



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 9, May 8, 2020

Update on the Colorado Municipal League's 98th Annual Conference

By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director

Over CML's history, the Annual Conference has been the premiere training event for Colorado municipal officials. It is an opportunity to learn from experts and each other, as well as to network with your colleagues from around the state. Since 1923, as near as we can tell, CML's ability to hold the conference has never been threatened until this year.

In late March, we began to evaluate all of the possibilities, as well as the likelihood that we would be able to hold the conference you expect with nearly 1,300 of your colleagues, exhibitors, sponsors, and guests. In addition, we know that most of our member municipalities must reduce discretionary expenses, as revenues continue to suffer, and we know that includes having to furlough or lay off employees.

Very simply, even if public health orders might allow for it in June, we cannot put on the Annual Conference that you expect or deserve, and we would not want to risk the health, safety, and welfare of you — our valued members. CML made the decision that we will cancel this year's conference in Westminster and are currently working with the Westin to reschedule for June 2025.

We are committed to continuing to meet our mission by providing virtual training opportunities, including a virtual conference to be held later this year. We ask that you help shape what that virtual conference will look like by completing a brief survey at bit.ly/2KZKOAR.

Annual Business Meeting and CML Board elections

In addition to being a key part of our mission, our annual business meeting held at our annual conference is part of our bylaws. We are planning to hold the annual business meeting virtually on **June 25**. We ask that you save the date to attend this meeting as it is your opportunity to vote on board members, the CML policy statement, and receive the announcement of 2021 dues. Your participation in this meeting is crucial, now more than ever. More information on this meeting will be available soon.

If you have already registered to attend this year's conference, you will be issued a full refund. Refunds will be processed in the next 30 days to the method of payment used to purchase. While no action is required to receive this refund, you will need to contact your hotel to cancel any lodging reservations. For those staying at the host hotel, the Westin Westminster, there will be no cancellation fees

as long as your reservation is cancelled more than two days before your scheduled arrival.

We are grateful to our slate of speakers and panelists for their willingness to share their expertise with our conference attendees. We are hoping to include as many of them as possible in our virtual conference later this year or reschedule them for next year's annual conference in Snowmass Village.

Also, we could not put on the conference without the support and partnership of our sponsors, and we will be reaching out to all of them regarding next steps. We encourage our members to visit our conference sponsor page, at www.cml.org/conference, to view these supporting partners.

Finally, the City of Westminster is an incredible partner and we have thoroughly enjoyed working with city staff and elected officials throughout the conference planning process. The hard work and dedication to putting on a first-class event is not in vain. We are disappointed we will not be visiting your city in 2020, but we will more than make up for it with the 2025 Annual Conference in Westminster.

Again, we thank all of you for your patience while we worked through this process. We sincerely hope that you will be able to attend our virtual conference and we cannot wait until we can all come together again **June 22–25, 2021** in Snowmass Village.

Healthier Colorado survey on COVID-19 pandemic

By Brandy DeLange, CML legislative and policy advocate

Knowing the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Healthier Colorado and The Colorado Health Foundation launched a statewide survey April 15–21, to measure and understand the concerns, needs, experiences, and attitudes of Coloradans

and the coronavirus pandemic. The survey results gathered are intended to provide a better understanding of how different communities are reacting to the pandemic and how the coronavirus has impacted the emotional, physical, and financial wellbeing of Coloradans. The intent of the data gathered is to provide policy makers and other stakeholders a snapshot of experiences felt

by Coloradans and provide a potential guide to help develop policies to support those needs. A secondary poll will be conducted later in summer 2020 as a follow up to the this current survey. Below is a summary of some key findings of the survey. For a more in depth look of the data, visit bit.ly/2YmuMsS.

Continued on page 4.

Join the CML team

The Colorado Municipal League (CML) is currently accepting applications for a Design and Publication Specialist. This person will be responsible for all CML publications and graphic design, as well as maintaining CML brand standards. Applications are due by **May 18**. For more information, visit bit.ly/2Vlgxwl.

GOCO's 2020 draft strategic plan

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) is pleased to share a draft of its 2020 strategic plan, and they want to hear from you. From now until **May 14**, GOCO invites you to share your thoughts and feedback about the draft plan. The plan explores a new, values-based approach to grantmaking for GOCO that reflects the priorities of GOCO's partners, the needs of our state, and ideas for how GOCO can support those within its constitutional mission. To download the plan in English or Spanish, and to find more information regarding the strategic plan timeline, visit GOCO's strategic plan page at bit.ly/2YI71RP.

COVID-19 small business resources

By Morgan Cullen, CML legislative and policy advocate

As sales and use tax revenues continue to be decimated by the shuttered restaurants and store fronts in Colorado by COVID-19, municipal governments rightfully recognize their ability to provide essential services to their residents is inextricably linked to the economic vitality of their community's small businesses.

With this purpose in mind, cities and towns across Colorado have been requesting useful resources and guidance for small business owners to help navigate the often complicated myriad of state and federal programs in order to get the assistance they desperately need.

Fortunately, there is plenty of reputable guidance currently available to help support small businesses with resources both while they are currently closed and when the time comes to reopen.

The Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) has a number of resources available to support small businesses, nonprofits, freelancers, and independent contractors – including guidance navigating the paycheck protection program, Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Small Business Administration (SBA) Debt Relief. For more information, visit bit.ly/2Wh6VYZ.

Also, if a business in your community is facing eviction, it may be helpful to reach

out to the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) for assistance. To learn more about DORA's efforts, visit bit.ly/3f7HNw8.

Additionally, the Pikes Peak Small Business Disaster Center and Colorado Small Business Disaster Center Network are available to help businesses who have been affected by the current health crisis. Their consultants and partners, including the SBA and OEDIT, provide services to assist with disaster loan applications, long term planning, insurance navigation, physical and economic loss estimations, business preparedness, and more. To find your local SBDC's resources, visit bit.ly/3d2RWIE.

Finally, Lew's List in partnership with High Plains Advisors and Foundry Group have assembled a group of CFOs, controllers, and other senior finance professionals to help businesses survive this pandemic by offering pro bono financial assistance to Colorado businesses. For more information about the COVID-19 Finance Assistance network, visit bit.ly/2Wblsd.

Sometimes the most thoughtful thing we can do to assist our fellow residents during this difficult time is to simply help point them in the right direction and let them know that there is help available. CML hopes the resources above will help assist residents in your communities in finding the resources they need. We are all in this together!

Save the date



COVID-19 Economic Impact Discussion

The University of Colorado's Richard Wobbekind and Brian Lewandowski will provide an economic discussion about the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic locally and nationally – what we know and what to expect. This webinar is **May 12** from noon to 1 p.m. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/3f5FY2X.

Effective Governance Workshop part I

CIRSA Executive Director Tami Tanoue and CML Executive Director Kevin Bommer

are partnering together to provide insight into key leadership challenges municipal elected officials face. Topics to be discussed during this two-part series include high-level personnel issues, open meetings/open records, ethics, and other issues. This webinar is **May 20** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/2Wf3kKL.

Effective Governance Workshop part II

Continuing the CIRSA and CML partnership to provide insight into key leadership challenges municipal elected officials might face, this final webinar series for the Effective Governance workshop will cover topics related to budgets, social media, and staff and council relationships. This webinar is **May 27** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/2SplAij.



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DOLA grants \$9.5M for new affordable housing and recovery-oriented housing, allocates \$3M in housing services for COVID-19 relief

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA) Division of Housing (DOH) awarded \$9.5 million through the Colorado State Housing Board (SHB) for affordable housing and 80 new recovery-oriented housing vouchers with \$144,000 of support services in March and April, and received \$3 million to provide COVID-19 housing relief across Colorado.

Gov. Jared Polis signed Executive Order D 2020 012 providing \$3 million to DOLA from the disaster emergency funds which is being used to address evictions and foreclosures, and provide short-term rental and mortgage assistance to low-income households in Colorado who are economically impacted by COVID-19. Information and assistance is available at the division's COVID-19 website.

DOH awarded 80 new housing vouchers to seven agencies for Coloradans with a behavioral, mental health, or substance use disorder that are transitioning from various types of incarceration and residential treatment. The Division also granted \$144,000 for tenancy supportive services to help these participants achieve stable housing.

DOH awarded Colorado Outdoors LLC a loan of \$1.1 million for a three-building, 72-unit multifamily housing project in Montrose, Colorado. Eighteen one-bedrooms, 42 two-bedrooms, and 12 three-bedroom units will be available to families making 30%–80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

DOH approved a \$3 million loan for Archuleta Housing Authority to construct 34 one- and two-bedroom townhomes in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Rose Mountain Townhomes will be walking distance from the city's premier hot springs resort and other major employers, as well as government services, shopping, parks, and trails.

In addition, DOH approved \$1.65 million to Elevation Community Land Trust for the acquisition of 60 two- and three-bedroom single-family homes in Fort Collins, Colorado. TWG Development Inc. will construct the Ketcher Townhomes development on a 5-acre Land Bank parcel, where the homes will be made available to families with up to 80% of the AMI.

Colorado Springs Housing Authority was awarded \$500,000 for development of Shooks Run Apartments near downtown Colorado Springs. The property will have four two-story walkup buildings with 40 units available to families with income between 30%–60% of the AMI.

DOH approved Jefferson County Housing to receive \$1 million to renovate an early 1970s housing development with 108-units in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. The Caesar Square Apartments will serve families within 30%–80% of the AMI.

There was an award in the amount of \$200,000 granted to Anchor House Inc. to assist in construction of a transitional housing project in Broomfield, Colorado. Eight

affordable studio apartments will be available to youth at risk of homelessness between the ages of 18–24.

DOH approved an \$855,000 loan to Gorman and Company to assist with the new construction of the 80-unit Morrison Road Apartments in West Denver. One-, two-, and three-bedroom units will be available to families within 30%–80% of the AMI. An early childhood education facility, family clinic, and Mi Casa Resource center are within two miles of the property.

Community Outreach Service Center Inc. and BlueLine Development Inc. was granted \$1.2 million for construction of the Charity House Apartments in Denver, a four-story building of 36 one-bedroom apartments for people making below 30% of AMI who are experiencing homelessness. The project will include supportive services from Mental Health Center of Denver.

"DOLA is working around the clock to allocate disaster emergency funds to low-income Coloradans impacted by COVID-19, in addition to keeping our regular commitment of supporting equitable housing and recovery-oriented vouchers to people across the state," said Rick M. Garcia, DOLA executive director.

The State Housing Board and DOLA's Division of Housing continue to support the creation of affordable housing that is accessible, safe and secure for all Coloradoans. For complete information on Housing Board grant approvals, visit bit.ly/2WaS3va.

POST Board seeking local representatives

By Meghan Dollar, CML legislative advocacy manager

The Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board has openings for Board members and is encouraging interested parties to submit applications for consideration. The POST Board documents and manages the certification and training of all active peace officers and reserve peace officers working for Colorado law enforcement agencies. POST also provides continuing training on emerging issues, including anti-bias, DNA, and witness protection issues.

Openings are as follows:

- 1 local government representative
- 2 police chiefs
- 1 active peace officer with a rank of sergeant or below

The Colorado POST Board is a vital presence in the Colorado law enforcement community with a long history of commitment to peace officers and to the communities they serve. CML hopes you might consider serving as a POST Board Member and/or that you will forward this to any qualified applicant you feel may be interested in the open positions.

The term for a POST Board Member is three years, with an opportunity for reappointment

for one additional term. Information regarding the duties and powers of the POST Board are available in the Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 24-31-303. The POST Manual is also available on their website. For more information, visit bit.ly/2KPvJlf.

To submit your completed application on the Colorado Boards and Commissions website, visit bit.ly/3fa97tY. The deadline for applications is **May 29**.

CML looks forward to continued local representation on the Colorado POST Board. If you have further questions, email Meghan Dollar at mdollar@cml.org or Alex Martinez at Alex.Martinez@coag.gov.

"Healthier Colorado survey ... " continued from page 1

- 1,000 Coloradans were surveyed with an oversample of 140 African-Americans/Blacks (to reflect U.S. Census estimated demographics of Colorado). Additionally, because the African-American/Black population has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, this oversample is also meant to reflect their feedback.
 - When asked their feelings about the Coronavirus outbreak in the United States, 43% of respondents feel the worse of the virus is yet to come. Families with lower incomes, women, and individuals with disabilities were more likely to answer in this manner.
 - 47% of respondents say they or someone in their household lost their job, lost income, or had their hours reduced due to the pandemic. Of the respondents, those feeling the brunt of job or income loss include people aged 18–29, those who work outside the home, those on Medicaid, and households with an annual income of \$30,000 or less.
 - Additionally, 57% of Coloradans are concerned they or someone in their household will lose their job, income, or have hours reduced in the next six months.
 - Among those still working, 51% are working from home, while 36% are working outside of the home.
 - While 50% of respondents have said their financial situation has remained the same despite the pandemic, 43% said their financial situation has worsened.
- Similarly, those who were more likely to respond that their financial situation has worsened include: households with incomes of \$30,000 or less, individuals 18–29, and those who do not have health insurance.
- When asked what their financial situation would be in one year from now, 35% thought that their finances would improve, while 17% thought it would be worse. Of note, of African-American/Black respondents, 26% said their financial situation would be worse.
 - 64% of respondents said they preferred a policy aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus until more widespread testing becomes available, even if that meant many businesses would have to stay closed. The survey also found that 64% of Coloradans who have lost their job, lost income or lost paid hours due to the coronavirus preferred this policy rather than a policy that would open up businesses.
 - 29% of respondents preferred a policy that would ease measures aimed at slowing the spread of the virus in order to open business ("even if it meant more people would get the virus and die").
 - 56% of Coloradans believe the state should take the lead in coordinating response to the Coronavirus while 35% believe the Federal Government should take the lead.
- Most (57%) of respondents rated the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) as being extremely or very trustworthy. Similarly, most (55%) rated the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as being extremely or very trustworthy.
 - When asked about how worried Coloradans are about the availability of resources for specific needs and programs respondents said:
 - 81% are worried about help for the homeless and rent assistance
 - 76% are worried about enough personal protective equipment for essential workers including healthcare professionals, grocery store staff and officers.
 - 76% are worried about food programs for the hungry.
 - 72% are worried about availability of mental health services.
 - 60% are worried about availability of beds in local hospitals.
 - When asked what government can be doing to better protect the public health of Coloradans, respondents said:
 - 65% make healthcare more affordable.
 - 61% assistance to those who cannot afford food.
 - 59% assistance to those struggling to make rent or mortgage payments.
 - 58% assistance for those who are experiencing homelessness.
 - 54% provide paid sick leave, family leave and medical leave for workers.

Sen. Cory Gardner meets with Colorado mayors and managers

By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director

Sen. Cory Gardner spoke via Zoom meeting with nearly 80 mayors and managers, as well as CML Board members, on April 30. The meeting lasted one hour.

After a brief overview of what is happening in Washington, D.C. and sharing his insight into the CARES Act, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and other federal legislative and regulatory matters, Sen. Gardner spent most of the rest of the meeting answering questions from participants. Like Sen. Michael Bennet, who similarly spoke with mostly rural mayors and managers a couple of weeks ago, Sen. Gardner stated his commitment to supporting federal assistance

to state and local governments to stabilize critical programs and personnel affected by the precipitous decline in tax revenues over the last six weeks.

Gardner also was crystal clear in stating the legislative intent of the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act was to ensure state governments passed along funding to local governments for their direct expenses. CML and other local government associations have been unable to get a commitment out of the state budget office. Since Gov. Jared Polis recently stated the decision is up to the legislature, legislation supported by CML is expected to be introduced when the legislature reconvenes.

How to reset your CML website password

Our members have been using the CML website to register for events and find information. If you have forgotten your username and/or password, you can reset it by following the instructions below:

Go to www.cml.org. Click login on the top right corner of the screen. On the login page, you will find links labeled 'Forgot username?' and 'Forgot password?'.

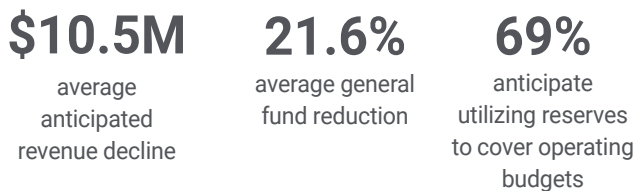
If you have forgotten your username, you will be prompted to enter your email address. An email will be sent to you with your username.

If you have forgotten your password, you will be prompted to enter your username. An email will be sent to you with a link that will allow you to reset your password.

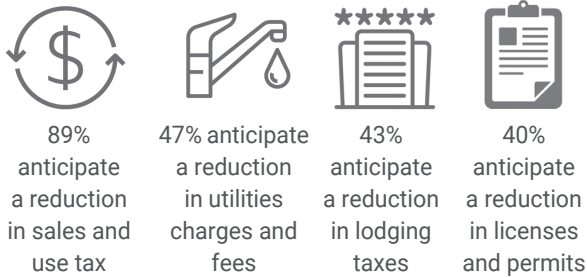
Research Corner: Colorado municipalities seeing significant fiscal impacts related to COVID-19

CML recently partnered with DOLA, Colorado Counties Inc., and Colorado Special Districts Association to survey local governments on the fiscal impacts of COVID-19. The survey was conducted between April 3 and April 10, and a total of 551 Colorado counties, municipalities, and special districts responded to the survey, including 134 cities and towns, representing almost 50% of all Colorado municipalities. To read the press release, visit bit.ly/35uHXtn. For the complete survey summary results, visit bit.ly/2VOW8G8.

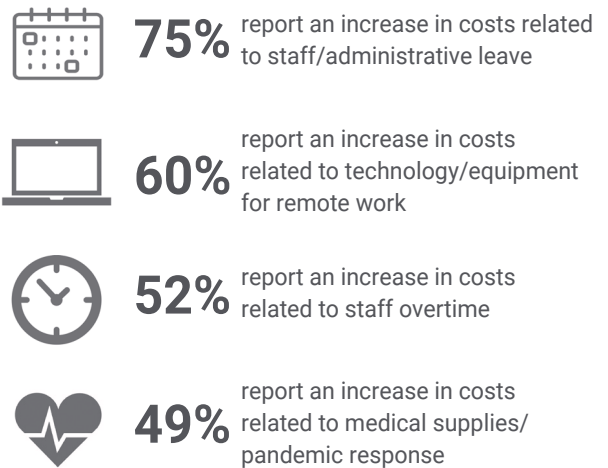
Municipalities are bracing themselves for severe revenue loss.



Due to COVID-19:



Municipal officials are also reporting increased expenditures.

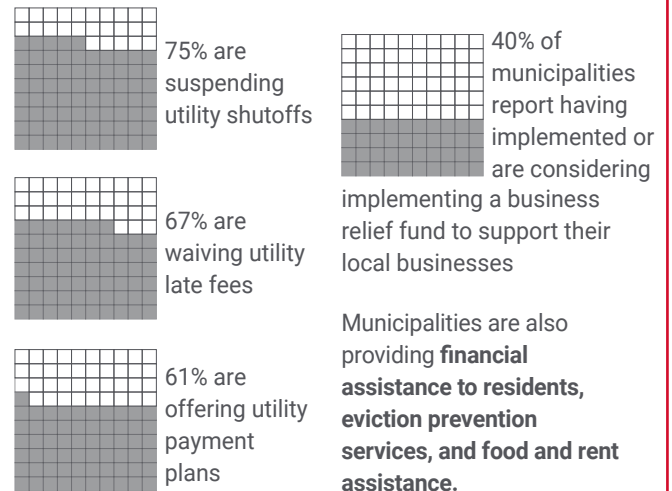


Municipalities are forecasting spending an average of **\$491,336 on COVID-19 response and recovery.**

Colorado municipalities are being forced to cut costs.



Even in the face of their own tightening budgets, Colorado cities and towns are supporting local businesses and residents.





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