

# **Local Government Finance Program**

**Presenters:**

**Ellie Wheeler – Program Associate**

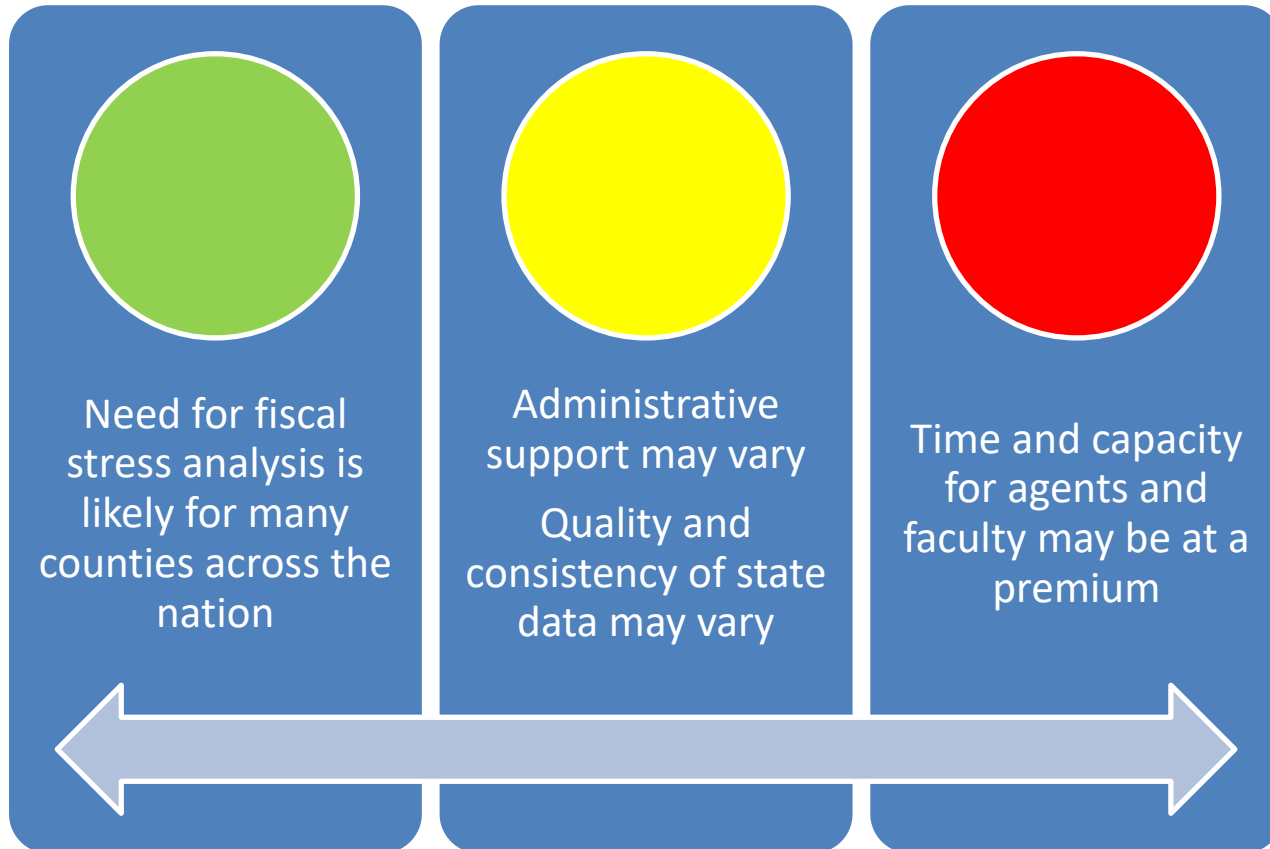
**Wayne Miller - Professor**

**NACDEP Conference**

**May 2020**

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# Should you duplicate these efforts in your state?



# Why? Purposes for local Government Finance Program



# How? Strategies to achieve goals

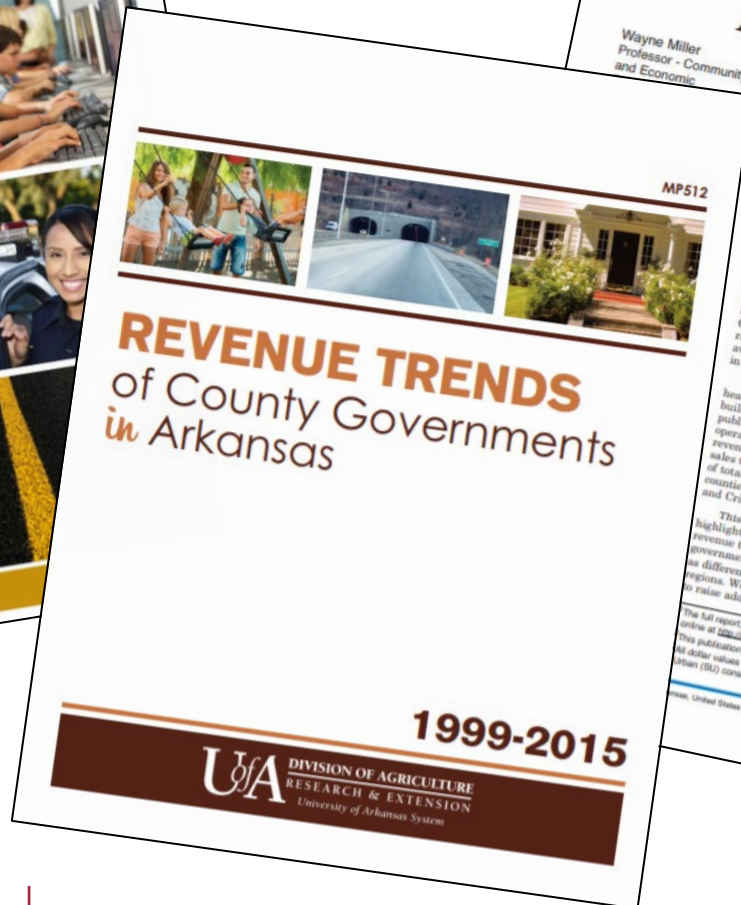
- Develop knowledge base of agents (it helped that trainings were initially required learning)
  - Understanding county government responsibilities & operations
  - Understanding county government fiscal constraints
  - Understanding county government resources & empowering agents to share with county officials
- Promote UAEX as a partner, who can provide resources for county officials, including a unique database of county revenue and expenditures
- Make the most of online teaching capabilities

# What? Specific materials



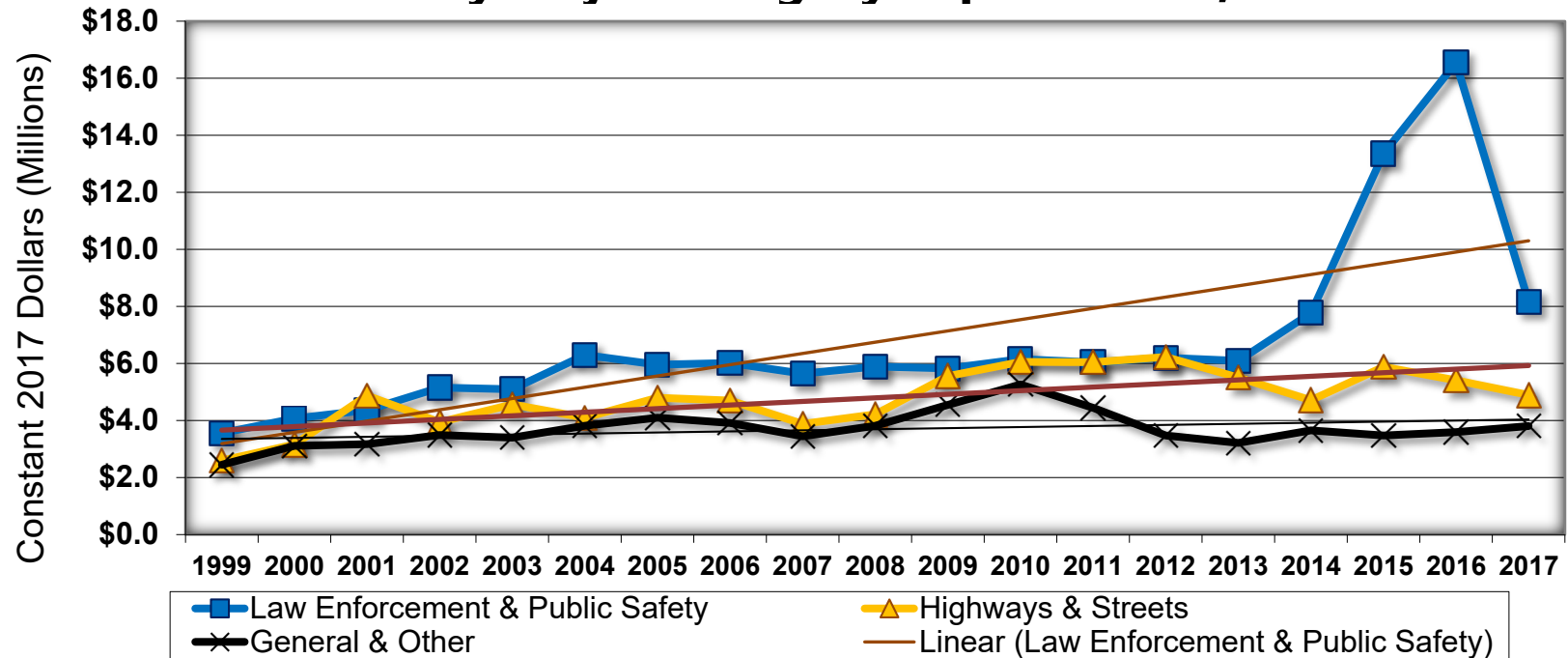


# Examples of Publications



# Example Slide:

## Crawford County Major Category Expenditures, 1999-2017

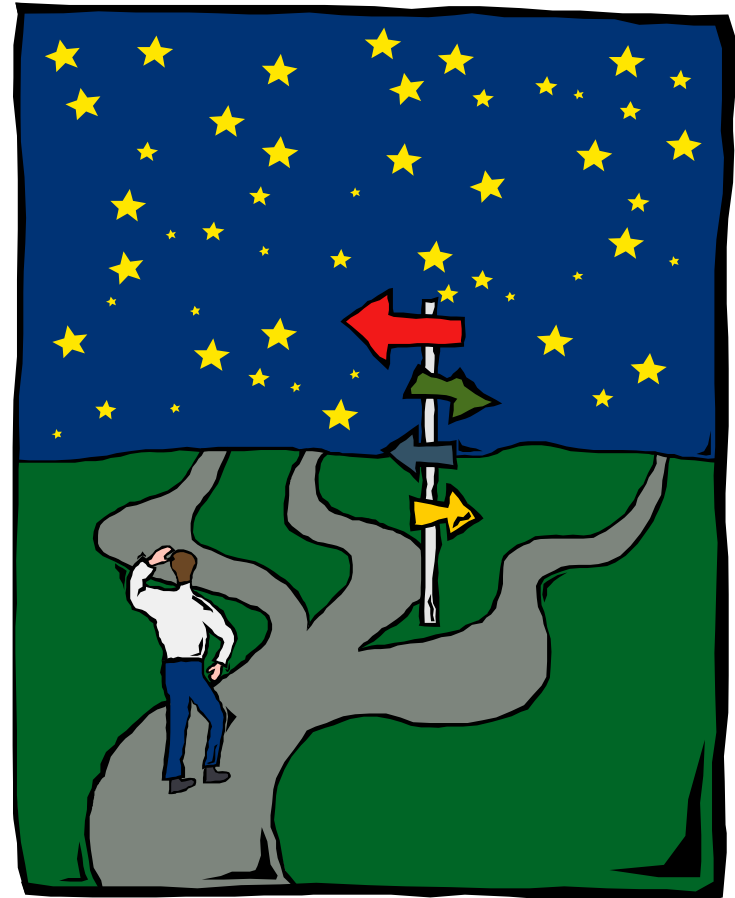


- From 2007 to 2017, expenditures on Law Enforcement and Public Safety in Crawford County have gone up 45% (or by \$2,521,308).
- During that time, expenditures on Highways and Streets went up 26% (or by \$1,012,105).

Data Sources: Revenue and Expenditure Statements, Arkansas Legislative Audit; South Urban CPI, Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Road blocks

- Time, resources & interest of agents, faculty & administrators (Is this a high priority?)
- Tricky local politics
- Reporting inconsistencies (may take less time in other states)





# Lessons learned

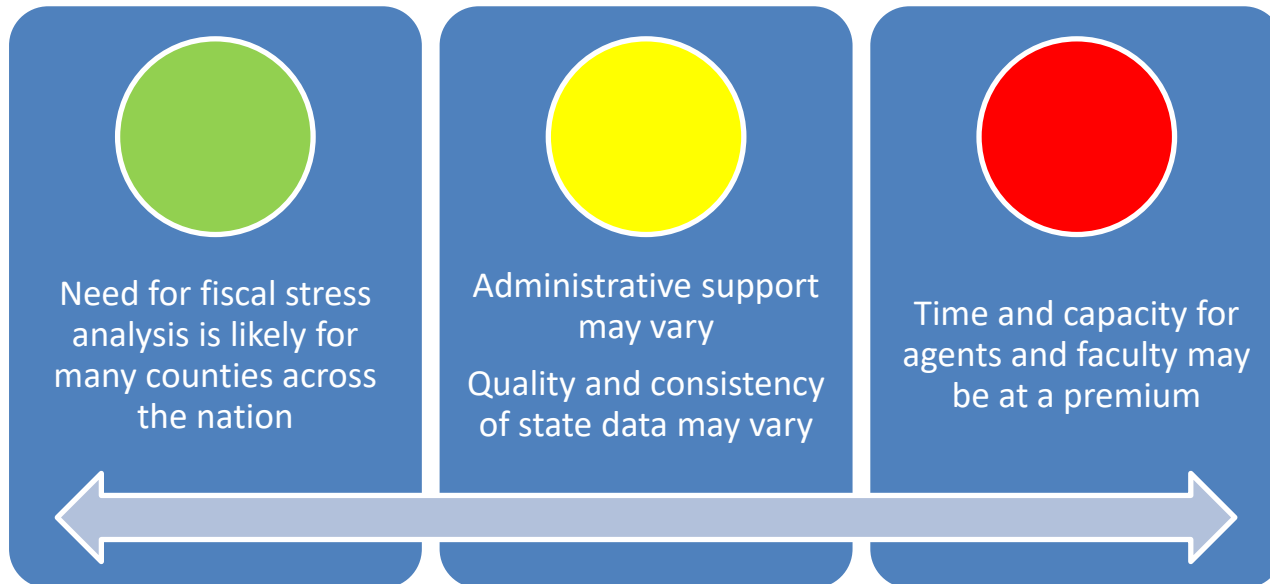


# Next steps

- Develop a county comeback plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Obtain greater buy-in from the Association of Arkansas Counties
- Promote our training for JPs (county government representatives)
- Increase capacity for delivering online learning, including interactive dashboard in Tableau

# Discussion:

- What is your advice for strengthening this program?
- If you don't already have a similar program, would you duplicate any of these efforts in your state?
- How will you be assisting counties to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic?



# Links to publications and materials

- County government finance PowerPoints and all county government finance publications: <https://uaex.edu/govfinance>
- Property Tax publications for all counties: <https://uaex.edu/propertytaxes>
- Introduction to county government online course: <https://courses.uaex.edu/>