

Federal Committee

1. Federal Inmate Exclusion Policy

ACCG requests that the federal government allow federal benefits such as Medicaid, Veterans Affairs, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to remain active for eligible inmates / detainees in local jails pre-adjudication. Federal law prohibits the use of federal funds and services for medical care provided to "inmates of a public institution." The federal law does not differentiate between a convicted inmate and a person incarcerated prior to conviction. The "Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy" should be rescinded for those awaiting trial that have not been convicted. Those accused should not lose their federal health benefits until the adjudication process is complete for those individuals in a pretrial status. This policy creates a financial burden for counties and adds to the behavioral and mental health crises our communities are experiencing.

2. NextGen 911

ACCG urges Congress to pass legislation that includes adequate funding to support the implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911) and ensure a statewide network. As communications technology transitions from analog systems to Internet Protocol (IP) based systems, the means of accessing 911 must also transition. While the technology exists for the 911 centers, many struggle to make the transition from the outdated analog systems, built over 50 years ago, to modern digital IP-based systems. Once fully implemented, NG911 systems will process multi-media data and provide greater security, sustainability, and reliability than the aging analog 911 systems.

3. Housing Affordability and Accessibility

ACCG urges Congress to provide dedicated federal funding to enhance the capacity of counties and local governments in addressing housing issues. This includes updating current regulatory policies to allow flexibility in using funds for needs assessment plans and alternative housing solutions. We advocate for a national housing policy that sets clear annual housing goals, ensures adequate and predictable funding, provides an assessment needs platform, incentivizes energy-efficient buildings, and fosters partnerships with state and local governments, as well as private and nonprofit sectors, to support new construction and rehabilitation for both rental and homeownership properties, particularly for workforce housing. ACCG also supports the HELPER Act, a bipartisan bill proposing a new, one-time use home loan program under the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) for first responders and teachers to purchase their first home. This program would allow the borrower to get a loan without a down payment or having to purchase Private Mortgage Insurance.