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Fairfield County Honored with National Award for Strategic Planning and Fiscal Innovation

LANCASTER, OH- Fairfield County has earned two 2026 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), recognizing the county's commitment to innovation, operational excellence, and effective public service. Specifically, the County was honored for the Fairfield County Strategic Plan 2025-2028 and the Fairfield County Internal Stop Loss Pool Program.

With these two awards, Fairfield County has earned a total of 21 NACo Achievement Awards in the last 10 years, a notable accomplishment for a county of its size. NACo recognizes programs from across the nation that demonstrate measurable results, creative solutions, and meaningful improvements for residents. Fairfield County's continued success reflects its ability to develop and implement effective government strategies that enhance operations, maximize resources, and deliver value to the community.

The Fairfield County Strategic Plan 2025-2028 was created to establish a shared vision for county government, align organizational priorities, and guide future decision-making. Developed through collaboration among county leadership, elected officials, department directors, stakeholders, and strategic planning partner Krile Communications, the plan identifies key goals and actionable initiatives that promote accountability, transparency, and improved service delivery. The comprehensive planning process provides a framework for measuring progress, strengthening organizational performance, and supporting long-term success across county operations.

The Fairfield County Internal Stop Loss Pool Program addresses rising healthcare costs through an innovative approach to managing high-cost claims while maintaining quality employee benefits. Together, these initiatives demonstrate Fairfield County's commitment to strategic planning, responsible resource management, and solutions that can serve as models for other counties.

"Receiving national recognition from NACo is a testament to the dedication, innovation, and commitment of our employees, elected officials, and community partners" said Fairfield County Commissioner Jeff Fix. "Earning more than 20 NACo Achievement Awards since 2017 reflects Fairfield County's ability to successfully develop, implement, and document impactful government initiatives. This accomplishment represents more than individual projects, it reflects a culture of continuous improvement, collaboration, responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources, and a commitment to providing exceptional services to the residents of Fairfield County."

Each year, NACo's Achievement Awards recognize outstanding county programs across 18 categories aligned with the broad range of services counties provide. Categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, libraries, management, information technology, health, civic engagement, and more. Established in 1970, the program celebrates innovation in county government, with each nominated program evaluated on its own merits.

The National Association of Counties represents nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees across the United States. NACo advances excellence in county government through advocacy, education, and leadership development.

Founded in 1800 (three years before Ohio became a State), Fairfield County was the 8th county formed in the Northwest Territory. Today, more than 900 employees serve, connect, and protect the more than 158,000 citizens of Fairfield County, providing high-quality services and outstanding customer service at exceptional value to taxpayers. Fairfield County fosters economic and fiscal sustainability and works to enhance the County's reputation as a high performing, learning, and caring organization. For more information about the county, its services and employment opportunities, please visit https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/

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