

NEWS RELEASE

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NACo Financial Services Center launches new partnership to help counties manage investment needs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) announced that the NACo Financial Services Center (FSC) is launching a new, exclusive partnership with Multi-Bank Securities, Inc. (MBS) to help its members manage their fixed-income investment needs through a robust online platform, eConnectDirect[®].

Designed by MBS, eConnectDirect® is an online investment marketplace to help institutional clients search, compare, transact and manage their fixed-income portfolios. It delivers information that allows them to perform transactions across thousands of fixed-income assets.

"Counties strive to find the most effective ways to manage their investments while ensuring transparency, enhanced controls and better pricing," said NACo Executive Director Matthew D. Chase. "We are proud to endorse this solution for counties across the country. This new partnership and innovative online platform will provide tangible support to counties, county treasurers and other local government entities."

Among the many features of eConnectDirect®, clients receive the tools to purchase and monitor insurance coverage of federally insured CDs, access to new issue and secondary agency bonds, treasuries, corporates and municipal securities. eConnectDirect® provides transparency to the marketplace by compiling bond offerings from hundreds of broker-dealers as well as access statements and balances online and the ability to target new investment opportunities.

"eConnectDirect® is particularly well-suited to help counties remain responsive to investment-related regulation and the transparency requirements our members face," said Chase. "We are confident that this partnership will offer exceptional results and help counties be better stewards of taxpayer resources."

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The <u>National Association of Counties</u> (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo assists America's 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. More information at: www.naco.org.

