County Receives National Recognition

Harry L. Berry

We are proud to be one of three counties in Kentucky to receive national recognition by the National Association of Counties (NACo). We received awards in four categories: (1) County Administration, (2) Emergency Management and Response, (3) Health, and (4) Information Technology.

County Administration

Our County developed and implemented a program to reduce employee accidents thereby reducing insurance premiums. The program began in 2010 with the program design. We hired a Safety Coordinator in 2013, who implemented a comprehensive safety program including a working safety committee. We reduced workplace accidents; and the savings incurred are greater than the cost of developing and implementing the program.

Emergency Management and Response

Working with agencies through a mass notification system, utilizing cell, e-mail, fax, and landlines makes for a quicker response and real-time situational awareness. Our citizen/employee/inter-agency alert system currently supplements our outdoor emergency warning sirens. It gives us the capability of notifying citizens by geographical area. For example, we can notify the entire county, a particular area in the county, a specific zip code, and even down to one street with the geo-coded data imbedded into the system.

Information Technology

Hardin County is pioneering the way for other Kentucky counties to use cloud based technology. Our GIS Coordinator implemented a software program to offer our residents GIS information maintained by the county. With this service on our website, residents can access useful information about property throughout the county. It displays municipality lines, streams, flood zones, sink holes, fire, police, school locations, railroads, fire hydrants, and churches

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is an organization representing 3,068 county governments throughout the United States. Founded in 1935, and headquartered in Washington DC, NACo assists America's counties pursuing excellence in public service. The organization promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, while promoting intergovernmental and public-private collaboration.

Their annual Achievement Award Program recognizes innovative county government programs in 21 different categories.

Health

Through the use of a team approach involving planning, guideline development, training, equipment acquisition, and operational changes a county ambulance is now able to provide specialized treatment and transportation for the extremely obese (bariatric) patient in a safe and cost efficient manner.