



NEWS RELEASE

Economic Development Department

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CONTACT:

Soua Vang
Interim Director
(909) 387-4700

info@selectsbcounty.com

Economic Development Earns Three National Awards



San Bernardino County, Calif.- The National Association of Counties (NACo) has granted three 2021 Achievement Awards to the San Bernardino County Economic Development Department in the category of Community and Economic Development for its programs:

- San Bernardino County Opportunity Zone Program
- COVID-19 Compliant Business Partnership Program
- San Bernardino County Film Office (FilmSBC)

According to NACo, the awards honor innovative, effective County government programs that strengthen services for residents.

"We have worked hard to determine what is the greatest need within the county. During the COVID-19 pandemic it was clear that we needed to do more for our local businesses to help them to deal with the restrictions and closures. All told, we awarded \$30 million to more than 6,100 businesses across the county as part of our COVID-19 Compliant Business Partnership Program. This outreach along with our work to promote Opportunity Zones and the Film Office, underscores how critical it is to listen to business and respond with programs that really make a difference," said San Bernardino County Interim Economic Development Director, Soua Vang.

NACo President Gary Moore said, "Over the past year, county officials and frontline employees have demonstrated bold, inspirational leadership. This year's Achievement Award winning programs illustrate the innovative ways counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America."

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and more.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

About San Bernardino County: Located at the heart of Southern California, an economy of 23 million people, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the United States. Its vast borders stretch from the greater Los Angeles area to the Nevada border and the Colorado River encompassing a total area of 20,160 square miles. Comprised of 24 cities, San Bernardino County encompasses more than two million residents with a workforce of nearly 900,000. Its assets include an innovation corridor of close to two dozen colleges and universities

supporting a strong, diverse workforce along with an unparalleled collection of roadways, runways and railways that lead to regional, national and international business centers. Visit www.SelectSBCounty.com.

About NACo: The National Association of Counties (NACo) strengthens America's counties, including nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate for county government priorities in federal policymaking; promote exemplary county policies and practices; nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks; optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings; and enrich the public's understanding of county government.

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