

ILLINOIS

2023 SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)

SRS PAYMENTS
FY 2023 RECEIPTS YEAR:

\$411.5 K

PROJECTED 25% PAYMENT INFLATION
ADJUSTED FY 2017 NUMBERS *:

\$300.3 K

PROJECTED 25% PAYMENT
VS. SRS PAYMENT:

-27.0%

PERCENT OF COUNTIES WITH
U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND:

10.8%

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act was enacted in 2000 to compensate for steep reductions in revenues from timber harvests, which resulted from national policies that substantially diminished revenue-generating activities within federal forests. For FY 2023, the SRS program provided \$272.6 million for roads and schools and other critical services in over 700 mostly rural counties, parishes and boroughs across the United States. Congress reauthorized SRS payments for FY 2021-2023.

OUR ASK

On September 30, 2023, authorization for the SRS program lapsed. Absent congressional action to reauthorize SRS, the payments released in April 2024 will be the final payments counties receive. Without SRS, forest counties nationwide will face dramatic budgetary shortfalls. **Counties urge Congress to renew its long-standing commitment to forest counties by passing the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025 (H.R. 1883/S.356).**

SRS PAYMENTS CRITICAL FOR SERVICES INCLUDING:



**TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE**



SCHOOLS



**FOREST
MANAGEMENT**



**ECOSYSTEM
PROTECTION**



**PROTECTION
FROM WILDFIRE**



**SEARCH AND
RESCUE**



**EMERGENCY
SERVICES**

Notes: The receipts year reflects when U.S. Forest Service (USFS) collects revenues from national forest lands. Without the SRS Act reauthorization, states revert to the Payments to States Act of 1908 as amended, receiving a 25 percent payment from national forest receipts. USFS estimates FY 2017 county 25 percent payments based on county shares of the national forest receipts. These estimates reflect the application of a 6.8 percent sequester to the state payments. * The 2017 projected payments have been adjusted for inflation to reflect 2023 dollars. Title I, II and III payments are included in the total SRS payment received by the county.

Sources: NACo analysis of data from the U.S. Forest Service, 2023 data; Bureau of Land Management, 2022 data; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, March 2024 data.