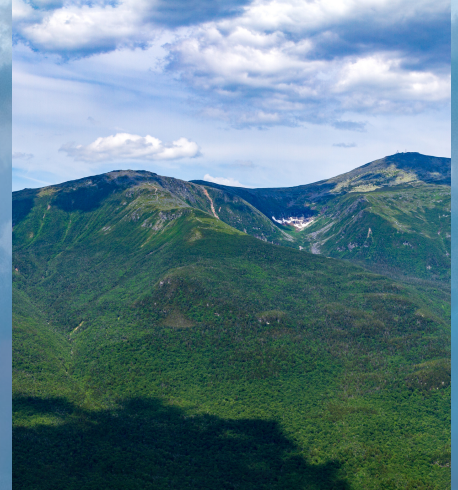
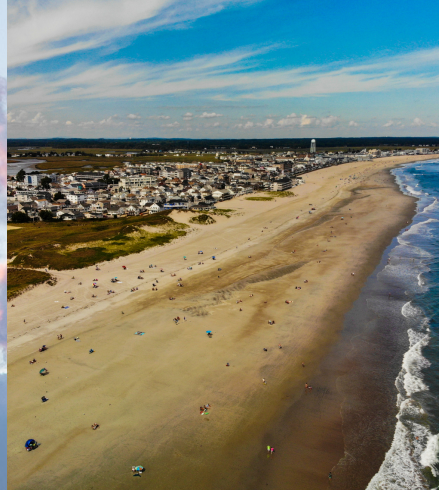


JUNE 2021



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NH Association of Counties' Annual Conference

Both the hotel room block and registration are now open for the premier county government event of the year! Please join the **NH Association of Counties for the 2021 Annual Conference** at **The North Conway Grand Hotel** in **North Conway, NH**, in-person opportunities **Nov. 1 - 3** and **virtual educational sessions Nov. 1 - 5**. The 2021 Annual Conference will feature a variety of expert speakers that will explore topical and practical subjects in plenary and educational sessions throughout the Conference. **Discounted rates are available through Friday, September 10**. Take advantage of these special rates and register today!

Registration rates through September 10:

\$370 for in-person and virtual access
\$75 for virtual-only access
\$250 for in-person guest for social and meal access

Register after September 10:

\$420 for in-person and virtual access
\$100 for virtual-only access
\$250 for in-person guest for social and meal access



Head to nhcounties.org/annual-conference for all information about the Annual Conference, including the schedule, registration portal, hotel room block, and sponsorship opportunities.

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Congratulations to our NH Graduates from the NACo Leadership Academy!

Six New Hampshire county staff members participated in the NACo Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers front-line county government employees with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country, 812 county employees participated.

We'd like to congratulate the following:

- Jennifer Fish, County Administrator, Coos County
- Charles Nickerson, Finance Director, Rockingham County
- Jason Henry, DOC Superintendent, Rockingham County
- Shawn Coughlan, DOC Sergeant, Sullivan County
- Hilary Snide, Director of HR, Sullivan County
- Lionel Chute, Director of Natural Resources, Sullivan County

Congratulations to all of these individuals who completed the program. Learn more about the Academy online. The partnership between NHAC and the NACo Leadership Academy has provided over \$24,000 in scholarships for NH participants.



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Rockingham County Spotlight

- Total population estimation: 309,769 (per 2019 estimate by US Census Bureau; utilizing the same 0.48% annual increase used for 2019, the 2021 estimate is 312,733)
- County employee census: 420 full-time and part-time employees and another 85 per diem/on call/part-time employees
- New projects:
 - Department of Corrections Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program – the RC DOC is one of only two county facilities in the U.S. that are licensed to operate their own program. The program combines use of medication, which can include methadone or Suboxone, with a counseling and re-entry program. The DOC also works to sign inmates up for Medicaid, and gets them on a case management program and weekly therapy. Participants are also connected with a community provider prior to release.
 - Rockingham County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (RC ERAP) – This program went live in May and is providing much needed rental and utility assistance to County tenants. The RC ERAP is independent of the State of New Hampshire's ERA program. <https://rockinghamcountynh.org/rent/>
 - Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) Apprentice Program – Enrollees in the program are trained onsite via a course run by LNA Health Careers. The County pays the full cost of attendance for enrollees in the program, as long as they commit to one year of employment with the County as an LNA after completing the course. <https://rockinghamcountynh.org/lina/>
- 2019 Award recipients:
 - 2019 Rockingham County Employee of the Year: Marilyn Schreiber, MDS Coordinator, Rockingham County Rehab and Nursing Center
 - 2019 Rockingham County Nursing Home Employee of the Year: Bonnie Martin, LPN, Rockingham County Rehab and Nursing Center, 2019 Rockingham County Nursing Home Employee of the Year

The Budget

Every 2 years the State of NH goes through the State Budget process, that sets up the spending levels for the next 2 fiscal years. The Budget is made up of 2 bills: HB 1 and HB 2. HB 1 contains the numbers and budgets for State Government (appropriations) while HB 2 is often referred to as the trailer bill that contains policy language that provides the authorization language and direction on how fund should be spend, if this information is not already in state law. However, sometimes, HB 2 contains policy language which has nothing to do with the budget but is included because HB 2 is a “must pass bill”. The Budget process in 2021 was no different, HB 1 found quick agreement between the House and the Senate and HB 2 was the more contentious bill.

The key component for county government is always around the County Cap language. This sets up the amount of funding that the counties will provide to support Medicaid long term care supports and services in the State (traditionally the counties have supplied 90% of the non-federal share of this funding).



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Budget Cont...

This year the NHAC set an ambitious plan to create positive change and stability for the counties. The Association advocated for and achieved 4 big changes:

- A dramatic reduction in the Governor's proposed 18% increase in the County Cap; taking it down to and agreed upon 2% growth rate.
- The County Cap total funding could not increase more than 2% in any given fiscal year.
- A \$9.7 million additional credit to the counties is included to reimburse county government for the increase FMAP percentage paid by the Federal Government in FY 21.
- Added language to ensure that if the non-federal share of FMAP decreases in the future that benefit is shared with the counties.

There are several other policy matters included in HB 2 that traditionally do not impact county government but were controversial in ensuring the budget passed. This includes but is not limited to: Emergency Powers of the Governor; Tax Cuts for Businesses; Education Freedom Accounts; Paid Family Medical Leave; The Sununu Center and The Laconia State School Property.

The Budget passed the Senate: 14 Y – 10 N and the House 198 Y- 181 N. The Governor has stated that he will sign the budget when it gets to his desk.



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