



# ISACo ANNUAL REPORT



# 2025

Overview of ISACo Activities - 2025

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217-679-3368

December, 2025

# 2025 Annual Report: Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future



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ISACo's bylaws call for the preparation of an annual report—an important opportunity to document the Association's work, progress, and direction. This report highlights key accomplishments from the past year, summarizes ISACo's programs and events, and provides an overview of the Association's financial position and organizational growth.

More than a year-end summary, the annual report reflects the collective efforts of ISACo's leadership, staff, and member counties. The achievements described within these pages are the result of collaboration, shared priorities, and a commitment to strengthening county government across Illinois.

ISACo extends sincere appreciation to its member counties for their continued engagement and support. Together, we remain focused on advancing policies, resources, and partnerships that enhance the ability of counties to serve residents and contribute meaningfully to Illinois' future.

## 2025 Highlights: Momentum and Measured Growth

In 2025, ISACo completed its seventh full year as an organization, continuing a steady trajectory of growth and increased statewide influence.

The Association welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors during the year. Dr. Kisha McCaskill, Cook County Commissioner, and Danny Phelan, Peoria County Board Member, were appointed to fill existing vacancies. Their professional backgrounds and regional perspectives strengthen ISACo's leadership and enhance the Association's ability to represent counties of all sizes and geographic areas.

At the close of the year, ISACo's membership included 31 counties, reflecting sustained expansion and growing recognition of the Association's value.

ISACo also closed 2025 in a strong financial position, providing a solid foundation to support ongoing operations, strategic initiatives, and future growth.

As in prior years, ISACo published a comprehensive report summarizing newly enacted Public Acts that affect or are of interest to counties. For the seventh consecutive year, the Association also released a dedicated report identifying new laws that impose unfunded mandates on county governments. Both resources are available on ISACo's website.

In preparation for the 2026 legislative session, ISACo's Legislative Committee met to develop the Association's 2026 legislative agenda and review potential updates to the *County Platform*.

At the federal level, ISACo continued to prioritize its partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo). Through this collaboration, Illinois county officials and staff serve on numerous NACo boards, committees, and caucuses—ensuring Illinois perspectives are represented in federal policy discussions.

Eight Illinois county officials and staff members currently serve on NACo's Board of Directors, with dozens more actively participating in NACo committees. A complete list of Illinois representatives is available on ISACo's website.

## Meetings and Events: Engagement Across the State and Beyond

ISACo conducted four meetings of the Board of Directors in 2025, all held remotely. Policy committees also met regularly throughout the year, contributing directly to the development of the Association's 2026 legislative agenda.

In November, ISACo's Legislative Committee convened to formally recommend agenda items to the Board of Directors. Board-approved proposals will be pursued during the 2026 General Assembly session.

On March 19, 2025, ISACo partnered with the United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) to host the second Illinois County Lobby Day in Springfield. The day began with a legislative briefing at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, featuring remarks from House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, and Senate Republican Leader John Curran.

County officials then met with legislators at the Statehouse to advocate for shared priorities, followed by an evening networking reception that encouraged collaboration among officials from across Illinois.

ISACo and UCCI also co-hosted two additional events during the year. The Associations jointly sponsored a dinner during the March NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., and another dinner during the July NACo Annual Conference in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Both events were well attended by Illinois county officials and staff. ISACo is grateful to our corporate partner, Nationwide, for sponsoring the July dinner.

ISACo looks forward to continuing its productive partnership with UCCI in 2026.

During the March NACo Legislative Conference, ISACo facilitated a meeting between Illinois county officials and U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth. The discussion provided an opportunity to address both statewide and county-specific concerns, including preservation of the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds and opposition to Medicaid funding reductions. ISACo thanks the Senators for their time and engagement with the Illinois delegation.

ISACo concluded the year by hosting its Annual Luncheon on December 12, 2025, at the Union League Club of Chicago in Cook County. The Association appreciates former Kendall County Board Chair Scott Gryder for assisting with arrangements that allowed county officials and staff to connect and strengthen professional relationships.

## Communications and Resources: Informing and Engaging Members

Throughout 2025, ISACo continued to expand its communications efforts to keep counties informed, connected, and engaged.

- **Publications:** ISACo released 44 editions of the *News and Views* e-newsletter and four issues of *County Quarterly*.
- **Audio and Video Content:** The *Counties Count! Podcast* produced 19 new episodes in 2025, with listenership continuing to grow. ISACo also developed explanatory videos focused on key public policy topics.
- **Digital Engagement:** ISACo maintained an active presence on Facebook and X, sharing timely updates and engaging directly with members and stakeholders.

## Partnerships: Supporting Counties Through Collaboration

In 2025, ISACo welcomed four new corporate partners—Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Kings Financial Consulting, National Fitness Campaign, and Savi.

By year's end, the Association's partner network included 16 organizations whose support and expertise enhance ISACo's ability to serve its members.

These partnerships play a vital role in helping ISACo innovate, expand programming, and deliver value to counties across Illinois. The Association looks forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.