



## COUNTY OF MERRIMACK

333 DANIEL WEBSTER HIGHWAY, SUITE 2 BOSCAWEN,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE 03303-2415  
(603) 796-6800 FAX: (603) 796-6840  
[www.merrimackcounty.net](http://www.merrimackcounty.net)

---

### PRESS RELEASE

June 30, 2023

Contact: Jessica L. Riendeau, Community Relations Coordinator, [jriendeau@merrimackcounty.net](mailto:jriendeau@merrimackcounty.net)

### **Merrimack County Human Services celebrates one year anniversary of County Navigator Program with special recognition from the National Association of Counties**



**Boscawen, NH** – Merrimack County Human Services Navigator Program has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

June marks the one year anniversary of the creation of the Merrimack County Navigator Program, a pivot made by the Human Services department in 2022. The transition to the Navigator Program, marked by the closing of the Visitation Center, placed a greater focus on an increased and improved response to the social needs of a greater population, including the need to address factors such as housing, transportation, employment, child care, mental health, and substance misuse.

“The Achievement Awards demonstrate excellence in county government and the commitment to serve our residents every day,” said NACo President Denise Winfrey. “This year’s winners represent some of the most innovative and collaborative efforts we have seen in over 50 years of presenting these awards.”

The County Navigators work to empower clients and help them identify and organize the support network available to them throughout the community. To date, Merrimack County Navigator Program has assisted 328 clients since its inception, a number that truly speaks to the needs of Merrimack

County residents. Human Services Director, Kara Wyman, reflecting on the past year, said, “Thanks to the support of the Board of Commissioners, the team has been able to collaborate with service entities across Merrimack County (and beyond) in order to be able to provide their client base with necessary resources and guidance. We understand that everyone needs help from time to time and our team of Navigators have been and will continue to be prepared to help in a variety of ways.”

This 2023 NACo Achievement Award adds to several past awards issued to Merrimack County. In 2017 Merrimack County was recognized for its “Successful Offender Adjustment and Reentry (SOAR)” Program. “Getting Creative with Career Ladders: Staying Ahead of the Nursing Shortage” was recognized in 2014 and in 2013 two programs received achievements awards, “Working Collaboratively to Address the Needs of Offenders with Mental Illness” and “Diagnosing and Treating Addiction DATA”.

For more information on NACo Achievement Awards, visit <https://www.naco.org/topics/awards-programs>. To learn more about the Merrimack County Navigator Program, visit [https://www.merrimackcounty.net/departments/human\\_services/county\\_navigation/index.php](https://www.merrimackcounty.net/departments/human_services/county_navigation/index.php).