

# News

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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Contact: Phil Frame  
Office of Public Affairs  
586-469-7239  
[phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov](mailto:phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov)

## **Macomb County's employees honored at NACo Awards breakfast**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Macomb County honored its employees and departments today for winning 13 National Association of Counties (NACo) awards, more than any other county in Michigan for the 25th consecutive year.

The staff members responsible for creating the award-winning programs were honored during a special breakfast in Clinton Township. Detroit Free Press columnist Rochelle Riley was the event's emcee.

Only six of the more than 3,000 counties in the U.S. won more than 13 awards this year. Over a 25-year period, Macomb County has won 526 NACo awards.

Four of Macomb County's awards were for human services, including a program that focuses on children and youth. Those awards include:

- "Youth Mentoring Initiative," awarded to Macomb County Community Services Agency's Head Start program for a project to assist "at risk" youth and provide them opportunities for self-improvement and community involvement by providing them skills, knowledge and confidence to improve in all areas of their lives
- "Expansion of a Free Tax Preparation Program," awarded to Macomb County Community Services Agency for a program offering free electronic tax filing in order to ensure quicker refunds

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- “Shared Parenting,” awarded to Macomb County Mental Health Department for a program that allows caregivers to take a break from constantly providing for adults with developmental disabilities. Shared Parenting offers temporary care in the home of a trusted adult who is part of the family’s self-selected network
- “Office of Recipient Rights-Office of Corporate Compliance,” awarded to Macomb County Community Mental Health Department for a program that insures federal, state and local funds are being spent appropriately. The program assures that the county’s most vulnerable residents are not exploited by unscrupulous contractors

Macomb County also won an award for a program that leveraged county government assets and the generosity of residents to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. The award for “Banding Together for Katrina Relief” went to the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and Office of Public Affairs, which received major assistance from the departments of Planning & Economic Development, Information Technology, Emergency Management and Community Services.

The county channeled \$250,000 to the American Red Cross and Salvation Army to help Gulf Coast residents by providing an easy way for Macomb County employees, residents and businesses to contribute to the relief effort.

Other programs to receive awards include:

- “County Develops New Funding Source Through Public Outreach,” awarded to the Planning & Economic Development Department to engage local media to solicit donations of funds from private citizens as a means to develop existing county parkland with planned infrastructure for public use

- “Intergovernmental Cooperation Expedites Farmland Preservation,” awarded to the Planning & Economic Development Department and Michigan State University Extension-Macomb for a collaboration involving the county and five northern townships to purchase future development rights from farmers and assure farmland preservation
- “Economic Development Enhanced by Effective Networking,” awarded to the Planning & Economic Development Department for creating a network of service providers that can be tapped to provide needed assistance to developing businesses. Macomb County’s strategy is to bring the essential parties together, face-to-face, to create one the most efficient and comprehensive means for addressing those needs
- “Juvenile Employment Education Program,” awarded to the Juvenile Court for its efforts to provide vocational training, career guidance and community service opportunities to youths detained in the Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center. The program helps prepare at-risk population for future employment by providing them with skills, credentials and attributes that lead to becoming a successful functioning member of society
- “E-mail Subscription Service,” awarded to the Information Technology Department for a free e-mail service that notifies subscribers of updates made to county Web pages containing information such as job postings, news releases, court cases and programs. The notices, available on more than 230 Web pages, are sent within an hour of the change being posted
- “Countywide Library Materials Delivered to Jurors Via Internet,” awarded to the Clerk/Register of Deeds for an initiative that provides jurors with access to library materials. Jurors order online and materials are delivered to the jury room

- “Meeting the Need for Medicare 2006,” awarded to the Senior Citizen Services Department for a program that enrolled more than 113,000 seniors in the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. The department also sponsored seminars, lectures, presentations, articles and communications, telephone and personal visits to educate Senior Citizens about Medicare
- “Onsite Sewage Disposal and Water Supply Maintenance,” awarded to the Health Department for enacting a regulation requiring inspection of septic and on-site water supply systems when property is sold. The program corrects failing septic systems and substandard water supplies while encouraging maintenance.

### **About Macomb County**

Macomb County is an enriching community in Southeastern Michigan that has one of the state’s fastest rates of growth. Its 834,000 residents make it Michigan’s third-largest county, with direct access to Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, and a host of cultural and entertainment options. Its highly skilled workforce and investment in new and expanding businesses make it open to enterprise. Active civic leadership translates into balanced budgets and Michigan’s second-lowest tax rate. An increasingly diverse population and high quality of life make Macomb County accessible to all.

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