



SONJA DOSTI | COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

PHONE: 559 | 600-1224
EMAIL: sdosti@fresnocountyca.gov

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FRESNO COUNTY EARNS NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR THE KITCHEN RENOVATION AT POVERELLO HOUSE

FRESNO, CA – The County of Fresno has been recognized with a 2024 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the Kitchen Renovation at Poverello House. The award honors innovative and effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

In 2023, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a \$2.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to assist Poverello House in renovating and building a new kitchen to feed meals to those experiencing homelessness and anyone encountering food insecurity. This is the first no-cost restaurant for anyone in need in the State of California.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated food insecurity in Fresno County, requiring Poverello House to increase its daily meal output by approximately 200-300 daily meals to continue helping individuals impacted by food insecurity, homelessness, or rising food prices. The kitchen facility was 30 years old and in desperate need of a renovation to continue providing over 1,000,000 meals annually.

County Administrative Officer Paul Nerland stated, "This award from NACo rewards the vision of the Board of Supervisors to mitigate food insecurity, recognizes the hard work from those in the CAO office to expedite this ARPA allocation, and acknowledges the Special Accounting Team in the Auditor-Controller's department for ensuring compliance with Treasury requirements."

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 the Poverello House Kitchen Renovation, click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhGIt_RdLtw

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