



Matthew D. Chase, CEO/Executive Director National Association of Counties

Matthew D. Chase has served as the CEO/Executive Director of the National Association of Counties (NACo) since September 2012. Founded in 1935, NACo is the only national association representing America's 3,069 county governments. County governments employ more than 3.6 million Americans and manage nearly \$600 billion annually with responsibilities for public and community health, community and economic development, justice and public safety, transportation and infrastructure, and overall public administration and local leadership. County governments are governed by nearly 20,000 county elected board members and executives as well as more than 18,500 independently elected county constitutional officers.

As the chief executive officer of NACo, Matt provides executive leadership and oversight of the association's nearly 100 employees and annual budget of \$25 million. He reports to an executive committee of 8 county elected officials and a board of 125 county elected and appointed officials. He is the past chair of the Big 7 State and Local Government Coalition (known as the Big 7) and serves on the oversight board of the State and Local Legal Center.

During his tenure at NACo, the association has launched several significant initiatives, including the Counties Futures Lab, Stepping Up campaign to address the intersection of mental illness and jails, Data-Driven Justice initiative to address high frequency utilizers of county services and the Harvard-NACo County Executives Forum. He has expanded the association's civic education partnership with iCivics to educate our nation's school children about the importance of county governments. In addition, he guided efforts to develop and launch the County Explorer website with more than 600 county data sets, including the county economies tracker.

Previously, Matt served nearly a decade as executive director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), which represents local government-based regional planning and development organizations. Prior to becoming NADO's executive director, he was the organization's legislative affairs director and deputy executive director. During his time at NADO, he played a leadership role in securing multiple congressional reauthorizations for the U.S. Economic Development Administration, enhancing

the role of rural local officials in statewide transportation planning and decision-making through federal surface transportation policy and coordinating various coalition of rural development stakeholders.

He also authored and co-authored numerous publications, assessment toolkits, federal policy reports and white papers. A sample includes: All Politics is Local: A Guide to Grassroots Action (Original 2001); State Associations of Regional Councils of Government: Insights into Organizational Structures, Governance Models and Strategic Initiatives; Regional Council Self-Assessment Toolkit; Federal-State Regional Commissions: Regional Approaches to Local Economic Development; and Connecting to Today's Rural America. He also wrote in-depth reports of the President's annual budget and federal appropriations bills.

He began his career with the Professional Managers Association (PMA), serving as membership services director and chief operating officer. As the first full-time employee of PMA, he reported to the association's board of career federal GM 13-15 middle level managers as well as the PMA advisory board of former IRS Deputy Commissioners. He led the association's partnerships with the Senior Executives Association, Public Employees Roundtable and the Clinton-Gore Reinventing Government working groups, among other federal executive, management and employee coalitions.

He has served on advisory boards and committees for the Ford Foundation's Wealth Creation in Rural America initiative, Rural Policy Research Institute, University of Vermont's Transportation Research Center and the Purdue Center for Regional Development. He is a member of the CEO Roundtable and the American Society of Association Executives. He also serves on the Advisory Board for the Graduate School of Political Management at The George Washington University.

During his professional career, Matt has focused on promoting America's community and economic competitiveness, strengthening the intergovernmental cooperation of federal, state and local officials, and engaging local government officials in the federal policymaking process. In addition, he is a regular presenter on the impact of federal budget and policy trends on local governments and communities.

He is a graduate of Hartwick College in Otsego County, New York, and holds a master's degree in political management from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Matt was raised in Warren and Washington counties in Upstate New York. During his childhood, Matt was introduced to public service and county government by his stepfather who held two elective offices in Washington County – district attorney and judge. During his college years, Matt worked for the local town highway crew, interned with a New York State Senator and served as a mediator for the New York State Department of Law's consumer fraud and protection bureau.

He resides in Arlington County, Virginia with his wife, Shana, where they are raising their two young sons: Nicholas and William.