Teryn Zmuda is the chief research officer and chief economist at the National Association of Counties (NACo), overseeing the Programs and Practices Division and the Research and Data Analytics Division. Teryn leads efforts to engage NACo as a thought leader, leveraging research and best practices to elevate the county role across the spectrum of local government authorities and policy implementation, within the nation's intergovernmental system. She also leads NACo's economic analysis, representing the county perspective in federal policy, and guides the development of the issue-focused programmatic work. Teryn holds an M.A. in applied economics from George Washington University and a B.A. in sociology from the University of Maryland and is currently pursuing a PhD in public policy and administration at George Washington University.