



CML accepting applications to fill Executive Board vacancy



Kevin Bommer, CML executive director

Letters of application are being accepted to fill a position on the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Executive Board in the medium category.

The vacancy was created on Dec. 11 by the resignation of Woodland Park City Manager Darrin Tangeman from the board. Tangeman's last day with Woodland Park was Dec. 11. He has accepted a position to be the town manager of Truro, Mass.

Officials in municipalities with a population between 8,000 and 60,000 (medium category) who wish to be considered for appointment by the CML Executive Board should follow the instructions below.

Under CML bylaws, population figures are based upon population estimates from the Colorado Department

of Local Affairs (DOLA). These are the same figures that were used in computing 2021 municipal dues for member municipalities. The CML bylaws state that Executive Board members must be elected or appointed officials of member cities and towns. Any official who desires to be considered for the position must:

- Submit an application for nomination, in a letter or other written form, no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, **Jan. 5, 2021**.

- Include an endorsement in writing from the applicant's city council or board of trustees with the application, which also must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, **Jan. 5, 2021**. (Please note that a city council or board of trustees may endorse the nomination of only one official from the city or town for appointment.)
- Hold Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, from 9 a.m. to noon, to attend the CML Executive Board meeting, if selected to be recommended to the full board for appointment. The board meeting will be virtual.

Municipal officials meeting the above qualifications will be considered for appointment by the CML Executive Board and be interviewed by the executive officers of the board, who will make a recommendation to the full board for approval on Jan. 22, with the intention to seat the nominee at that meeting. Application materials or any questions about the process should be emailed to Kevin Bommer, executive director, at kbommer@cml.org.

COVID-19 relief for small and minority-owned businesses and arts organizations (SB 20B-001)

Morgan Cullen, CML legislative and policy advocate

Last week, Gov. Jared Polis signed the Small Business Relief Program into law. The bill provides \$57 million in direct aid, grants, and annual fee waivers to struggling small businesses and creates grant programs and allocates funds specifically for art and cultural organizations and minority-owned businesses. Multiple state agencies are working with local government associations and

governments on the implementation of the new program including eligibility, applications and distribution. Provisions in the enacted legislation allow municipalities that are in compliance with state public health orders to apply for grant funding if the municipality resides in an ineligible county or if the county decides not to participate in the program. The deadline to apply for grant funding through the DOLA Division of Local Government Grant

Portal is **Jan. 8, 2021**. Because the window to apply for this grant funding is so narrow, CML has created a SB 20B-001 resource page on our website to help provide the most up-to-date information available. CML will continue to keep our membership informed as state agencies move forward in implementing this new law.

CML's new SB 20B-001 resource webpage is available here: bit.ly/37fNB40.

For sale

The Town of Garden City is selling a medium silver 2017 Santa Fe Sport with approximately 24,000 miles. NADA at clean retail is \$18,275. The town will consider all reasonable offers.

Please contact Abby Spaedt at abby@townofgardencity.com for pictures or more information.

Municipalities may now benefit from remote legal expertise



Rick Samson, Samson Law Firm lawyer

Budget time is one of the most difficult times for town boards. For 30 years, I have represented town boards, and have witnessed firsthand the difficulties in preparing budgets with the uncertainties of what the legal fees would be for the coming year.

Years ago, I recognized the uncertainty of forecasting legal fees, and the town's need for certainty. I approached several communities that I was representing and explored the possibility of providing them with legal representation for a flat monthly fee or retainer. At that time, I had 20 plus years of monthly billings for multiple municipal clients so I could accurately predict a 12-month average, not including litigation.

This worked out well. It evened out the highs and lows for both the client and the attorney. For the attorney, there was a certainty of a regular monthly income for months when there may not have been as much work, and for the town there was a cap on monthly fees when the workload exceeded the cap. Typical services provided included attending board

meetings, special meetings, planning commission meetings, staff meetings and being available to answer trustee or staff questions literally 24/7. It also included preparation of resolutions, ordinances, negotiating with developers, preparing and reviewing contracts and updating development agreements.

This solution has a broader application for rural communities. While

specialized legal representation is a necessity for all municipalities, it is not always attainable or affordable. Local attorneys may not have had the time or inclination to specialize in municipal law. Travel and inclement weather limit Front Range municipal attorneys from pursuing municipal representation in more rural areas. Now, however, rural communities can access decades of legal experience remotely, gaining access to years of municipal legal expertise in a virtual format.

Recently, with COVID-19, it has been necessary for municipalities to enact emergency resolutions to comply with state emergency orders so that trustees may attend meetings remotely, including quasi-judicial hearings, liquor license hearings and executive sessions. Attorneys may attend virtually as well, thus reducing legal fees and negating travel time. This will provide an innovative way for towns to access the expertise and knowledge they desire without the cumbersome fees they may have faced in the past.



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Newsletter

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

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NLC's 2021 leadership in community resilience grant program is now accepting proposals

The National League of Cities 2021 Leadership in Community Resilience program is now accepting proposals from cities seeking additional funding for resilience related projects. Each city selected for the 2021 cohort will receive \$10,000 in financial support, and customized support from both NLC and the Resilient Cities Network (formerly 100RC).

The deadline for applications is **Dec. 23, 2020**. Learn more and apply at bit.ly/3gLAYSg, for more info on past projects (bit.ly/349IZLy).

Please read the FAQ at bit.ly/3gLAYSg and if you still have questions, reach out to Anna Marandi, senior specialist at marandi@nlc.org.

Aurora unveils 10-year immigrant integration plan



"One in five Aurora residents was born outside the U.S., and we believe that the success of our residents, and therefore the success of our city, depends on how well we can work together," said Ricardo Gambetta, head of Aurora's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs. "Moving forward, our plan for 2020 to 2030 focuses on goals that

- Formation of Aurora's Immigrant and Refugee Commission, a group of residents to advise City Council on immigrant issues.
- Expansion of English and citizenship classes with local partner agencies.
- Creation of small-business grants and loans for immigrant entrepreneurs, resulting in the creation of 143 jobs.
- Sponsorship of international trips and hosting of international delegations to promote business, cultural and political exchanges, resulting in the opening of a Salvadoran Consulate, the first consular office in Colorado outside of Denver.
- Growth of health, cultural, arts and sports programs to build community cohesiveness, including Global Fest, Aurora's flagship event for celebrating diversity, attracting 10,000 people a year.

"The partnerships we have created, the trust we have built, the ideas we have sparked – all of this requires our continued support and nurturing so we can be a city that helps all our residents dream big and achieve even more," said Mike Coffman, Aurora mayor. "This updated strategic plan for the next 10 years sets the groundwork for how we will be an international business and cultural destination, a welcoming melting pot of people and experiences, and a city of opportunity for residents of all backgrounds."

To view the full plan, go to bit.ly/3qXtlre. To learn more about the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs, go to bit.ly/34dkVaS.

The Colorado Municipal League is committed to supporting our members' efforts to embrace and increase equity and diversity in their communities. Visit bit.ly/2WbiWPY for resources and information concerning equity and diversity efforts in Colorado municipalities.

Building on its successful work to develop opportunities for immigrants and refugees and expand the city's international presence, the City of Aurora has unveiled a 10 year Immigrant Integration Plan, "Aurora is open to the world."

As Colorado's third-largest city and one of the most diverse large cities in the U.S., Aurora created one of the nation's first municipal strategic plans for immigrant integration in 2015 and remains the only Colorado city with a comprehensive strategic plan for immigrant integration. Aurora is updating that plan for the decade ahead based on what the city has learned so far and what residents and stakeholder groups have cited as priorities. The effort is led by the city's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs.

capture community needs, with specific ideas for implementation."

Among the 12 goal areas for 2020 to 2030 are entrepreneurship, affordable housing, job skills and certification, English language learning, language accessibility, public safety relationships, immigrant leadership, healthy lifestyles, citizenship pathways, and cultural inclusion. These goals build on the areas of focus in the 2015 strategic plan.

Some of the successes seen under the city's first strategic plan on immigrant integration include:

- Development of the award-winning Natural Helpers Program, which has trained more than 150 immigrants from 25 countries to be leaders in their communities and liaisons with local resources.

CML Special Highway Committee awards \$1.9M in off-system bridge grants to Colorado Cities and Towns

Morgan Cullen, CML legislative and policy advocate

The Special Highway Committee met on Nov. 13 and 17, 2020 to consider and evaluate county and municipal bridge applications for rehabilitation or replacement of substandard bridges. The Committee prioritized the local government bridge applications, taking into account bridge structure condition ratings, structural deficiency and functional obsolescence issues, average daily traffic,

local prioritization and project readiness. The committee also factored in whether or not the applicants had been awarded bridge funds in recent years. The committee recommended the following municipal bridge projects totaling approximately \$1.9 million:

- Cañon City, Four Mile Lane Bridge
- Englewood, West Dartmouth Ave. Bridge
- Manzanola, Beaty Ave. Bridge
- Northglenn, Community Center Drive Bridge

- Steamboat Springs, Soda Creek Bridge
- Windsor, 7th Street Bridge

CML would like to thank every municipality that submitted a grant application this year and encourage other municipalities with an eligible substandard bridge in need of rehabilitation or replacement to consider participating next year. Congratulations to all of this year's grant recipients!

SIPA micro grant program open through Dec. 30

Beth Justice, SIPA sales and marketing director

Your public sector partner for technology, Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) has opened its micro-grant (MG) program (bit.ly/387kgsW). The program is designed to connect residents to government by putting more information and services online. Since 2010, more than 250 grants and over \$1.1 million have been awarded to governments across the state. Applications are available at bit.ly/387kgsW and will be accepted through **Dec. 30, 2020**. Below are a few services we know local governments are interested in, and that SIPA has previously funded or you may have your own technology needs that would fit the criteria, those are welcome as well! SIPA also has a host of free services, with more information available at bit.ly/2WhhPOJ.

Website design services on colorado.gov:

Apply for web designer costs to build on SIPA's no-cost website platform hosted on the official colorado.gov portal. You may view the many sites we have at bit.ly/2KpNvyM and possibilities at bit.ly/2Wh9Hxv.

We will provide your city or town a URL of yournamehere@colorado.gov so you do not have to purchase your own URL for the website. Once the website is complete, there are no other expenses, SIPA's got that covered. However, if you have your own URL we can redirect to it after you build it on our platform. There are a couple of contractor names below

that you may request quotes from to go along with your micro-grant application.

Web designers: Who work on our platform are listed below. SIPA is not a reference, so please be sure to check them.

- Trisha Coberly: trishacobe@msn.com.

Website: bit.ly/3840XAn

- Jim Evans: jim@akronpc.net.

Website: bit.ly/3nogIso, llc./dba Akron PC, (970) 554-1597

Google office productivity: Apply for one-time setup fees for Google Workspace (bit.ly/34c7rvY), a cloud-based email, calendar, document storage and office productivity solution. SIPA holds the state contract with Google that allows us to provide your government with great pricing and protections like HIPAA. One-time setup costs start at \$300, based on how many licenses you need. Annual and recurring fees are your responsibility each year and may not be part of a micro-grant application.

Live stream/Record public meetings and community engagement:

Many local governments are finding the need to live stream or record public meetings for participants and their community. There is a no-cost option for governments with populations under 5,000. Hardware is not included, but you could ask for that in a micro-grant. SIPA contracts with Granicus. Granicus also offers a community engagement platform to send mass emails or

text messages. Check out the case study we did with the Town of Silt at bit.ly/3mj6CYn.

Cyber security: Scary, right?! Do you have an open printer port, old servers, or just wondering what to look for in a suspicious email before opening it? SIPA works with two organizations, Istonish and RubinBrown. Depending on your needs, we will assist with selecting the right vendor for you.

No-Cost: The other free stuff on the official colorado.gov portal is payment processing, there is no cost for you to set this up, but the end user does pay credit card and convenience fees. Online forms are no-cost to set up if you have something you want your residents or businesses to complete such as an animal license or a business license application.

For questions about the micro-grant program, SIPA or services, please contact Beth Justice at 720-409-5636 or beth@cosipa.gov.

SIPA is a government authority, and by statute may only serve Colorado governments.

Therefore, our first step in working together is to execute an eligible government entity (EGE) agreement available at bit.ly/3nwAXo1. You might already have one, so please feel free to check with Beth Justice at 720-409-5636 or beth@cosipa.gov before going through the trouble of doing another one.

In memory - CML family mourns passing of Cathy Reynolds



In the 97-year history of the Colorado Municipal League, there may have been no greater influence on the organization from a CML Executive Board member than Cathy Reynolds. Reynolds, an at-large Denver City Council member from 1975 - 2003, died on Nov. 24 at 76. On the Denver City Council, she was a trailblazer. She was the first woman elected to city council and went on to serve as City Council President five times over her 28 years on council.

Retired League Executive Directors Ken Bueche and Sam Mamet both worked closely with Reynolds, and concurred that she was "one of the finest and best municipal leaders we ever worked for during our time at CML. Everyone

knew Reynolds, and she was recognized within the state and nationally for her incredible leadership."

Reynolds was first elected to the CML Board in 1976 and by 1978 had been elected an executive officer, holding the position of secretary-treasurer. After service as vice president the following year, she was selected president in 1980. She was again selected president in 1999. In total, Reynolds served on the CML Board for 24 years, six of which she was an executive officer.

Her leadership was not just confined to Colorado. She was very active on the national scene within the National League of Cities (NLC). In 1987, she succeeded San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros to become NLC's

president. NLC CEO and Executive Director Clarence Anthony said, "As the first female elected to Denver City Council and the only woman to serve two terms as President of [CML], Cathy broke barriers for women in government. My thoughts are with your family."

"When I started at CML in late 1999, Reynolds was serving as Immediate Past President in her last year on the Board," said CML Executive Director Kevin Bommer. "She took some time to pass along knowledge and wisdom to me, and I think of it often."

Reynolds' husband, Rick, announced that a memorial for Cathy will be delayed until after the threat from the COVID-19 pandemic passes. All of CML passes along our condolences to Rick and the rest of the family.

CDOT supports 14 local communities with third round of Revitalizing Main Street Grants



The Colorado Department of Transportation's Revitalizing Main Streets program, an initiative designed to promote public health and the economy during the COVID-19 crisis, has awarded another series of grants to 14 entities around the state.

Cities, towns, and other public agencies seeking to make creative modifications to state highways, local roadways or other community spaces as a way of promoting social distancing and economic activity are eligible for grants up to \$50,000. Applicants are required to provide a 10% match to qualify.

"It's great to see such creativity from our Colorado communities and our celebrated downtown areas," said Gov. Jared Polis. "The Revitalizing Main Streets Program is a great way for Coloradans to take an active role in the use of their transportation and mobility infrastructure. From winterizing restaurant patios to increasing accessibility, Coloradans have come up with excellent ideas that will benefit our communities and economy while helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19."

"CDOT is thrilled to see 12 more communities benefit from our innovative Revitalizing Main Streets program, which is supporting communities large and small as we help people and our economy stay active outside," said Shoshana Lew, CDOT executive director. "We are pleased to see so many parts of the state putting this program to good use, including as we head into a winter, where

continuing to focus on active transportation, even in the cold, will be especially important."

The current round of funding is winter-focused and assisting the following entities:

- **Breckenridge** — Provides an additional walkway by lighting the River Walk corridor, parallel to Main Street. It will spread out foot traffic from Main Street and activate about one mile of underutilized pedestrian pathways during the busy winter season. (\$50,000)
- **Colorado Springs** — Launches a pilot program closing Colorado Ave to vehicular traffic through historic Old Colorado City and utilizes extended patios to facilitate outdoor dining, walking, and shopping this winter. (\$26,448)
- **Crestone** — Installs covered seating areas in the town park for eating and other outdoor activities. (\$50,000)
- **Downtown Denver Partnership** — Constructs and maintains a "Winter Village Park" for visitors to the 16th Street Mall, with access to outdoor seating, dining, and retail space following the holidays. An adjacent space will be enhanced for vehicle and bike parking. Includes additional seating, lighting, and signage. (\$36,000)
- **Estes Park** — Winterizes the town's outdoor areas to help support an extended business season. It includes modifications for social distancing, street-level activation and continued economic activity. (\$50,000)
- **Fountain** — Upgrades intersections and sidewalks to enhance accessibility to the Town Center. Includes bump-outs, ADA ramps and bike racks. (\$50,000)
- **Fruita** — Provides new signage along the Colorado Riverfront Trail, a non-motorized paved route connecting Fruita, Grand Junction and Palisade. The project is designed to improve navigation, wayfinding, access, safety, connectivity and education. (\$50,000)
- **Limon** — Replaces and revitalizes downtown sidewalks, adds new benches to assist social distancing, and installs bench shade awnings and bike infrastructure. (\$37,242)
- **Manassa** — Constructs a 1/2 mile path along 1st St., connecting the town to M-Hill Trail, improving mobility and safety for bikers and hikers. Includes updated signage and road markings. (\$50,000)

- **Manitou Springs** — Develops outdoor, socially-distanced patio dining space and bike parking. Barricades will section off parking spaces along Manitou Ave. to provide safe spaces for walking, biking, and dining in the business district. (\$48,848)
- **Rangely** — Widens, flattens and upgrades sidewalks in downtown to enhance walking and biking opportunities. A new rest area, small park and bike infrastructure will be placed near the library, town hall and other key locations. (\$49,971)
- **Rifle** — Installs wider sidewalks along 2nd St. to accommodate social distancing in downtown, connecting businesses, city hall, library, theater, public parking and a bus stop. Intermittent sidewalk segments also will be connected and a sidewalk ramp will be upgraded to ADA standards. (\$50,000)
- **Wheat Ridge** — Provides additional outdoor seating and bicycle parking for restaurants utilizing on-street parking spaces along 38th Ave., expanding on a 2012 program utilizing existing infrastructure. Additional pop-up patios will encourage social distancing. (\$50,000)
- **Windsor** — Expands sidewalk dining and active transportation, including bike infrastructure, in the downtown area. Creates winterized sidewalk café kit-of-parts for outdoor heaters, floor insulation and greenhouses to function as enclosed dining spaces. (\$50,000)

Since the program began in June 2020, 59 grants have been awarded to entities across Colorado. The complete list of grantees is available at bit.ly/3r6pKN4. More information on the program and a grant application is available at bit.ly/348vXhu. For awarded projects on the state's right-of-way, temporary special use permits will be required, including safety plans that address traffic flow for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, freight/delivery and detour plans. More information on these permits can be found at bit.ly/348NMwL. For additional questions about the program, please email: dot_candocdot@state.co.us.

The Revitalizing Main Streets program is supporting the Can Do Community Challenge, as part of the Can Do Colorado campaign. More information about the Can Do Colorado campaign is available at bit.ly/3oONW12.



CML sets priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session

CML advocacy team

Going into each legislative session, CML begins its policy development process which guides our legislative priorities, when the General Assembly meets in January. The CML Policy Committee has met virtually in October and December of 2020. At those meetings, the Policy Committee debated proposed legislation and made recommendations that were subsequently approved by the CML Executive Board. Below are CML's priorities listed by subject area. For questions about pieces of legislation please contact the lobbyist listed.

Affordable housing and local land use

Colorado is amid an affordable housing crisis, and our workforce can no longer afford to live in the communities where they are employed. Colorado has a growing number of cost-burdened households in both urban and rural areas. CML's initiated legislation will clarify once and for all that local governments may regulate the development and use of land within their jurisdictions to promote the new development or redevelopment of affordable housing units. Further, the legislation will confirm that the rent control statute does not apply to any land use regulation adopted pursuant to this authority that restricts rents on either the new development or redevelopment of housing units as long as the local government provides a menu of options to the developer to comply with their land use regulation. Lobbyist: Meghan Dollar, mdollar@cml.org.

Clarification of Open Meetings Law

Currently, the open Meetings Law requires any board, commission, or other advisory decision-making body to discuss business or take formal action in meetings that are open to the public. A meeting can refer

to either an in-person meeting, telephone meeting or electronic communication. CML's initiated legislation seeks to clarify the law by including in statute language that defines specific types of non-substantive email communication between elected officials that is not considered to be subject to open meeting requirements. The list includes email communication related to scheduling and availability, forwarding information, responding to an inquiry from a constituent, or posing a question for later discussion. Lobbyist: Heather Stauffer, hstauffer@cml.org.

Law enforcement integrity act

SB 20-217, the Law Enforcement Integrity Act was a significant piece of legislation that passed quickly in the last 10 days of the 2020 legislative session. The legislation included significant changes in the law regarding policing, including use of force standards, requiring body cameras, requiring data collection during contacts, and creating new liability for local governments. After thoughtful debate, the Policy Committee recommended specific pieces of clarifying legislation that CML should support should it be introduced. The first is legislation that puts caps on the unlimited damages and attorneys' fees currently in the law. If not caps, CML will support legislation that narrows the scope of liability currently in the law. Second, CML will support state efforts to fund body cameras for local governments. Third, CML will support legislation that creates due process for an officer to contest potential decertification. Finally, CML will support clean-up legislation to ease implementation of SB 20-217 for municipalities. Lobbyist: Meghan Dollar, mdollar@cml.org.

Repeal of the 120% rule for onsite renewable electricity generation

Colorado law limits the size of a renewable energy system allowed on a customer's premise to no more than 120% of the total customer energy usage of the building. Any applications submitted to utilities that come in over the 120% rule are declined and asked to adjust the system size accordingly. This current statute was enacted 15 years ago and is no longer applicable to present-day PV technology, equipment, or Colorado's renewable energy goals. Therefore, CML will be supporting legislation to either eliminate or substantially increase the 120% rule within the Colorado Renewable Energy Standard. Lobbyist: Morgan Cullen, mcullen@cml.org.

Single-use plastic prohibitions

Several municipalities have already implemented or are contemplating implementing prohibitions on plastic bags or other single-use items. However, a statewide preemption on local prohibitions of plastic products has existed in statute since the late 80s. CML will be supporting legislation in 2021 striking this language to explicitly permit local prohibitions. Lobbyist: Morgan Cullen, mcullen@cml.org.

Once the legislative session is underway, expect to see CML's weekly Statehouse Report as well as individual communications to our membership regarding pending legislation. Also, look out for any Action Alerts asking to contact your legislator. Grassroots advocacy will be key in what is sure to be a more "virtual" legislative session.



CITIES ARE ESSENTIAL

The COVID-19 Recession

Without direct local aid, America's cities will continue to fight this pandemic with both arms tied behind their backs.



Nearly **70% of cities** are experiencing negative financial health as a direct cause of COVID-19.

As revenue is decreasing due to the coronavirus pandemic, expenditures keep increasing for cities across the nation.

Of those negatively impacted by COVID-19:

90% have experienced a revenue decrease.



76% have experienced an expenditure increase.



This includes the cost of PPE and paying essential workers for overtime.



Expenditures
On average, expenditures increased by 17%.

Revenues
On average, revenues decreased by 21%.

29%, or an estimated 6,000 Cities, towns and villages, did not receive any aid or funding from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund based on our survey results.



62% of cities did not receive additional CARES Act funds from a federal agency or program, including FEMA or HUD.

With less revenue and more expenses, cities have been forced to make cuts.

37% of cities have had to implement hiring freezes, wage holds, layoffs, and/or furloughs.



Cities of all sizes will face significant challenges in providing the fundamental services their residents rely on every day.



89% of Large Cities



71% of Mid-sized Cities



52% of Small Cities

This problem will not just go away. In fact, it's going to get worse.

71% of Cities, Towns and Villages believe their government's condition will worsen if Congress does not pass another stimulus.

The road to economic recovery runs through America's cities. Significant federal assistance is far overdue and must be provided directly to **cities of all sizes now.**

This isn't a red issue or a blue issue – this is an American issue. Cities from both Democratic and Republican Congressional districts are calling on the federal government to step up.

Methodology: NLC's member survey was conducted between November 11 and November 20, 2020, with 901 individual cities responding. Responses divided evenly between Democratic and Republican districts and represented 49 states and the District of Columbia. Large cities = 300,000+; Mid-size cities = 50,000-299,999; Small cities = less than 50K



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- CML accepting applications to fill Executive Board vacancy
- Municipalities may now benefit from remote legal expertise
- Aurora unveils 10-year immigrant integration plan
- CML sets priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session
- Research corner: The COVID-19 Recession

Featured in this issue:

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Newsletter

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