



NEWS RELEASE

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Caroline County earns national achievement award for its Recovery Community Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Caroline County has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

NACo recognized Caroline County's Recovery Community Program in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety category.

Like many localities throughout the nation, Caroline County has been forced to commit increasingly scarce fiscal resources to incarcerating adult prisoners, many of whom are repeat offenders. These large expenditures are a drain on the County budget and take funds away from higher priorities such as education, public safety and quality of life initiatives. Approximately six years ago, the Caroline County Board of Supervisors prevailed upon the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney to explore methods of controlling these costs without a corresponding negative impact on public safety.

Commonwealth's Attorney Anthony G. "Tony" Spencer responded to the challenge by partnering with the McShin Foundation to create the Caroline County Recovery Community Program (CCRCP). The program provides an alternative to incarceration for qualifying drug offenders, who make up a majority of the jail population.

Since its inception in 2011, the CCRCP has had tremendous success in keeping drug offenders out of prison and breaking the cycle of dependency. This, in turn, has saved Caroline County and the Commonwealth of Virginia hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct jail costs. The Caroline County Board of Supervisors authenticated the results of the program by agreeing to contribute \$30,000 in County funds toward its operation in FY 2015 and beyond.

"Caroline County is honored to be recognized with a NACo Achievement Award," Assistant County Administrator Alan Partin said. "The CCRCP is an important program and has had a positive effect on many of our citizens as well as saved thousands of dollars in direct jail costs. We hope this program can be an example for other counties across the nation."

NACo President Riki Hokama, council member, Maui County, Hawaii, said, "The National Association of Counties applauds county governments that are embracing innovative and more

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effective ways to serve their constituents. The Achievement Awards recognize counties' outstanding efforts to strengthen services and deliver results for residents across the country.”

Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

The awards will be presented at NACo's 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition July 10–13 in Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at www.naco.org