

Metro Area County Commissioners (MACC) Meeting Summary

Date/Time: January 16, 2026

Format: Hybrid (in-person and online)

1) Website preview and communications

- The group previewed a new MACC public website (a first for the organization) designed to provide a central, transparent home for:
 - Member jurisdictions and participants
 - Foundational documents (e.g., charter/bylaws, strategic materials, legislative summaries)
 - Priorities and updates
 - Meeting information (upcoming meetings, agendas, and posted meeting summaries)
- The site is a standalone WordPress website intended to be transferable between annual chairs and supported with help from DRCOG staff as needed.
- Request to members: Each county/city was asked to add a link to the MACC website from their own website(s) to improve public discoverability via search engines.

2) 2026 MACC priorities: updates and discussion

The group revisited the three adopted 2026 priorities:

1. Regional emergency preparedness
2. Construction defects
3. Cold weather coordination

Cold weather coordination

- Members shared how their jurisdictions activate severe weather response (e.g., shelter operations, hotel vouchers, navigation resources) and emphasized that community needs cross county lines.
- A key theme was improving shared awareness of each county's activation triggers, protocols, and points of contact.
- Potential next step discussed: bring together emergency management leaders to strengthen regional coordination and communications.

Regional emergency preparedness

- Members reaffirmed this as a critical priority, with discussion focused on wildfire risk, large-scale weather events, and the need for rapid regional coordination.

- The group emphasized building strong, cross-jurisdiction communication channels and coordinated strategies—especially when state/federal policies, resources, or response procedures are changing quickly.

Construction defects / housing

- Members discussed housing challenges more broadly, noting that housing affordability is influenced by multiple factors beyond construction defects (e.g., workforce capacity, insurance, supply chain and pricing volatility, permitting timelines, and infrastructure/inspection processes).
- Some members suggested the group may want to consider broadening or refining this priority to reflect the wider housing affordability and housing delivery challenges.

3) State and federal impacts to counties

- DRCOG’s legislative affairs team shared a summary matrix of recent state laws taking effect in 2026, compiled from statewide legislative tracking resources.
- The group flagged continued interest in monitoring state/federal issues that intersect with MACC priorities, including items related to housing and human services.
- [2026 Legislative Preview](#)

4) USDA/SNAP recertification request affecting several MACC counties

- Members discussed a federal request related to SNAP recertification that affected multiple metro counties and acknowledged significant operational and legal constraints for meeting the requested timeline.
- The group discussed the importance of:
 - Maintaining continuity of services for eligible residents
 - Clear communication to the public about how counties administer benefits and prevent improper payments
 - Coordinating messaging and strategy across counties, while ensuring alignment with legal guidance and ongoing litigation processes
- Several members emphasized that the region would benefit from a more formal process for rapid inter-county coordination on urgent human services matters.

5) Next steps and meeting scheduling

- Members agreed that ongoing legislative and human services developments make continued coordination important.
 - The group discussed adjusting the February meeting date due to scheduling conflicts and travel, and also proposed creating a limited-purpose communications thread to support timely coordination between meetings.
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Action items (for follow-up)

- **Website:** Members work with their communications teams to link to the MACC website from county/city sites.
- **Cold weather coordination:** Collect and consolidate each county's activation triggers, protocols, and contact points for potential posting on the MACC website.
- **Emergency preparedness:** Consider a future agenda item bringing in county emergency management leadership to discuss regional coordination and communications.
- **Housing priority:** Revisit whether the "construction defects" priority should be broadened or reframed to reflect wider housing affordability and delivery barriers.
- **SNAP coordination:** Continue inter-county coordination (in consultation with legal and human services leadership) on shared messaging and strategy related to public understanding and continuity of benefits.