



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 2, January 17, 2020

\$550M available in rural broadband grant funding

On Dec. 12, 2019, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the availability of a second round of \$550 million in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reconnect Pilot Program funding appropriated by Congress. The application window for this round of funding is set to open **Jan. 31**.

USDA will make available up to \$200 million for grants, up to \$200 million for 50/50 grant/loan combinations, and up to \$200 million for low-interest loans. Applications for all funding products will be accepted in the same application window, which will close no later than **March 16**.

A full description of 2020 ReConnect Pilot Program funding is available on page 67913 of the Dec. 12, 2019, Federal Register at [bit.ly/2FAEeee](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/12/2019-24841/reconnect-pilot-program). To learn more about eligibility, technical assistance, and recent announcements, visit [usda.gov/reconnect](https://www.usda.gov/reconnect).

Water plan grants due Feb. 1

The purpose of the Water plan grant funding is to make progress on the critical actions identified in Colorado's Water Plan (CWP) and its Measurable Objectives. All applications will be assessed based on funds available for a particular CWP Measurable Objective category. Eligible recipients include municipalities, districts, enterprises, counties, State of Colorado agencies, mutual ditch companies, nonprofit organizations, and partnerships.

In fiscal year 2019–2020, \$10 million will be available from the Water Plan Grant program.

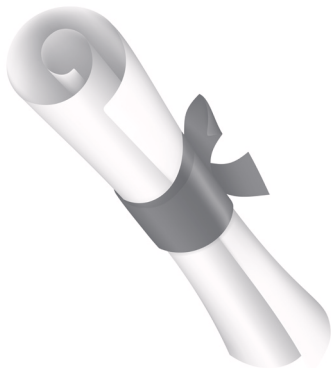
The funding categories include:

- \$3.75 million to facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial recharge into aquifers, and the dredging of existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed storage capacity for multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.
- \$1.75 million to provide technical assistance, project, or program funding for agricultural projects.

- \$1.75 million to implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- \$500,000 for water education, outreach, and innovation efforts.
- \$2.25 million for environmental and recreational projects.

Please visit [bit.ly/2MHnYzs](https://www.bit.ly/2MHnYzs) for more information about qualifying projects and examples of past approved applications in each category.

CML Annual Conference scholarships



The scholarship application process is now open for the 98th CML Annual Conference, June 23–26 in Westminster.

You must be an elected official, or a member of key management, or a department head (e.g., manager, finance director, clerk) of a CML member municipality to apply. Ten selected individuals (one application per municipality) will receive complimentary registration; lodging (arranged by CML at a contracted hotel); tickets to the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

breakfast or luncheon; and a mileage stipend. (Note: Municipalities that had a scholarship awarded to someone in their city or town in 2019 are not eligible to receive a scholarship for 2020.) Application and paperwork are due to CML by Wednesday, **Feb. 19**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Questions? Contact CML Training and Marketing Specialist Courtney Forehand at 303-831-6411, toll-free at 866-578-0936, or at cforehand@cml.org.

In memory

CML extends its sympathy to the City of Salida and the family of City Clerk **Sonia Walter**. Walter was killed in a car crash on Jan. 5. She had worked for the City of Salida for the past two years.

Save the date!



Save the date for CML's Annual Conference at the Westin Westminster (**June 23–26, 2020**). CML is currently developing the schedule and will announce the preliminary agenda in an upcoming *CML Newsletter* publication. Registration will open in early 2020.

Correction for Legislative Workshop

In the Jan. 3 issue of the *CML Newsletter*, we stated incorrect information regarding lodging for the Legislative Workshop. The lodging information should have stated that there is a limited amount of discounted lodging available for \$162 at the Warwick Denver, 1776 Grant St. Call the Warwick and ask to speak to Laverne Rodgers; 303-861-2000; mention Colorado Municipal League. For more information, see page 4 of this issue.



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Subscription to *CML Newsletter* is offered as a portion of member dues. Cost to nonmembers is \$300 a year.

Funding and technical assistance

Colorado Tourism Office

Send your press releases and pitching material on tourism to the Colorado Tourism Office. Upcoming topics of interest include Colorado Is for Lovers in preparation for Valentine's Day and Walk on the Wild Side to focus on unique wildlife events. Contact Abby Leeper at abby.leeper@state.co.us for details or with your 150- to 200-word description.

Road safety tools

The U.S. Department of Transportation has funding for road safety tools to help communities devise policies to reduce roadway fatalities. Up to \$3 million is available to develop, refine, and deploy safety tools that address specific roadway safety problems, with awards anticipated between \$250,000 and \$500,000 to each successful applicant. Apply by **Jan. 17**. For more information and to apply, visit bit.ly/2sX6cS6.

Main Street Façade Program

In January, Main Street America (MSA) will open applications to coordinating programs for the National Park Service Main Street Façade Improvement Grant Program. Through a competitive selection process, MSA will select four coordinating programs to participate, and three communities within each state will receive funds to be used toward façade improvements in commercial districts. Learn more in a webinar on **Jan. 21**. To register for the webinar, visit bit.ly/2T9ZfaU.

Future of Shopping Small Grant

American Express® is teaming up with Main Street America to give 10 small business owners \$10,000 each to help their businesses innovate in this evolving retail landscape. The program is intended to support small businesses that have demonstrated new approaches to traditional business strategies and those businesses looking to try out creative techniques, while also helping to revitalize and strengthen older and historic commercial districts. Deadline is **March 31** or whenever 3,000 applications have been received. For more information and to apply, visit bit.ly/36IMtEj.

Big Read grant

Nonprofit organizations interested in increasing community engagement, creating new partnerships, and celebrating great books should apply for the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grants. Application

deadline is **Jan. 29**. For more information, visit bit.ly/2QG6aa3.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants

FEMA offers Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program with the goal of reducing overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events. Deadline is **Jan. 31**. For more information, visit bit.ly/30a7xB4.

NextFifty

NextFifty Initiative offers funding to support projects, ideas, technology, and innovations that improve the lives and capacities of those who are aging. Deadline is **Feb. 14**. For more information, visit bit.ly/37YdV0L.

Agriculture innovation grant

USDA Rural Development offers a grant to establish and operate Agriculture Innovation Centers that will provide technical assistance to help rural businesses market value-added agricultural products. Apply by **March 20**. For more information, visit bit.ly/2R81ngL.

Community Challenge grant

The next round of AARP's Community Challenge grants will launch in early 2020 (likely February). This program is a great way to spark quick-action change in communities — not only to enhance public spaces, but on transportation, housing, and other issues as well. Visit bit.ly/308t8K4 for more details.

Rural Opportunity Map

The Rural Opportunity Map from the Center on Rural Innovation was born out of the need for a new framework to understand opportunities in small-town America in the 21st century — a framework that takes into account the way industry and employment are changing, and the demographic trends that have defined small towns for the past decade. The tool is meant to allow anyone to find insight and opportunity in small-town America. To view the map, visit bit.ly/35Ce9sV.

Pop-Up Placemaking Toolkit

This Pop-Up Placemaking Toolkit is a new free publication by AARP and the placemaking specialists of Team Better Block, and is a practical guide to demonstrating how temporary projects can inspire long-term change. To view the toolkit, visit bit.ly/2TbdQ5T.

Course notebook

2020 Election Webinar Series

- **Jan. 21 — Canceling an election and signature verification.** Discuss the circumstances that must exist for a municipal election to be canceled, including how to determine terms during vacancies. Additionally, procedures for verifying signatures in municipal mail ballot elections will be presented, so this is a must-attend session for any municipality holding its own mail ballot election in April. Send questions to Karen Goldman at charna48@comcast.net.
- **March 12 — Canvassing and final election questions.** Learn about what happens once the election is over, including the canvass of votes, judges' statement, and abstract. Please send all questions in advance to Karen Goldman at charna48@comcast.net.
- **April 21 — Election debrief.** The purpose of this webinar will be to debrief the April 2020 elections. This will be a wide-ranging conversation, and clerks are encouraged to describe what worked, what didn't, what they wished they had known ahead of time, etc. Please send all comments in advance to Karen Goldman at charna48@comcast.net.

Regional Economic Development Forum

Save the date for the Regional Economic Development Forum nearest to you! The Economic Development Council of Colorado is hosting events in Commerce City on **Feb. 14**, Hugo on **March 12**, Silverthorne on **May 7**, and Pueblo on **June 27**.

Saving Places Conference

Colorado Preservation Inc. (CPI) will present the 2020 Saving Places® Conference, **Jan. 29–Feb. 1**, in Denver. This dynamic four-day event features high-quality educational content and networking opportunities for individuals, organizations, and communities working with historic and cultural places. CPI is still looking for volunteers — if you serve at least two shifts, you can attend for free! To volunteer, visit bit.ly/2NhF3jl.

Main Street is participating in sessions on the Pickaxe Project, Colorado Downtown Streets, Second Stories, People and the Plan, and the Science Behind Historic Net-Zero Buildings. Stayed tuned for details on a Main Street social on Wednesday evening. For more information and to register for the event, visit bit.ly/2FDRdPA.

Outdoors Conference

Partners in the Outdoors Conference takes place **April 27–29** in Vail. Explore the complicated relationship between conservation and recreation in our state to cultivate common ground and ensure a sustainable future for Colorado's outdoors. To learn more, visit bit.ly/2R6OinM.

Main Street Now Conference

Registration is open for the Main Street Now Conference, **May 18–20**, in Dallas, Texas. Network with peers from across the country, find solutions to common problems, and discover innovative techniques and tools to help your community to thrive. Get inspired by Dallas and surrounding Main Street communities as you learn from their revitalization successes and challenges. Register at bit.ly/20XPc6n.

In the Game Annual Conference

Early registration is open for Downtown Colorado Inc.'s In the Game, **April 14–17** in Colorado Springs. This three-day interactive educational experience harnesses resources to expand the way downtown champions think and provide real problem-solving opportunities. For more information, visit bit.ly/2t0EpTG.

Small-scale development solutions for the Main Street corridor

Join Downtown Colorado, Inc., in the continued conversation about small-scale development in the second and final sessions of this three-part series. The **March 5** session will include discussions about how changes in thinking and practice can make small development possible, as well as examples of other districts facing similar challenges of building small.

The final session in the series will be on **May 13**, from 4:30 to 8 p.m., with the location to

be announced soon. The session will focus on ways to build best practices and solutions to the barriers that limit small-scale development and meaningful redevelopment of our main street corridors. To register, visit bit.ly/2QK0eMj.

State Demography Office: data tools webinar

The State Demography Office (SDO) will hold a data tools webinar on Thursday, **Jan. 30**, at noon. This one-hour webinar will demonstrate the data tools available from the SDO website, like population data downloads; housing and household data; demographic dashboards; jobs, labor force, and base industries; and Colorado demographic profiles. The SDO local conference call number is 720-279-0026 or toll free at 877-820-7831. The participant passcode is 830653. For more information, visit bit.ly/37TEOTB.

Future webinars will cover Census Geographies, demonstrate the data.census.gov website, and demonstrate other SDO data tools.

Get grants

The Community Resource Center is offering a variety of workshops from getting grants (**Jan. 23** in La Junta, **Jan. 28** in Denver, **Feb. 18** in Lafayette), to finding funding on the web (webinar on **Jan. 17** and **March 24**), and tools for innovation (**Feb. 11** in Denver). For more information, and to register, visit bit.ly/36CQTwl.

Bicycle Colorado — Moving People Forward Conference

Want to change Colorado's transportation future? Then you will want to attend Moving People Forward, hosted by Bicycle Colorado on **Feb. 10**, at the Embassy Suites Downtown Denver. This year's policy conference features urban neuroscientist Robin Mazumder, The War on Cars podcast's first episode with a live audience, a breakfast panel on Roadmaps to Vision Zero, networking lunch, happy hour, and more. Breakout sessions include Get on the bus; Turning research into action; Could regions solve Colorado's transportation funding dilemma?; and Data, technology, and our right-of-way. The conference will sell out. Save your spot today at bit.ly/MPF2020.

CML Annual Legislative Workshop

About

Plan to attend the CML Annual Legislative Workshop on **Feb. 13**. Municipal officials from across the state will gather to discuss key municipal issues before the 2020 General Assembly, CML's legislative program, and what municipal officials can do to influence the legislative process.

CML will host an open house reception for state legislators and all attendees following the workshop at the CML offices.

CML MUNiversity

Five MUNiversity credits will be awarded for this training.

Location

- Workshop: History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver
- Reception: CML Building, 1144 Sherman St., Denver

Parking

There is limited complimentary parking at the League building (approximately one block from the venue). Garage parking across from the venue at the Cultural Center Garage (enter on 12th from Broadway) costs approximately \$12 for the day.

Lodging

Limited discounted lodging of \$162 is available at the Warwick Denver, 1776 Grant St. Call the Warwick and ask to speak to Laverne Rodgers; at 303-861-2000; mention Colorado Municipal League. If claiming tax exemption, you will need to fill out tax

exempt forms from the Warwick – be sure to ask for them when you make your reservation.

Registration and questions

For more information, or special needs, call 303-831-6411 or 866-578-0936. Register at www.cml.org by **Feb. 7**. (To receive the early registration rate, register by Jan. 31.)

Agenda

9 a.m.	Registration and breakfast
9:45 a.m.	Welcome
10 a.m.	Opening general session
10:30 a.m.	2020 General Assembly: Legislation and issues affecting municipalities
Noon	Lunch: Legislative leadership panel <i>Members of the Legislature's leadership will be invited to review 2020 statehouse activity of municipal concern</i>
1:15 p.m.	Federal advocacy: Report from Washington, D.C.
2 p.m.	Affordable housing: A new tool for municipalities
3 p.m.	Vaping: How legislation may affect local regulations
4 p.m.	CML Legislative Workshop Reception at the CML Building

CML scrapbook: CML's Legislative Kickoff Webinar



CML's Legislative and Policy Advocates (from left to right: Heather Stauffer, Meghan Dollar, Brandy DeLange, and Morgan Cullen) prepare for the Legislative Kickoff webinar.

To view the webinar, visit bit.ly/38657Gv.

Research corner: 2020 Colorado Business Economic Outlook released

The University of Colorado Boulder Leeds School of Business Research Division recently released its 55th annual Colorado Business Economic Outlook. The publication, developed in partnership with 125 private and public leaders across Colorado, provides a forecast of the state's economy by sector, using historical data and expert analysis to provide insight into what lies ahead for Colorado. CML's Morgan Cullen contributed to the Local Government section, using data compiled from CML's annual State of Our Cities and Towns Survey.

Other sectors profiled in the outlook include agriculture, natural resources and mining, construction, manufacturing, professional services, hospitality, and international trade. While the publication's primary audience may be business leaders, policymakers

may also find the information useful in understanding the economic landscape and in their decision-making process.

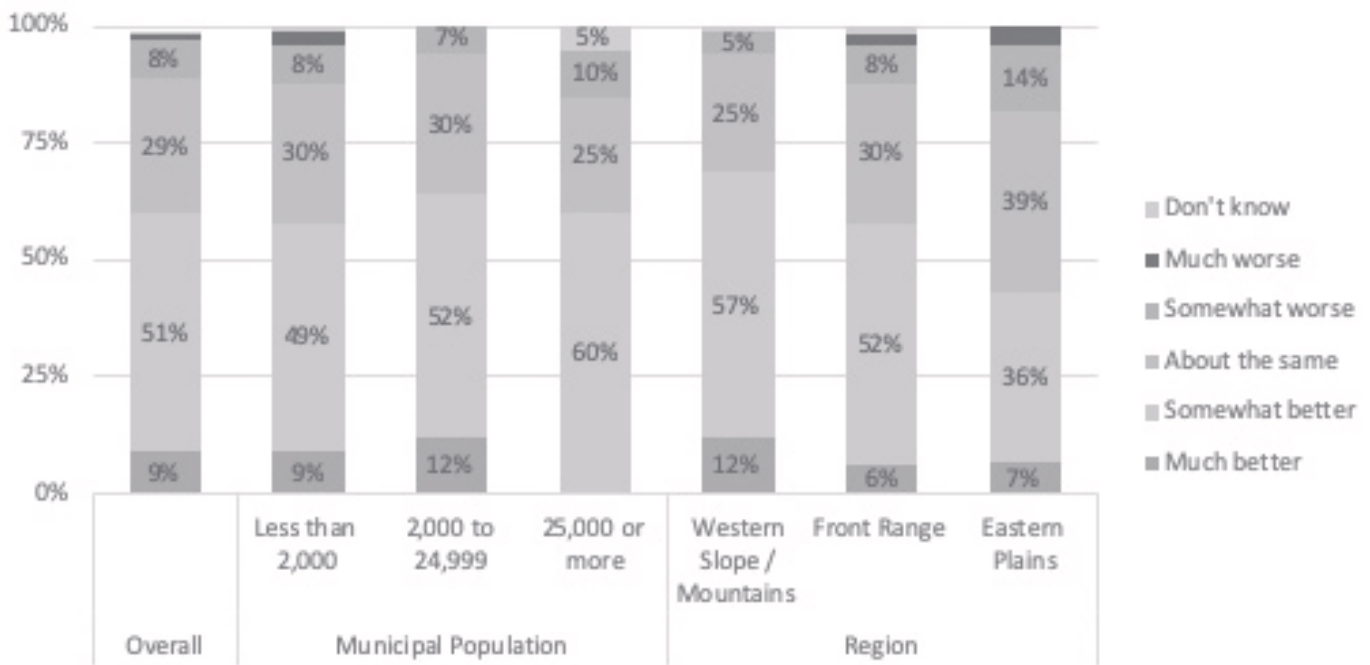
The full outlook includes analysis best read from the source, but interesting statistics in the report include:

- Colorado ranks 7th in the nation for real gross domestic product (GDP) growth year-over-year in 2019, and its five-year average ranks 5th.
- Other areas where Colorado performs in the top ten nationally include low unemployment rate, personal income growth, per capita personal income growth, population growth, and labor force participation rate.
- Between the years of 1940 and 2020, Colorado recorded 80 employment growth years and only 8 years of job loss.

- In 2019, over 2.7 million people were employed in Colorado, with average annual earnings of \$58,941.
- Even as Colorado outperforms much of the nation, there are signs that the economy is slowing. While economic growth continues, the rate of growth for various economic factors has decreased.
- Locally, 3 out of every 5 municipalities responding to CML's State of Our Cities and Towns Survey indicated that municipal revenue in 2019 had increased over 2018.
- Municipalities reported budget constraints, lack of affordable housing, and infrastructure funding as the greatest challenges they expect to face over the next five years.

To view the report, please visit bit.ly/2sq5rAl.

Municipal Revenue in FY2019 Compared to FY2018





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