

GC Community Action To Receive Coaching Assistance To Meet Goals

The National Association of Counties (NACo), which represents over 3,000 counties across the nation, has chosen Garrett and Allegany counties to receive coaching assistance through the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Program to advance community goals. Eleven other regions in the nation also received funding.

The assistance is part of the White House Rural Council's Rural IMPACT County Challenge (RICC), which acknowledges the commitment and support of local governments in the fight to end child and family poverty. IMPACT stands for Integration Models for Parents and Children to Thrive.

In July 2016, both the Allegany County and Garrett County boards of commissioners passed resolutions in support of RICC.

The Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission (HRDC) and Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) are working in collaboration to utilize a two-generational (2-G) approach that provides for early childhood needs, while fostering access to higher education, employment, and asset development opportunities that enable a family to thrive, according to Gregan Crawford, GCCAC director of strategic initiatives.

"Nationally, interest in

2-G practices continues to grow as evidenced-based data show that appropriately bundling the services and programming that a family needs increases their chances of achieving their goals," he said.

"The commissioners appreciate the leadership that NACo has demonstrated on the need to confront child and
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Continued from Page A-1 family poverty," said chairman Paul Edwards, Board of Garrett County Commissioners. "This opportunity will strengthen and expand our community and region's capacity to fulfill the needs of our residents."

Also selected to receive assistance were Athens County, Ohio; Bladen County, N.C.; Blair County, Pa.; Coconino County, Ariz.; Curry County, Ore.; Dinwiddie County, Va.; Freeborn County, Minn.; Pottawattamie County, Iowa; Washington County, N.Y.; Washington County, Va.; and Weber County, Utah.

The chosen counties will work with community coaches from the Roadmaps to Health Action Center to provide local leaders support in their work to improve their

communities. The coaches bring expertise from a variety of disciplines – from public health to law to social work to urban planning to community health benefits – in using action center tools and guidance to advance community goals.

"Both HRDC and Community Action have played an instrumental role in improving our respective counties and our region with the programs and services they provide," said chairman Jake Shade, Board of Allegany County Commissioners. "This chance expands their ability to forge new partnerships and implement new ideas and strategies."

Poverty at the community level can impact neighborhoods, community health outcomes, economic development, public safety, and educational attainment; all are factors that can impact a

community's ability to thrive and prosper, according to Crawford.

"Most people in poverty have multiple needs that are interconnected," he said. "The 2-G approach strives to address child and family needs in a comprehensive manner that increases the chances for families to achieve a level of economic security."