



# FEDERAL UPDATE

Florida Association of Counties, February 2020

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## FAC's Federal Briefing

The FAC Federal Briefing is an informational newsletter to FAC members keeping you informed of FAC federal action and correspondence, NACo announcements and reports, White House correspondence and Washington, D.C. happenings and topics that may impact local governments.

To download a copy of FAC Federal Action Priorities, please [click here](#).

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## FAC in Action:

### Everglades Funding in President's 2021 Proposed Budget

Senator Rubio, Senator Scott and the Congressional Everglades Caucus as well as Governor Ron DeSantis were influential in securing \$250 million in President Trump's 2021 budget proposal for the Florida Everglades.

FAC recognizes the significance of this commitment and sent letters of appreciation in support of ongoing efforts to ensure much needed funding for the conservation and restoration of the Florida Everglades.



*President Trump touring Lake Okeechobee in April 2019. Pictured with Governor Ron DeSantis, Senators Rick Scott and Marco Rubio, Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman, and Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner.*

To view the letters FAC sent to President Trump, Senator Rubio, and Senator Scott, please [click here](#). Other national leaders from Florida (including Congressman Mast and Senators Scott and Rubio) as well as Governor Ron DeSantis also sent letters urging President Trump to provide funding for the Everglades' conservation and restoration. To view their letters, please [click here](#).

Following the inclusion of Everglades funding in President Trump's proposed budget, FAC also sent a thank you note to the Everglades Caucus for all their work on this effort. [Click here](#) to view the letter.

# Tampa Bay Times

## Trump's proposed budget keeps Everglades restoration moving | Marco Rubio

Half a century ago, there was a failed effort to build the world's largest airport on the edge of Everglades National Park in what is now the Big Cypress National Preserve. To put it in perspective, the planned Big Cypress Jetport would have been five times the size of New York's JFK Airport. [Read more.](#)

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## Florida Events at NACo Legislative Conference

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C.! The [National Association of Counties \(NACo\) Legislative Conference](#) brings together nearly 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents. In preparation for NACo Legislative Conference, [click here](#) to download FAC's Federal Priorities talk sheet.

[Click here](#) to see what events are available specifically for Florida attendees!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2020**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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## USDA Grant Opportunities

### *USDA Seeks Applications for Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald "DJ" LaVoy announced that USDA is currently accepting Fiscal Year 2020 applications for grants to help rural communities expand their capacity to access financial resources for economic development. The grant application process is competitive and maximum grant awards are \$150,000. [Click here](#) for more information.

### *USDA Makes \$7.5 Million in Technical Assistance and Training Grants Available for Disaster Recovery*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald "DJ" LaVoy also announced that USDA is making \$7.5 million in grants available through the Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program to help rural communities continue their recovery from the devastating effects of hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, floods and other natural disasters. For more information, please [click here](#).

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## DHS Grant Opportunities

### *DHS Announces Funding Opportunity for FY 2020 Preparedness Grants*

FAC joined with NACo in support of H.R. 5038 Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019 (Rep. Lofgren, CA-19). The success of Florida's agricultural economy is dependent on a stable workforce, and this important piece of legislation would provide needed resources and improvements to the system to ensure that a reliable farm workforce is available to meet the needs of the industry.

All preparedness Notices of Funding Opportunities can be found [here](#). Final submissions must be made through the Non-Disaster (ND) Grants system located [here](#).

Further information on DHS's preparedness grant programs is available at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) and <http://www.fema.gov/grants>.



## News From NACo:

### NACo Legislative Conference from February 29 - March 4

The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference brings together nearly 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents. Attendees have the opportunity to engage in second-to-none policy sessions, interact with federal officials and participate in congressional briefings and meetings. This is a one-of-a-kind advocacy opportunity you will not want to miss. [Click here](#) to view the featured speakers and sessions.



### **PRESIDENT TRUMP** TO SPEAK AT THE GENERAL SESSION

President Trump will offer remarks on **Tuesday, March 3** at the morning general session. The session will begin at **9:30 AM** with President Trump speaking at approximately 11:00 AM. The event is open to all registered attendees as well as their friends/family (separate [registration](#) required for additional guest).

### County Priorities at Play in 2021 White House Budget

The White House unveiled its \$4.8 trillion Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget proposal on Feb. 10, which includes many provisions that would affect counties, if adopted by Congress.

Each year, the president and his administration are responsible for providing Congress with an outline and request for appropriation for each department and agency in the executive branch. Though the president's budget is not signed into law, it provides insight on the administration's policies and priorities for the next fiscal year and is the opening move in the annual appropriations process.

[Read More](#)

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## Immigration 101: Counties and the Federal Immigration System



Commissioner Bill Truex (Charlotte County), Chair, [NACo Immigration Reform Task Force](#) and NACo legislative staff hosted a webinar on the United States' immigration system.

The immigration system is complex and oftentimes difficult to understand.

Given the central role of county governments in ensuring the health and safety of all members of local communities, it is important for county leaders to understand how this system works at the national and local levels. [Click here](#) to view the recording of the webinar.

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### County Spotlight:

#### *Florida County Nurse Program Streamlines Ambulance Service*

Volusia County, Fla., launched a new program that is saving time, money and county resources by reducing the use of emergency resources for non-emergency 911 calls.

The E-911 Redirect Nurse Triage program started as part of a strategic plan for budget improvements to better utilize facilities and resources in the county with the help of triage nurses working with callers that may have non-urgent medical situations.



Similar to other areas across the country, Volusia County's 911 dispatchers receive non-urgent calls that leave emergency vehicles sidetracked when other callers have life-threatening situations. According to EMS Medical Director Peter Springer, Volusia County EMS receives around 67,600 calls to 911 per year with 50,000 of those callers requiring EMS transport. The difference of roughly 17,600 calls requires units to be dispatched to evaluate a caller's situation but does not result in transportation to the hospital. To read the full article, [click here](#).

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## White House Happenings:

### National Briefing Call on the Coronavirus Task Force

The White House held a conference call to update state and local officials on the coronavirus. FAC staff participated in the call as well.

For key takeaways including background information and the national strategy on handling the outbreak, please [click here](#).

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## Data Point:

### *POLITICO - White House Lays Out Last Budget Before Election*

President Donald Trump's budget request for fiscal 2021 includes a total of \$4.8 trillion in funding. [Click here](#) to download the data point with more information on the breakdown of President Trump's budget.



*If you have any questions about FAC's Federal Program please contact Tiffany Henderson, FAC Sr. Public Policy Coordinator, [thenderson@fl-counties.com](mailto:thenderson@fl-counties.com).*



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