



## Bipartisan infrastructure bill advances but future uncertain

*By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director, and Angelina Panettieri, NLC legislative director of information technology and communications*

Recently, the U.S. Senate voted to move forward on the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In the days since the vote to proceed, numerous Senate floor amendments have been prepared and many will be considered before the legislation advances, which it is expected to do.

If enacted, the bill would make significant investments in the nation's transportation, water, and broadband infrastructure systems. This bill is a result of the lengthy negotiation between the Senate and the White House, and Sen. John Hickenlooper was part of the bipartisan group of 22 senators at the center of the negotiations.

However, the legislation is likely to stall in the House once it passes the Senate,

casting doubt on when it might ultimately pass or if the entire effort will be scuttled due to political disagreements over how much to spend. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has indicated she will hold the bill unless a separate budget reconciliation bill that includes significantly more infrastructure spending goes along with it.

There is concern over the price tag of a reconciliation package (estimated at about \$3.5 trillion) among Senate Republicans and moderate Senate Democrats, and one of the latter – Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) – said in a written statement that she will not vote for the bill. With a 50-50 split in the Senate, the reconciliation bill might not advance and Speaker Pelosi would be forced to choose between moving forward without a reconciliation package, which would contain key policy objectives for President Biden, or

holding off on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that has bipartisan support.

While not every priority of municipalities was included in the bipartisan agreement, the National League of Cities (NLC) and its allies, including CML and other state leagues, have successfully advocated for the inclusion of many programs and policies that could benefit cities, towns, and villages. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes \$550 billion in new federal investments in America's infrastructure and will add, on average, 2 million jobs per year to the national economy.

NLC and CML will provide full details of the bipartisan legislation once it passes the Senate. Also included will be any prognosis available for when and if the House might take up the legislation, as well as whether leadership will continue to insist on a companion budget reconciliation bill.

## Applications for NLC Board, committee leadership positions now being accepted

*By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director*

The National League of Cities (NLC) announced the online applications portal for members wishing to serve on the NLC Board, or in leadership positions for NLC's federal advocacy committees, member networking councils, and constituent committees, is now open.

Board members will be elected at the upcoming NLC City Summit ([bit.ly/2VDKhw](https://bit.ly/2VDKhw)) in **Salt Lake City, Nov. 18-20**. Committee and council leadership will be appointed by the incoming NLC president around the same time.

Full details for the NLC Board process are available at ([bit.ly/37wYrCN](https://bit.ly/37wYrCN)). This guide tells you what the job entails and how to apply. Applications are due no later than **Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021**.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Carla Smith at 202-626-3179 or [smith@nlc.org](mailto:smith@nlc.org).

Details on leadership positions for advocacy committees and member networking councils will be forthcoming. Questions about the application or appointment process for committees should be directed to Zach Gossett in the Federal Advocacy

Department at [gossett@nlc.org](mailto:gossett@nlc.org). Questions about the application or appointment process for councils should be directed to Katrina Washington in the NLC Membership Department at [washington@nlc.org](mailto:washington@nlc.org).

Again, this process is for the NLC Board, as well as advocacy committee and member council leadership positions. NLC members who wish to apply for regular membership on an advocacy committee or council will do so in an application process that will open on Oct. 5.

## In memory

Former Colorado Governor Dick Lamm passed away on July 29, according to his wife, Dottie Lamm, just shy of his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. The former First Lady said in a statement that "[w]ith great sadness, but also gratitude for a life well lived and in service to his beloved Colorado, I want to share the news of the death of my husband, former Gov. Richard D. Lamm."

Lamm was Colorado's governor from 1975–1987, and worked frequently with CML. Retired CML Executive Director Sam Mamet said, "Gov. Lamm was a close ally of the League on so many issues affecting the interests of cities and towns, whether it involved home rule, municipal annexation and growth policies, municipal watershed regulations, or lottery funding for parks and recreation. He was a true collaborator with CML and he never left us in the lurch. A close friend both of myself and (retired CML Executive Director) Ken Bueche, his leadership helped to advance our beloved Colorado. All of us owe him a debt of gratitude. May his memory be a blessing."

## Mayor Adam Paul, City of Lakewood, appointed to ARPA housing subpanel

During the 2021 legislative session, the General Assembly adopted House Bill 21-1329, which CML supported. The bill directed the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council to, by resolution, create a task force to meet during the 2021 interim. The legislative task force must issue a report with recommendations to the General Assembly and the governor on policies to create transformational change in housing using money the state receives from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The bill also permits the task force to include non-legislative members and have working groups created to assist them and to hire a facilitator to guide the work of the task force. A subpanel was then created via resolution to help advise

and provide feedback to the task force. Mayor Adam Paul of the City of Lakewood was appointed by Speaker of the House Alec Garnett to represent municipalities on the Affordable Housing Transformational Subpanel. Municipal elected officials see firsthand the impact the lack of attainable and affordable housing has on a community. Mayor Paul has worked in the housing arena during his time as mayor on Lakewood's Housing Advisory Policy Committee and has been active in past legislation to increase the supply of condominiums in Colorado. CML staff looks forward to working with Mayor Paul to recommend housing solutions that will expand Colorado's housing supply.

## New program portfolio, grant calendar and more

GOCO is pleased to announce a new, values-based grant program portfolio ([bit.ly/3INBfbK](http://bit.ly/3INBfbK)) and 2021-2022 grant calendar ([bit.ly/3Am8JSA](http://bit.ly/3Am8JSA)). In addition, the staff has grown to support a community-centered approach with six locally based regional officers as part of their team structure. See the map of the regions they cover at [bit.ly/3jwZFU8](http://bit.ly/3jwZFU8) and check out other

staff changes on their staff page at [bit.ly/3s4BKPY](http://bit.ly/3s4BKPY). Finally, the GOCO board ([bit.ly/2Xgyh5H](http://bit.ly/2Xgyh5H)) has welcomed seven new members to help further the organization's mission of protecting and enhancing Colorado's great outdoors.

Please contact [info@goco.org](mailto:info@goco.org) with any questions or comments.

## Member news

### New Associate Member

#### AT&T

Guillermo J Lambarri, director external affairs AT&T – CO/WY  
161 Inverness Dr. West  
Englewood, CO 80112  
713-213-4043  
[gl7193@att.com](mailto:gl7193@att.com)  
[www.att.com](http://www.att.com)

For more than 140 years, AT&T has been helping family, friends and neighbors stay connected. With more than 2,100 employees and 2,300 retirees living in Colorado and 291 retail locations across the state, AT&T is a vital part of the Colorado community.

We are delighted to serve our communities by investing more than \$600 million over the past three years in our wireless network to deliver fast, reliable mobile communications services for Colorado's consumers and businesses.

### Colorado Historical Foundation

Catherine Stroh, executive director  
PO Box 363  
Golden, CO 80402  
720-480-6297  
[catherine@cohf.org](mailto:catherine@cohf.org)  
[www.cohf.org](http://www.cohf.org)

The Colorado Historical Foundation, a nonprofit corporation with offices in Montrose and Golden, works to advance the study and preservation of Colorado's history and historic properties. Focusing primarily on finance and real estate, it manages a conservation easement program protecting over 100 historic sites from being severely altered or demolished; administers a historic property redevelopment loan fund; manages donor-restricted funds and endowments; and facilitates preservation research and rehabilitation projects.



COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE **NEWSLETTER**

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Get this newsletter by email. The *CML Newsletter* is available by email three days before it arrives in the mail! Sign up at [bit.ly/CMLNewsletter](http://bit.ly/CMLNewsletter).

# Communications and outreach strategies to bring awareness to residents about eviction prevention programs

By Lauren Lowery, NLC program director, housing and community development

With the ending of the CDC Eviction Moratorium ([bit.ly/3jUiCRd](https://www.cdc.gov/evidencereport/2020/07/31/cdc-eviction-moratorium-ends)) on July 31, local governments and their partners, such as county and state governments and community-based organizations, should be proactively thinking about how to increase residents' awareness about eviction prevention programs through a coordinated approach.

With our world ever-changing amid an ongoing pandemic, it is important for local governments to put out consistent messaging on a weekly basis about resources and services available to help both tenants and landlords. By proactively increasing awareness about resources and services available, such as eviction diversion ([bit.ly/2VwZikQ](https://www.nlc.org/2020/07/29/eviction-diversion/)), emergency rental assistance ([bit.ly/3jDjIQZ](https://www.nlc.org/2020/07/29/emergency-rental-assistance/)), eviction mediation ([bit.ly/3yDr0dY](https://www.nlc.org/2020/07/29/eviction-mediation/)), legal assistance or right to counsel ([bit.ly/3s1ZkNI](https://www.nlc.org/2020/07/29/legal-assistance-or-right-to-counsel/)), eviction navigators and supportive services, local governments, and partners can help to prevent evictions.

Moving forward, municipalities should look to deploy best practices from their communications team to identify communication and outreach strategies that proved to be effective when municipalities were challenged with bringing awareness about the pandemic, the COVID-19 vaccine availability, and participation in Census 2020 ([bit.ly/3fPkVU6](https://www.nlc.org/2020/07/29/census-2020/)).

In the coming days and weeks, our recommendation on how municipalities can educate tenants and landlords about their eviction prevention programs, and services include:

## Centering equity and lived experience in communication and outreach strategy

When determining the right approach to strategically inform residents, local governments should consider populations within their community who do not have access to traditional means of receiving information due to lack of broadband access. In addition, local governments should provide equitable and full access to eviction prevention resources to marginalized populations, including Black,

Indigenous, and households of color, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, and immigrants. Strategies to consider include paper-based communication materials, translating communication material (flyers, video clips and website, and/or social media posts) into multiple languages, having translators available for interpretation, providing closed captions/subtitles for video-related content, and utilizing visual self-help posters ([stanford.io/3yzqUUU](https://www.stanford.io/3yzqUUU)).

## Implement uniformed messaging across municipal departments

Create uniform messaging ([bit.ly/2V1fFz](https://www.nlc.org/2020/07/29/uniform-messaging/)) for all resident-facing departments to utilize through talking points, flyers, door hangers, program brochures, updated email signatures, and voicemails. This strategy will ensure that residents have multiple touchpoints throughout the city or town to receive this information and that the information provided is always current, and consistent. Departments we recommend prioritizing include housing, community development, utilities, neighborhood services, human services, city planning, libraries, and parks and recreation, as well as offices, commissions, or boards serving special populations such as immigrants, multicultural affairs, tribal, and indigenous communities.

## Increase visibility online

Ensure that information on your website about eviction prevention services is easily accessible for tenants and landlords. Consider placing this information in a highly visible area on your website such as the municipality's homepage. Having this information in more than one place via a banner that links to a separate webpage is a great way to ensure you are reaching as many landlords and tenants as possible. It is also important to have consistent content on your municipality's social media accounts ([bit.ly/3xAYuYO](https://www.nlc.org/2020/07/29/social-media-accounts/)) such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, or Nextdoor detailing how tenants and landlords can seek help to prevent evictions.

## Prepare and educate call and contact center staff

Loop in your call or contact center, such as 311 or 211, to assist with answering questions related to eviction prevention services

and resources available. Staff should be equipped with the latest information to ensure landlords and tenants are always well-informed. Also, consider updating your call or contact center's webpage and mobile app with details related to services and resources available for eviction prevention.

## Utilize more than your municipality's website and social media accounts

Do not limit your communication, outreach, and engagement strategies to just the municipality's website and social media accounts. Consider using emergency alerts (or text messages), news releases, the municipal government access channel, resident newsletter, and postcards and mailers to reach tenants and landlords.

## Work with trusted community partners

To reach a broader audience that may not be plugged into the municipality's communication channels, work with trusted community influencers and community-based organizations such as a local radio or news station, food pantries, neighborhood associations or civic leagues, housing counseling offices, or shelters. Consider building a coalition with local courts, legal aid or legal services, state and county government, tenant associations, landlord associations, local colleges, and universities. These organizations can assist with communicating the available resources for eviction prevention at either the local or state level.

## Go to the residents!

Conduct neighborhood canvassing events, go to community events, or host a community event for landlords and tenants. Have information available about eviction prevention in local recreation or resource centers, libraries, local courthouses, and legal aid offices. Work with neighborhood businesses in the area to get information to the residents. Have information available at vaccination sites. Partner with local faith-based organizations, churches, schools, summer enrichment or afterschool programs, and social services.

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## Wheat Ridge receives national recognition as All-America city



By Rebecca Trout, National Civic League, All-America City Award program director

Wheat Ridge, Colo. was designated as one of the National Civic League's 2021 All-America City winners by showing that it is engaging residents to create an equitable and resilient place for all to call home.

All-America City applicants for 2021 were asked to discuss the strength of their civic capital—the formal and informal relationships, networks and capacities they use to make decisions and solve problems—and to provide examples of three community-driven projects that have adapted and transformed the community to be more equitable and resilient.

Wheat Ridge's first project was the Wheaties Academy, a grassroots leadership program developed to expand and diversify the civic voice. Wheaties Academy was created to build the bench of community leaders and to ensure that the diversity of engaged civic voices reflected the actual diversity of the city. Each cohort included people of differing ages, residency tenures, family status, housing type, gender identity, and religious background.

Over the course of seven months, participants learned how to work together to address challenges creatively and authentically with support of mentors, civic

leaders, and other community members. At the end of the curriculum, participant teams designed a grassroots project to address a community issue. Of the 45 program graduates, 70% have gone on to serve the community in some capacity.

Next, Wheat Ridge featured their sustainability efforts. The resident-led advisory committee, Sustainable Wheat Ridge, was made up of 11 resident volunteers who got to work assembling an action plan. In total, the resident committee dedicated over 550 hours of volunteer time to complete the action plan. The plan was approved and a budget of \$25,500 was awarded.

Engaging with Xcel's Partners in Energy program was the city's first major initiative. The committee worked closely with professionals from the utility company to fund home energy audits which would allow Wheat Ridge residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and save money on their utility bills. In 2020, the partnership with Xcel Energy was expanded to a multifamily outreach plan and direct mailers to the business community to advertise free commercial building audits.

Next, the committee partnered with the Regional Air Quality Council to provide \$150 rebates, subsidized by Sustainable Wheat Ridge, for the first 30 residents who that recycled gas powered lawn mowers and purchased an electric mower. The committee also provided more than 165 rain barrel diverter kits to residents who wished to capture rainwater. With the help of city and external grant funds, the action plan from 2018 is 51% complete.

Lastly, Wheat Ridge spoke about how the community came together to work towards equity. Following the death of George Floyd, Wheat Ridge community members created an organization called Wheat Ridge for Equity and began demonstrating six days a week to support Black Lives Matter.

In response to this activism, the city council approved the formation of the Race, and Equity Task Force. The task force is meeting twice a month to review all city services and policies for racism and discrimination and will present their recommendations shortly.

Additionally, diversity, equity, and inclusion training was held for staff and public conversations were hosted in the summer and fall. Lastly, on June 22, 2020, city council passed Resolution No. 35-2020, condemning racism and hate with a vote of 6-2. The resolution was drafted working with more than 20 community members who have been affected by racism and addressed those personal experiences.

These three projects demonstrated Wheat Ridge's commitment to resilience and equity and clearly met the criteria required of All-America Cities.

Congratulations to Wheat Ridge and the other All-America Cities that are leading the way by engaging their community to create resilient and equitable communities. And a special shout-out to Englewood, a 2021 finalist, and the 16 other Colorado communities ([bit.ly/3ArbfHj](http://bit.ly/3ArbfHj)) that have won the award in past years.

Join us! In partnership with the Campaign for Grade-level Reading, the 2022 theme is Housing as a Platform for Equitable Learning Recovery. Learn more at [bit.ly/3ivsi10](http://bit.ly/3ivsi10).

## WEST METRO AREA BID, DDA, URA MOBILE TOUR

COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE & DOWNTOWN COLORADO, INC. WELCOME THE COUNCIL OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AGENCIES

NOVEMBER 3, 2021 8:00-4:30PM

ARVADA | LAKEWOOD  
GOLDEN | WHEAT RIDGE

Why sit in a conference room to learn, when you can hit the road and tour some projects?! Colorado Municipal League (CML) & Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) are pleased to announce our second annual financing mechanism mobile tour.

We will visit projects and partner groups in Arvada, Golden, Lakewood, and Wheat Ridge to encourage an interactive experience to showcase what these tools can do, how they work with others, and what their plan is for the future.

Join CML & DCI, we invite our member cities and towns to see some DDA projects and talk to the officials and business owners involved. **Register at [bit.ly/3xzkhA8](http://bit.ly/3xzkhA8).**

# Appointments made to behavioral health subpanel

Senate President Leroy Garcia and Speaker of the House Alec Garnett have appointed subject matter experts and representatives of local governments and nonprofits to the subpanel advising the task forces established under SB21-137. SB21-137 set aside \$450 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding for future behavioral health investments. This subpanel will work with the legislative task forces to craft and examine policies that improve access to mental health and substance use disorder services. Beauclarine Thomas, CML legislative and policy advocate, will be representing municipalities on this subpanel. The task force will convene in early August for organizational meetings. The subpanel will then begin meeting to analyze and discuss policies for consideration by the task force. Please reach out to Beauclarine at [bthomas@cml.org](mailto:bthomas@cml.org) if you have any suggestions for the taskforce.

The following individuals were also appointed to the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force Subpanel:

- Chair, Vincent Atchity, president & CEO of Mental Health Colorado, an appointment by the speaker representing a statewide organization that develops and advocates for mental health policy;
- Vice-Chair, Dr. Lesley Brooks, chief of addiction medicine at SummitStone Health Partners, an appointment by the president representing behavioral health practitioners or providers;

- Candie Burnham, executive director of Atlantis Community, Inc., an appointment by the speaker representing individuals, either patients or caregivers, with lived experience navigating the behavioral health care system;

Appointments by the speaker representing community-based organizations representing communities that experience disproportionate health impacts:

- Nadine Bridges, executive director of One Colorado
- Ana Vizoso, director of Behavioral Health at Servicios de La Raza, Inc.
- Lorez Meinhold, executive director of Caring for Denver Foundation
- Harry Budisidharta, executive director of the Asian Pacific Development Center
- Heidi Williams, director of Opioid Response Unit in the Department of Law, an appointment by the speaker representing the Department of Law, the Judicial Branch, or a member of the judiciary;
- Lisa Raville, executive director of Harm Reduction Action Center, an appointment by the president with knowledge of evidence-based harm reduction strategies;
- Meghan Baker, facilities team leader attorney at Disability Law Colorado, an appointment by the president representing a disability advocacy or policy organization;

- Terri Hurst, policy coordinator at Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, an appointment by the president with expertise in the needs of the criminal justice population;
- José Esquibel, associate director of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, an appointment by the president from the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention;
- Dr. Patrick Fox, an American Psychiatric Association Assembly Representative for the Colorado Psychiatric Society, an appointment by the president representing behavioral health practitioners or providers;
- Heather Hankins, chief behavioral health officer at Health Solutions, an appointment by the president representing behavioral health practitioners or providers;
- Colleen Casper, executive director of Colorado Nurses Association, an appointment by the president representing the behavioral health needs of frontline and low-income workers; and
- Dr. Christian Thurstone, medical director of the Substance Abuse Treatment, Education and Prevention program at Denver Health, an appointment by the president representing a hospital that has demonstrated experience working with the behavioral health community or treating patients with complex behavioral health needs.

## CML creates American Rescue Plan Act resource webpage

By Meghan Dollar, CML legislative advocacy manager

There is an abundance of information regarding the extensive legislation known as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which includes money directly allocated to local governments and funding available via the state funding. The General Assembly also passed several new grant programs that include municipalities as possible recipients.

CML put all these resources in one place on our website at [bit.ly/3ivDLBC](https://bit.ly/3ivDLBC). On the webpage, members can find information on spending and reporting guidance, information directly from the state on grant programs by issue area, and information from the National League of Cities. If there is anything missing or another resource that should be included, please contact Meghan Dollar, CML legislative advocacy manager at [mdollar@cml.org](mailto:mdollar@cml.org).

**DOWNTOWN COLORADO** Inc.

**REGIONAL DOWNTOWN NETWORKING TOURS + SUMMITS**

NETWORKING TOURS	SUMMITS
GRAND JUNCTION AUGUST 26	NORTHEAST COLORADO PAWNEE BYWAY SEPTEMBER 16
LOVELAND SEPTEMBER 9	SAN LUIS VALLEY HOUSING OCTOBER 18-19
WEST METRO: ARVADA   GOLDEN LAKEWOOD   WHEAT RIDGE NOVEMBER 3	SOCO TAX INCREMENT FINANCE SUMMIT OCTOBER 29

# CML LEGAL CORNER



## The erosion of the fixed licensed premises for liquor licensees



By Laurel Witt, CML associate counsel

The Colorado Liquor Code has traditionally required bars and restaurants to serve alcohol beverages in one clearly identifiable location under the control of one licensee. This year the General Assembly decided to pick away at the idea of a fixed licensed premises by permitting multiple licensees to sell liquor at both alcohol festivals and in communal dining areas.

### Alcohol festivals law lets liquor licensees join permitted festivals anywhere in the state

During the 2021 legislative session, the legislature amended the liquor code in Senate Bill 21-082 to allow seven new categories of liquor licensees, including bars and restaurants, to hold festivals in public spaces, once permitted by the state, up to nine times in a twelve-month period. Previously, limited wineries and wine manufacturers were the only license type

to be able to apply for a festival permit. This new permit will allow licensees to sell and serve alcohol at the festival location just as they would be able to do at their regular licensed premises. Additionally, the applicant may invite other licensees, from anywhere in the state, to participate in the same festival at the same time and location.

### Setting guardrails for alcohol festivals

The state Department of Revenue, Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) is currently working to develop new rules for this expanded permit. The LED permit will likely require applicants to provide names and contact information for all licensees invited to the festival, require those licensees provide proof that they have a license in their locality, explain how the applicant will control the space, show that the applicant has approval to use the space, and provide a diagram of the proposed event. LED will share these details with the local licensing authority of the location of the festival. If a licensee violates any of the state rules and the state can identify which licensee committed the violation, then that licensee will be responsible for the violation. If the state cannot determine which licensee committed the violation, then all the licensees at the event will be responsible, which is an agreed upon condition in the permit application. LED aims to make the new rules effective in January.

### Authority for local permitting

CML persuaded the sponsors of the bill to include a local permitting process, should a municipality choose to, which would allow municipalities to regulate these festivals in a manner that fits the local community. Ideas for permit requirements include: information of all licenses in advance of each festival, a permit fee to cover the cost of enforcement, notifications and enforcement information for any liquor license violations, controlled access points including ropes and signs,

security personnel, trash removal, noise level permits, and more. If the local licensing authority decides not to implement a permit system, the licensee need only get a state permit to have the festivals. Note, neither a winery licensee nor an applicant for a special event permit need obtain a local festival permit.

### State legislation permits multiple liquor licensees to serve in "communal dining" areas

HB21-1027 started out as simply a bill to extend the authority of bars, restaurants, and others to offer take-out alcohol beverages through **July 1, 2025**. The legislature, in the final hours of session, added a section to the legislation that allows for communal outdoor dining areas. Prior to this bill, an outdoor dining area was required to be a part of the licensed premises of an individual licensee. This bill, however, allows a space to be used by two or more liquor licensees for alcohol service if the licensees are located within 1,000 feet of the communal dining area. State and local licensing authorities both play a role in approving a communal dining area, and any licensee wishing to participate must file for a traditional modification of premises approval in order to do so. The local licensing authority may approve the applicant's security and control plans related to communal dining. LED is currently in the stakeholder engagement and review phase of rulemaking for communal dining and, for now, requests licensees to operate under Emergency Regulation 47-1103, which adopted temporary modifications for communal dining areas and public consumption during the pandemic.

*Note: This column is not intended and should not be taken as legal advice. Municipal officials are always encouraged to consult with their own attorney.*

## Research Corner: Impacts of marijuana legalization in Colorado

The Division of Criminal Justice in the Colorado Department of Public Safety recently released a report, "Impacts of Marijuana Legalization in Colorado," to satisfy the requirements of Senate Bill 13-283. The Colorado General Assembly enacted this legislation following the passage of Amendment 64, which allows for the retail sale and possession of marijuana, mandating that the division conduct a study of the impacts of Amendment 64, particularly as they relate to law enforcement activities. Report authors recommend interpreting the findings with caution, given the lack of pre-commercialization data, the decreasing social stigma, and challenges to law enforcement which make it difficult to translate preliminary findings into definitive statements of outcomes. Visit [bit.ly/3sgMHOF](http://bit.ly/3sgMHOF) to read the full report.

### GENERAL

AS OF JUNE 2020



**2,709**  
licensed marijuana  
businesses in Colorado

Nearly **60%** of the licenses for  
marijuana businesses were  
concentrated in the counties of



**994** **292** **276**  
Denver El Paso Pueblo



**79** Municipalities  
**29** Counties  
license marijuana businesses

IN 2020



**\$1.75 BILLION**  
in sales of retail marijuana products,  
**155%**  
increase from 2014



**\$442 MILLION**  
in sales of medical marijuana products,  
**16%**  
increase from 2014



**\$387 MILLION**  
state revenue from taxes,  
licenses, and fees,  
**473%**  
increase from 2014



**\$487 MILLION**  
total contributions of marijuana  
excise tax revenue to Public School  
Capital Construction Assistance  
Fund and Public School Fund  
between 2014 and 2020

### PUBLIC SAFETY

BETWEEN 2012 AND 2019



Marijuana arrests  
decreased from  
**13,225 to 4,290**



Law enforcement officers trained in  
recognizing drug use:  
**2012: 129** **2020: 221**



#### PERCENTAGE CHANGES BY ARREST CATEGORY

Possession	Sales
<b>-71%</b>	<b>-56%</b>
Production	Unspecified
<b>+3%</b>	<b>-45%</b>



DUI summons issued by the Colorado  
State Patrol in which marijuana-alone or  
marijuana-in-combination was recorded  
**2014: 684** **2020: 1,508**



#### PERCENTAGE CHANGES BY RACE

White	Hispanic	Black
<b>-72%</b>	<b>-55%</b>	<b>-63%</b>

The marijuana arrest rate for Black people (**160 per 100,000**) was more than double that of whites (**76 per 100,000**) in 2019. This disparity has not changed in any meaningful way since legalization.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

ADULTS REPORTING MARIJUANA USE IN PAST 30 DAYS



2014



2015



2016



2017



2018



2019

The marijuana usage rates of those 65 and  
older has more than tripled since 2014,  
from **3% to 9.3% in 2019**.

Substance abuse treatment admissions  
for those reporting marijuana as their  
primary substance of use:

2012  
**222 per 100,000**  
population

2019  
**182 per 100,000**  
population

**73.5%**  
of youth (10 to 17 years-old) in treatment for  
substance use report marijuana as their  
primary substance of use.

### YOUTH IMPACTS

High school students reporting marijuana  
use in past 30 days



2013 (Colorado)  
**19.7%**



2019 (Colorado)  
**20.6%**



2019 (Nationwide)  
**21.7%**

Juvenile marijuana arrests **decreased from 3,265 in 2012 to 2,064 in 2019**.



- The rate of **white juvenile arrests** decreased **47%**.
- The rate of **Hispanic juvenile arrests** decreased **26%**.
- The rate of **Black juvenile arrests** decreased **41%**.



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# NEWSLETTER

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