



MEDIA RELEASE

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JCOD's Justice Connect Support Center, Incubation Academy, D.O.O.R.S and LACTC Earn National Achievement Awards

LOS ANGELES – The Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) was recently recognized with four 2024 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for [JCOD's Justice Connect Support Center, Incubation Academy, Developing Opportunities and Offering Reentry Solutions \(D.O.O.R.S\)](#) and [Los Angeles County Training Center \(LACTC\)](#). The awards honor innovative, effective County government programs that strengthen services for residents.

The JCOD Justice Connect Support Center launched in October 2023, offers a comprehensive range of services including transportation, court reminders and care management for justice-involved individuals and their families in Los Angeles County. Since its launch more than 2,700 calls have been received from those in need.

The JCOD Incubation Academy launched in 2021, is dedicated to supporting grassroots, non-profit organizations that serve justice-involved individuals by providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to secure government contracts and funding. Since its inception in 2021, 115 organizations have successfully completed the program and won more than \$28 million in JCOD Care First Community Investment Care Grants.

The JCOD D.O.O.R.S program addresses critical barriers to reentry including housing, employment, legal aid and mental health support. Its inclusive and innovative approach offers a holistic array of services in a welcoming environment which assists clients in successfully returning to their communities and helps reduce recidivism. Since its inception, this program has helped thousands of returning residents successfully integrate back into community.

JCOD LACTC (also known as JCOD's Fire Camp) is a new innovative program that prioritizes transition-aged youth with prior justice and/or foster system involvement, and returning veterans, equipping them with life skills, on-the-job training, certifications, and mentorship to prepare for careers in fire service. The inaugural cohort of 21 students began in February 2024.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive four national achievement awards from NACo and is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team," said JCOD Director Judge Songhai Armstead (Ret.). "This recognition highlights our commitment to innovation and strong partnerships within government and more importantly, within our community. JCOD remains committed to providing whole-person support to justice-involved individuals with the help of our many faith and community based contracted providers to continue to strengthen our communities."

Each year, NACo's Achievement Awards recognize outstanding programming in 18 categories aligned with the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, libraries, management, information technology, health, civic engagement and more. Launched in 1970, the program is designed to celebrate innovation in county government. Each nominated program is judged on its own merits and not against other applications.

"The Achievement Awards recognize excellence in county government and effective public service," said NACo President Mary Jo McGuire. "This year's winners have delivered results for our residents and demonstrated innovative efforts to strengthen our communities."

For more information about JCOD and all of its programs, visit jcod.lacounty.gov.
For more information about NACo's Achievement Awards, click [here](#).

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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. www.naco.org

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