2024 Spring Conference – May 15-17, 2024 (Wed – Friday)
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL

2024 Fall Conference – Nov. 18-20, 2024 (Mon – Wed)
Marriott Hotel, Bloomington Normal, IL

2025 Spring Conference – May 14-16, 2025 (Wed – Friday)
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL

2025 Fall Conference – Nov 17-19, 2025 (Mon – Wed)
Marriott Hotel, Bloomington Normal, IL

2026 Spring Conference – April 22-24, 2026 (Wed – Friday)
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL

2026 Fall Conference – Nov. 16-18, 2026 (Mon – Wed)
Marriott Hotel, Bloomington Normal, IL

2024 IACO Spring Conference Sponsors as of March 26th

Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:

A.D. Valor Technical Cleaning
Computer Information Concepts
Exela Technologies
Kofile
LRS
PayCourt

Silver Sponsors:

AllPaid Payment Solutions
InvoiceCloud
Mail Services
Paymerang
PMA Financial Network

Bronze Sponsors:

CourtMoney	Providence Bank & Trust
CSG Forte	Sidwell
Goodin Associates	Vanguard Appraisals
GBS	VR Systems
Jano Technologies	XSoft
PFM Asset Management	

Additional Exhibitors:

American Stamp & Marking Products	Saltus Technologies
Coast Professional, Inc.	Schneider Geospatial
Election Systems & Software	Snedeker Risk Management
Fairfax Software	The Master's Touch, LLC
IMRF	TheGovApp.comTRIEDATA Inc
Linebarger Attorneys At Law	US Imaging

2024 IACO Spring Conference

May 15-17, 2024 (Wednesday - Friday)

Crowne Plaza Hotel

3000 S. Dirksen Parkway - Springfield, IL

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, May 14, 2024	
3:00 – 10:00 pm	Exhibit Booth Set-up
5:00 pm	IACO Board Meeting/Dinner
Evening	Hospitality Suites Open
Wednesday, May 15	
7:30 am	Registration Open
7:30 am – 5:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
7:30 am – 9:00 am	HOT BREAKFAST in Exhibit Hall
9:00 – 11:45 am	Education Sessions
11:45 am	Awards/Scholarship Luncheon
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Education Sessions
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Reception in Exhibit Hall
Evening	Hospitality Suites Open
Thursday, May 16	
7:30 am	Registration Open
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Legislative HOT Breakfast
8:00 am – 1:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
9:30 am – 4:00 pm	Affiliate Organization Meetings
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	LUNCH in Exhibit Hall
1:30 pm	Exhibitor Tear Down
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	President's Reception - <i>Casino Night</i>
Evening	Hospitality Suites Open
Friday, May 17	
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Closing Breakfast
To Follow	Affiliate Organization Meetings

Watch your email for more details!

REGISTER TODAY at

www.iacoonline.org

OFFICIAL IACO 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

May 15-17, 2024 - Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL

Attendee Full Name: _____

First Name for Badge (if different): _____

Title/Office (e.g. Coroner/Auditor) _____

County/Jurisdiction (e.g. Lee County): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

MEAL TICKETS:

Please let us know whether or not you plan to participate in the following meals. There is no additional cost for these events, however, we need accurate head counts.

Wednesday:

FREE Lunch: Yes No Unsure

Thursday:

FREE Lunch: Yes No Unsure

Casino Night: Yes No Unsure

Friday:

Breakfast Buffet: Yes No Unsure

Affiliate Organization:

EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE! A CONFERENCE NAME BADGE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE TO ALL SESSIONS!

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auditor | <input type="checkbox"/> County Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Circuit Court Clerk | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Review | <input type="checkbox"/> County Clerk / Recorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Election Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> State's Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Assistance Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coroner | <input type="checkbox"/> County Engineer | <input type="checkbox"/> Reg. Superintendent | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor of Assessments | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Official |

Hotel Reservations:

Reservations at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** can be made online at: <http://tinyurl.com/2rnbr592>.

Follow the steps to create your hotel reservations online. I do not recommend calling the hotel to make reservations. Often, you get forwarded to the central reservation line and they do not always have (or give) accurate information. However, if you must, you can call 217.529.7777 and use option #1 - Group Code: B2D. The hotel will provide you with a confirmation number. Rate: \$99/per night plus tax. Self-Parking is complimentary.

The hotel block expires at midnight on April 14, 2024.

Hotel Reservations made and not cancelled 24 Hours prior to the 1st day of check-in will be billed for the first night's room and tax and the remaining nights reserved will be cancelled.

ONLY RESERVE THE HOTEL ROOMS NEEDED! IACO loses the room nights when reservations are cancelled after the cut-off date and this can cause us to drop below our required room block number.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A PROBLEM MAKING A HOTEL RESERVATION, contact Tamiko at: tk@tkcpsolutions.com

Conference cancellation policy: Conference registrations made and not cancelled will be billed. Cancellations must be made in writing on or before May 3rd to receive a refund. All refunds (less a \$25 processing fee) will be made via a check mailed to the attendee after the conference. Cancellations should be sent to the Tamiko Kinkade at the address listed below or e-mail to tk@tkcpsolutions.com.

Payment Information: The Conference Registration Fee is **\$230**, but register before May 3 and receive the Early Bird Rate of **\$215**.

	Early Bird	After May 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference Registration		
County Official/Deputy	\$215	\$230
<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY Only (Official/Deputy)*	\$125	\$140
<input type="checkbox"/> THURSDAY Only (Official/Deputy)*	\$125	\$140
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest or Retired Official**	\$125	\$140

Spouse Name: _____

Total enclosed: _____

- Enclosed is a check for my registration
 Please charge my credit card for registration

Card Type: Mastercard Visa American Express Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____ Billing Zip: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

The One-Day Only Registration includes ONE day's activities (Wednesday OR Thursday), NOT a combination of the two!** It is critical that everyone attending the conference register and pay a registration fee. Please register everyone from your office that is attending. *All attendees must register.**

Illinois Association of County Officials

Attn: Tamiko Kinkade, Administrator

P.O. Box 9296 - Springfield, IL 62791-9296

Phone: (217) 585-9065 Fax: (217) 529-7178

Saving feels better.



The National Association of Counties (NACo) has enhanced the Live Healthy Discount Program to deliver greater healthcare savings to county residents at **NO COST** to the county.

No-cost Prescription Discount Program.

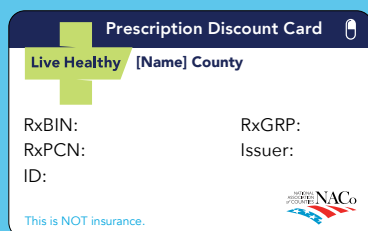
- **Save up to 80%*** on generics and **up to 40%*** on brand-name prescription medications for residents and their pets

Low-fee health discounts nationwide.

- Provides 24/7 telemedicine service and **save 15% to 75%** on vision services, hearing aids and screenings, diabetes supplies, prepaid lab work and more

Low-fee dental discounts nationwide.

- Save **15% to 50%** on check-ups, cleanings, fillings, crowns, x-rays, root canals and more at over 110,000 participating providers



To learn more and enroll your county,
visit [NACo.org/Health](https://www.naco.org/Health)

*This is not insurance. Savings may vary by drug and by pharmacy. The Prescription Discount Card is operated by CVS Caremark®. The Discount Medical Organization for NACo Health and Dental Discounts is Alliance HealthCard of Florida, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2022 CVS Caremark





Student “Kick-Off” Scholarship

- ✓ Do you have a child or grandchild graduating from High School by June 2024 or graduated in 2023?
- ✓ Has your High School graduate selected a college or university or technical school?
- ✓ Is your student prepared for the cost of college level textbooks and other supplies?
- ✓ Is your student one of tens of thousands putting all their faith in a handful of “Pie in the Sky” full ride scholarship’s or education grants?
- ✓ Are you a County Assessor, Auditor, Circuit Clerk, Coroner, County Clerk or Recorder, Regional Superintendent, Treasurer, County Board Member, or Superintendent of a Veterans Assistance Commission?

Guess what? The IACO can help!

If your student is entering a 2- or 4- year college or technical school in the Fall, your membership to IACO qualifies your child or grandchild to apply for a \$2,000 or \$1,000 scholarship. With the scholarship limited to members of an IACO Affiliate organization means your student will not be competing against thousands of other hopeful students.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Completed applications must be received by April 12, 2024

IACO Scholarship Application 2024

For the Fall of 2024 IACO will award the following scholarships:

- \$2,000 Scholarship(s) to a student attending a four-year College/ University
- \$1,000 Scholarship(s) to a student attending a two-year Community/ Junior College
- \$1,000 Scholarship(s) to a student attending one- or two-year Technical/ Trade School

Eligibility Criteria: High School Graduate by June of 2024. (Scholarship year 2024). Only family members (Child or Grandchild) of elected or appointed Illinois County Officials (currently employed or retired) that are active dues paying members of one of the IACO Affiliate Organizations.

Deadline: **Application MUST be received by April 12, 2024.**

Application Form: Complete the Application Form

The sponsor is the active dues paying member of one of the affiliated organizations of the Illinois Assn. of County Officials, *(either currently employed or retired)*. This may be either a parent or grandparent of the applicant.

Attachment I: **Applicant's statement** ~ Describe in 500 words or less how this scholarship would help you to achieve your goals

Attachment II: **A resume** ~ Including an Official High School Transcript of grades, GPA, major award, organizations and activities, and at least one letter of support from a teacher or principal

Attachment III: **A wallet size photograph – can be emailed to LePenske@devnetinc.com**

Return to: Scott LePenske
DEVNET
2254 Oakland Drive
Sycamore, IL 60178
Send your completed application in .pdf form
via email to: LePenske@devnetinc.com



**Application
Deadline:
April 12, 2024**

The Criteria for Selection shall be based on the following:

- a. Scholastic ability
- b. Need
- c. Leadership and activity

Special Instructions regarding need: In the space provided on the application briefly include any circumstances which may be considered such as other children in college, medical costs, etc.

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name of Applicant: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

High School Attended: _____

Date Graduated (or expect to graduate): _____ GPA: _____ GP Scale: (4.0 or 5.0)

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

College, University or Technical School you plan to attend: _____

1-Year Technical School 2-Year College or Technical School 4-School. Have you been accepted? _____

Degree or course of technical training you plan to pursue this fall: _____

What is your current career choice? _____

Have you previously applied for a scholarship from IACO? Yes No

List any other scholarships for which you are a candidate: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

This section is to be completed by the Parent or Grandparent who is a member of IACO.

Sponsor's Name*: _____ Title: _____

Sponsor's County: _____ Sponsor's Affiliate Organization: _____

**Sponsor must be a current member of one of the IACO Affiliate Organizations, current with his/her dues*

Relationship to Applicant: _____

State reasons why you think the applicant merits consideration to receive a scholarship from IACO. If necessary, you may attach additional documentation. _____

Have you ever applied for an IACO scholarship for this or any other family member? Yes No

If yes, did the applicant receive a scholarship from IACO? (Give details): _____

List any circumstances regarding need which should be considered: _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____

2023 FALL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION - NETWORKING - FUN - LAUGHTER



THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

5/3 Fifth Third Bank
 AllPaid Payment Solutions, *formerly GovPayNet*
 Ameresco
 ArcaSearch Corporation
 Associated Bank
 Baird Public Finance
 Bellwether LLC
 Bruce Harris & Associates, Inc.
 Catalis Tax & CAMA (*formerly GovTech Services*)
 Centrica Business Solutions
 Chase Bank
 Computer Information Concepts, Inc. (CIC)
 Court Money
 Datamation Imaging Services
 DEVNET Incorporated
 EagleView (*formerly Pictometry*)
 ElectionStats | Civera
 Election Systems and Software
 Engage by Cell
 Exela Technologies
 Fidlar Technologies
 Fike & Fike Inc.
 GBS - Governmental Business Systems
 Goodin Associates, Ltd.
 Harris & Harris, Ltd.
 Illinois Farm Bureau
 Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
 Illinois Property Assessment Institute
 IL Public Risk Fund
 IL State Treasurer ePAY & Illinois Funds
 IMET
 Invoice Cloud
 JANO Technologies
 Journal Technologies
 Kofile Technologies, Inc.
 Law Bulletin Media
 Liberty Systems, LLC
 LRS - IT Solutions, Inc.
 Joseph M. Meyer & Associates
 Mission Critical Partners
 Nextlink Internet
 NICE Public Safety & Justice Platform
 PayCourt
 Paymerang
 PFM Asset Management LLC
 PMA Financial Network, LLC
 Platinum Technology
 Schneider Geospatial
 Sidwell
 Statewide Publishing
 Stifel
 TEAM ITS, LLC
 TheGovApp.com, a brand of OCV LLC
 Tipton Systems
 Tyler Technologies
 US Imaging, Inc.
 Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.
 VR Systems
 XSoft, Inc.

Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:

ArcaSearch LLC
Bruce Harris & Associates
Eagleview
Election Systems & Software
Exela Technologies

Journal Technologies
Paymerang
PMA Financial Network
TEAM ITS, LLC

Bronze Sponsors:

5/3 Bank
AllPaid Payment Solutions
Associated Bank
Baird Public Finance
Centrica Business Solutions
Datamation Imaging Services
ElectionStats | Civera
Engage by Cell
Fidlar Technologies
Fike and Fike, Inc.
GBS
Goodin Associates, Ltd.

IMET
InvoiceCloud
Joseph E. Meyer & Associates
Kofile Technologies, Inc.
Nextlink Internet
PFM Asset Management LLC
Sidwell
Stifel
Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.
VR Systems, Inc.
XSoft, Inc.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID AND NACo



The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The group was very impressed with the trainers and felt the curriculum was extremely useful in helping the county workforce address and support the need of county employees who may be experiencing mental health and/or substance use needs. The training was comprehensive, skills-oriented and provided the essential tools and guidance to support our staff."

— **Michael Orth**,
Commissioner, Westchester County, NY, Department of Community Mental Health

WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), a skills-based training administered by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges in their peers, friends and colleagues.

To help the National Association of Counties (NACo) realize its vision of creating healthy, safe and vibrant counties across America, the National Council and NACo are partnering to offer crucial MHFA trainings to county employees and the communities they serve. The National Council-NACo partnership will support elected officials and county staff, who are asking for help with their own mental health and wellbeing. And, by extension, create a framework for counties to destigmatize mental health and substance use issues as they provide community residents with more equitable access to quality mental health and substance use treatment services.

Less than
10%
of employees feel their workplace is free of stigmas about mental health.

— McKinsey Center for Societal Benefit

Nearly
1 IN 5
adults in the U.S. lives with a mental illness.

— National Institute of Mental Health

Counties are the entry point to the criminal justice system, and
64%
of jail inmates have a mental illness.

— NACo

98%
of MHFA at Work participants in 2021 said they would recommend the training to a colleague.

— MHFA

WHAT MHFA COVERS

- Noticing signs and symptoms of substance use and mental health challenges.
- Navigating difficult conversations about mental health.
- Knowing that recovery is possible – and how to support it.
- Tackling mental health stigma in the workplace.
- Understanding principles of safety and privacy. Building resilience and strategies to alleviate burnout.
- Implementing a 5-step MHFA Action Plan (ALGEE).
- Reinforcing relevant employee resource groups, employee benefits and HR initiatives.

WHO SHOULD TAKE IT

- County employees at all levels, including elected officials and county staff across all departments and organizations.
- Human resources and benefits partners, senior leaders and front-line managers.
- First responders including law enforcement, corrections officers, fire and EMS services.
- Hospital and nursing home staff.
- School teachers, administrators and youth-serving staff.

Sources:

- Coe, E., Cordina, J., Enomoto, K., Seshan, N. (2021, July 23). Overcoming stigma: three strategies toward better mental health in the workplace. McKinsey Quarterly. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/healthcare-systems-and-services/our-insights/overcoming-stigma-three-strategies-toward-better-mental-health-in-the-workplace>
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). (n.d.). Mental illness. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>
- National Association of Counties. (n.d.) Behavioral health matters to counties. <https://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/documents/NACo%20Behavioral%20Health%20Priorities.pdf>

