



## York County Wins National Association of Counties Achievement Awards

May 26, 2017

York County is the winner of three National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards. The winning programs are: Home-Based Business Assistance Program, Automatic External Defibrillators Plus Outreach Initiative, and Mosquitoes Get In But They Can't Get Out. A brief synopsis of our award-winning programs appears below.

The Achievement Awards program is a non-competitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs. A complete list of winners across the United States is available on NACo's website: [www.naco.org/programs/achievement-awards](http://www.naco.org/programs/achievement-awards).

**Home-Based Business Assistance Program:** The program is a comprehensive economic development initiative developed in 2015 to help the home-based portion of our business community grow and thrive. The program includes a Transition Grant, a Home-Based Business Resource Fair & Conference, and the Home-Based Business Lunch & Learn Series, all of which provide resources, support and opportunities for our local home-based business owners. Most experts agree that home-based businesses are the way of the future for much of the American and world-wide workforce. Technology, cost of doing business, changes in family structures and needs, and changes in the work-life balance desires of today's workers are fueling this trend. As this lifestyle becomes more mainstream, new programs will emerge to meet the needs of this sector. York County is proud to be at the forefront of this growing trend!

"Our home-based business owners have expressed their appreciation of the outreach program and provided us with helpful suggestions for improving the service," said Melissa Davidson, Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development. "We hope to continue expanding this program well into the future."

Point of Contact: Melissa Davidson, Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development. (757) 890-3317.

**Automatic External Defibrillators Plus Outreach Initiative:** In 2016, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety decided to take advantage of Emergency Medical Services Week and promote workplace training about sudden cardiac arrest and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) by other fellow County employees. York County has AEDs installed in public buildings and staff housed in those buildings may be on the front line if a citizen or coworker experiences a cardiac arrest. The use of an AED can mean the difference between life and death. The county offers employees training classes on first aid/CPR quarterly; however, since an emergency occurrence in the workplace can cause stress on those that may be close by and could act, there was a desire to help County employees become more familiar with the AED and gain more confidence in the use of the equipment. In order to meet this need, York County Fire and Life Safety developed a county-wide initiative geared towards providing extra AED familiarization to county employees. The AED Plus Outreach Initiative allows our Fire and Life Safety responders the

chance to visit locations where AEDs have been placed and evaluate whether the employees are comfortable and mentally prepared to perform defibrillation to cardiac arrest victims. The program engages staff in each of the locations where the thirty-three AEDs have been placed, which includes public facilities, select vehicles, seventeen county buildings, and parks.

“The Department of Fire and Life Safety is always working toward educating the public and our coworkers on what to do in an emergency. This is but another excellent program developed by our staff to improve health and safety in our community and our workplace,” said Fire Chief Stephen P. Kopczynski.

Point of Contact: Stephen P. Kopczynski, Fire Chief and Director of Fire and Life Safety, (757) 890-3600.

### **Mosquitoes Get In But They Can’t Get Out:**

York County’s vacuum sewer system pits are a breeding ground for mosquitoes. How was that determined? York County Mosquito Control staff conducted a two-year study that showed a high number of mosquitoes breeding within these vacuum pits. These pits had not previously been treated for mosquitoes in York County or our neighboring localities. To effectively treat the approximate 1,600 vacuum pits in York County, staff used single-treatment larvicide that provides season-long control (up to 25 weeks). Forty vacuum pits in the Dare area of the county were selected for observation. Twenty pits were treated with one larvicide tablet each, while the other 20 were left untreated. Throughout the project, the treated pits had significantly fewer larvae than the untreated pits. The study led to implementation of a larvicide program for the vacuum pits in York County, helping to reduce the number of mosquitoes by eliminating these breeding sites.

“We are very happy to be the recipient of this award,” said Elizabeth Hodson, Operations Superintendent, York County Mosquito Control. “It is our hope that the sharing of this program will result in more jurisdictions treating vacuum pits with larvicide to eliminate breeding sites. Remember, mosquitoes don’t recognize city or county boundary lines.”

Point of Contact: Elizabeth Hodson, Operations Superintendent, Department of Public Works’ Mosquito Control. (757) 890-3790.

**Photos attached:** Home-Based Business Assistance Flyer; York County firefighters show County Administrator Neil Morgan how to use an AED; A vacuum pit full of water at a close proximity to a home.

