

From: Carleigh Haris <CHaris@naco.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 6:58 AM
To: Jessica Pyska <Jessica.Pyska@lakecountyca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Action Required: NACo Rural Energy Academy Peer Exchange

Hello Supervisor Pyska,

We are pleased to share an update regarding the upcoming Rural Energy Academy Peer Exchange. One of the originally selected counties is no longer able to attend, and your application representing Lake County was among those that were very close to being selected in the initial round. Given your strong application, **we would like to extend and confirm an invitation for you to join us.**

Again, this peer exchange is a one-and-a-half-day event, hosted in Grundy County, Illinois. The peer exchange is designed to foster peer and expert learning among county officials pursuing solutions to address their communities' energy needs, interests and natural resources. The event will include peer discussions, mobile tours and classroom learning against the backdrop of local innovation. Targeted discussions will focus on key topics including energy-related economic development, community engagement, safety and resiliency of energy generation and storage.

REGISTRATION

Please confirm your attendance for the Peer Exchange by registering using this [link](#) no later than **Friday, June 5, 2026.**

Please consider the dates, times and locations below when planning your travel:

Start time	Monday, June 29	The welcome dinner will begin at 7:00 PM CDT
End time	Wednesday, July 1	The closing session will end at 2:00 PM CDT.

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

NACo is offering a travel allowance to all attendees in the amount of \$700.00 to cover costs related to air travel, ground transportation, meals and other expenses. Attendees should make their own travel arrangements to attend the event. Lodging will be booked for you and paid directly to the hotel for your stay. Allowances will be paid via ACH and only be provided to those who attend the full event unless otherwise agreed upon with NACo staff. ACH details will be requested in a follow-up email. Each attendee is responsible for determining whether they may attend, whether they may accept any offered allowance under the gifts and ethics rules applicable to them, for securing any required pre-approvals and for filing any post-travel disclosures.

AIR TRAVEL

To make the most of your travel allowance, please book your own air travel as soon as possible. Note the following stipulations in place specific to this event:

If you are flying, when booking your flight, please note that [Chicago Midway International Airport \(MDW\)](#) is the closest airport to the hotel, approximately 1 hour away. [Chicago O'Hare International Airport \(ORD\)](#) is slightly farther, 1 hour and 15 minutes away. NACo will organize a single shuttle bus that will pick up participants from both airports on Monday, June 29 and drop participants off at airports on July 1.

Arrival flights: Arrival flights should land at least one hour before your airport's shuttle departure time: 3:00 p.m. CDT from Chicago O'Hare and 4:45 p.m. CDT from Chicago Midway.

Departure flights: Departure flights should account for the shuttle bus arriving at Chicago Midway at 3:45 p.m. CDT and at Chicago O'Hare at 5:00 p.m. CDT

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

NACo will provide shuttles between airports (ORD and MDW) and Joliet on Monday, June 29 (to Joliet) and Wednesday, July 1 (return to MDW and ORD). If you choose to drive to the peer exchange, please confirm with NACo that the cost of driving is less than airfare. With advance authorization, NACo will reimburse mileage at the IRS approved rate for the distance from your start point to the hotel and return. During the Peer Exchange, NACo will provide ground transportation to and from programming. For potential parking constraints and programming purposes, NACo strongly encourages all participants to travel in the bus during programmatic hours.

LODGING

Holiday Inn & Suites Joliet Southwest by IHG. NACo will book your hotel room for you and pay the hotel directly for up to two nights with check-in on Monday, June 29, and check-out on Wednesday, July 1.

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Shuttles will also be provided throughout the Peer Exchange for site visits, sessions and group activities. Daily transportation schedules are shared in the agenda.

Monday (Directions for participants not taking the bus)

- Keg Grove Brewing Company – 222 Wauponsee Street, Morris, IL 60450

Tuesday (Directions for participants not taking the bus)

- Grundy County Emergency Operations Center – 1320 Union Street, Morris, IL 60450
- Morris City Hall – 700 North Division Street, Morris, IL 60450
- Morris Country Club – 2615 US Route 6 East, Morris, IL 60450

Wednesday

- Dresden Generating Station
 - *All participants must be on the shuttle bus for the Dresden Generating Station tour*

MEALS

NACo will be providing the following meals throughout the meeting:

- June 29 Dinner: Opening reception begins at 7:00 p.m. CT the [Keg Grove Brewing Company](#). Dinner will be catered from [Strum's BBQ](#)
- June 30 Breakfast: Breakfast will be catered to the Grundy County Emergency Operations Center.

- June 30 Dinner: Dinner will be at the [Morris Country Club](#).
- July 1 Breakfast: Breakfast will be catered to the Morris City Hall.
- July 1 Lunch: Lunch will be provided by Constellation Energy at Dresden Generating Station.

Wednesday — Airport Departures

A return shuttle will be provided to Chicago on Wednesday after the closing session. Participants will gather luggage and load the shuttle beginning at 2:00 p.m. The shuttle will depart promptly at 2:45 p.m. for the 1 hour 15-minute trip, arriving at approximately 3:45 p.m. to MDW. The shuttle will arrive at ORD by 5:00 p.m.

NACo will send additional details to participants with information on reimbursements, meals and per diem requirements, and details about the event via email one week before the convening.

Thank you,
Carleigh

Carleigh Haris

Program Associate, Environment and Land Use
National Association of Counties ([NACo](#))

