



## Survey is first step to securing funds for water, sewer infrastructure

Each year, the Water Quality Control Division conducts an eligibility survey to identify water and sewer infrastructure improvement needs and stormwater and non-point source needs that are eligible for funding through the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) and Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (WPCRF) programs. All municipalities, counties, districts, public water systems, not-for-profit water systems, and other special districts that own or operate public water, sewer, or stormwater systems in the state of Colorado are encouraged to complete the survey.

Please complete the eligibility survey through the Colorado Environmental Online Services Portal (<https://bit.ly/3Q6umz8>) before the submittal deadline of **June 30**.

The survey must be completed to receive funding from either the DWRf or the WPCRF. The survey is not an application and it does not obligate an entity to apply for financial assistance, but it is a

requirement to receive funding through these programs.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides more than \$50 billion nationwide over the next five years in EPA water infrastructure programs. Colorado's first-year allotment is approximately \$121 million.

BIL funding will be issued as both loans and principal forgiveness. Entities seeking BIL funding must be eligible under the existing DWRf and WPCRF programs. Additional subsidization is available to eligible entities that meet the BIL Principal Forgiveness Eligibility Criteria described in the proposed addendums to the 2022 Intended Use Plan (<https://bit.ly/3mshBkX>). BIL also offers dedicated funding to replace lead service lines and emerging contaminants such as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

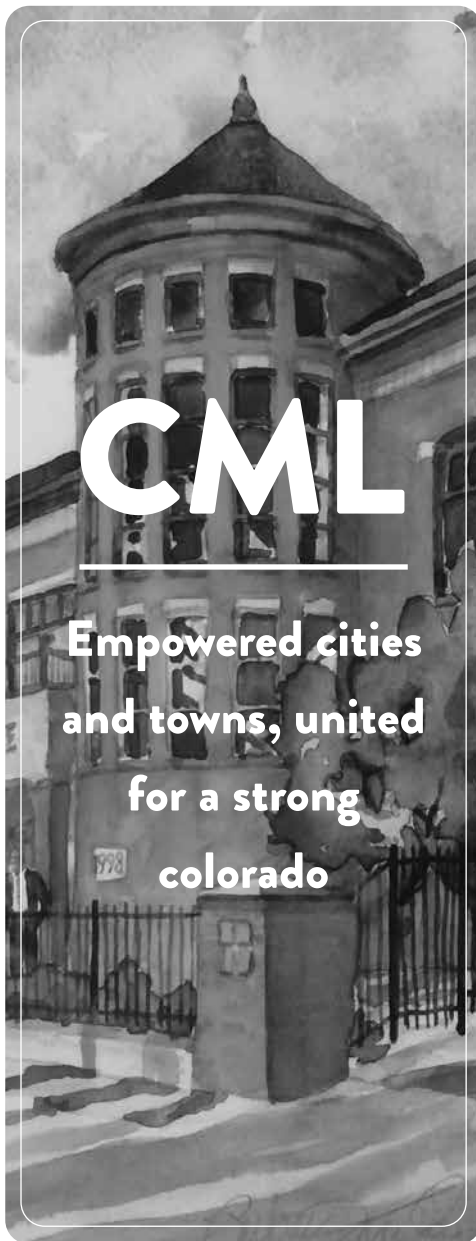
Some important things to note:

- Entities currently identified on the existing 2022 DWRf (<https://bit.ly/3Hk8AEh>) and WPCRF (<https://bit.ly/3NBBSAf>) Appendix A - Project Eligibility Lists are eligible to receive BIL funding in 2022 for the water and sewer infrastructure needs listed.

- Entities not on the current project eligibility lists will need to complete and submit the eligibility survey no later than **June 30** to be added to the 2023 project eligibility lists for BIL funding.

- The surveys have been updated to include sections regarding lead service line replacement needs and emerging contaminants treatment needs. Please remember to complete those sections if you have a funding need for those projects.

Please visit our website, <https://bit.ly/3Q9KD6A>, for program details. Click on Eligibility Survey for instructions and other useful information regarding the annual survey.



## CML member discount available for grant-writing workshop in Fort Collins

Larimer County Sheriff's Office and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Fort Collins, **July 21-22**. This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you will learn how to find funding sources and write winning grant proposals.

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county, and state agencies—as well as healthcare organizations, nonprofits, K-12, colleges, and universities—are encouraged to attend.

Colorado Municipal League members and their staff will receive a special tuition rate of \$425, which includes two days of instruction, a workbook, and access

to the Alumni Forum that provides tools, helpful discussions, and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Please use the discount code "ASSN" to receive this \$30 discount.

Groups of five or more receive a \$50 discount per person. Discounts for Grant Writing USA alumni are also available. Please call Janet Darling at 888-290-6237 for details. Payment is not required at the time of registration.

For more information including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials, and online registration, visit <https://bit.ly/3xjHxEn>.

## State Internet Portal Authority micro-grants help municipalities, people get connected

The State Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) Micro-Grant program is designed to connect residents to government by putting more information and services online.

Since 2010, more than 327 grants and \$1.5 million have been awarded to governments across the state. Micro-Grant funding is intended for projects that support SIPA's mission of providing residents access to government through effective and efficient online and mobile

technologies. Funding cannot be used for back-office software or hardware projects, operational maintenance, or GIS database development.

The application period for grants is open through **July 14**. For additional information, testimonials, ideas for funding requests, and the application visit <https://bit.ly/3uGdpD8>. Please reach out to [beth@cosipa.gov](mailto:beth@cosipa.gov), 720-409-5636 with any questions.

## State writes policy memo to clarify new legislation for people with disabilities

The Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT), in collaboration with the Attorney General's Office, has released an Accessibility Policy Memorandum (<https://bit.ly/3mwLZ0>) to help clarify HB21-1110, Colorado Laws for Persons with Disabilities. The policy memo outlines the bill's purpose and provides FAQs.

Other resources OIT makes available to local governments can be found on the Office of Information Technology's

website, <https://bit.ly/3zpLLGa>. Resources include a summary of the requirements of HB21-1110, the current web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1 level AA criteria, and an accessibility guide.

Sign up for the State's Accessibility Newsletter (<https://bit.ly/39bdNSc>) to keep up to date on any changes in the standards and the latest news.



COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE **NEWSLETTER**

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## GREAT OUTDOORS

### Pandemic recovery grants aim to boost tourism, outdoor recreation

**T**he Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) announced two new grant programs designed to accelerate pandemic recovery in Colorado tourism destinations and the state's outdoor recreation industry.

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office (OREC) has introduced the Colorado State Outdoor Recreation Grant (<https://bit.ly/3zmMcYN>), a \$4 million competitive grant program that will distribute funds to outdoor recreation projects over the next four years. Eligible projects include upgrades to infrastructure, technical and planning assistance, marketing and promotion of events and assets, and workforce development, all within the outdoor recreation industry. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with quarterly review deadlines; the first deadline is June 30.

The Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) Tourism Recovery Marketing Grant (<https://bit.ly/3Hdjmfa>) will distribute \$1.85 million in matching grants to tourist destinations still in pandemic recovery. Eligible projects are city, county, or regional tourism marketing and promotional campaigns overseen by nonprofit organizations promoting tourist destinations, Colorado cities, or other political subdivisions of the state, economic development district organizations,

and Indian tribes. The application period is open from **June 1** through **August 1**.

Both grant programs are made possible through funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) State Tourism Grant, which will also enable increased marketing to international tourists. Colorado received a total of \$9.68 million in EDA State Tourism Grant funding after it was made available to states to accelerate pandemic recovery in communities that rely on travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation. OEDIT allocated half of the funds to the CTO and half to OREC to address declines in international tourism and direct much-needed funds to tourism destinations and outdoor industry organizations and groups still recovering from the pandemic. Directing funds to Colorado communities was a priority in allocating the funds.

In addition to overseeing the Tourism Recovery Marketing Grant, the CTO will allocate \$2.4 million of the funds toward international marketing and promotions over the next four years, replacing funding lost over the pandemic. International tourism spend in our state dropped 81% from \$1.8 billion in 2019 to \$306 million in 2020 with 2021 forecasted to finish even lower. International travelers are Colorado's highest value tourists, staying longer and visiting more areas of the state, with a heavy emphasis on sustainable tourism.

## Disaster preparedness and resiliency webinar

On **Thursday, June 23**, from 10-11 a.m., experts from the Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will inform on steps that residents and communities can take to enhance disaster preparedness along with sources of government aid for increasing community resiliency and post-disaster recovery efforts.

The webinar will include:

- Welcome and introductions by the AARP State Director
- Lifelong Colorado Remarks from the Governor's Office senior policy advisor on aging
- A presentation on preparing for disasters and enhancing community resiliency, by the CRO

- Information on registering for the emergency alert system, by FEMA Region VIII

- A question and answer segment.

The webinar is free and open to the public, but participants must register to receive the conference link by visiting <https://bit.ly/3zvpcac>.

For more information contact [rrey@aarp.org](mailto:rrey@aarp.org).

## Englewood to receive \$38 million EPA loan for water infrastructure

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a second Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan to the City of Englewood for \$38 million to support the city's drinking water initiative, the One Water Modernization Program.

With EPA's WIFIA loan, Englewood will protect its drinking water system from the impacts of extreme weather events and reduce exposure to lead while promoting regulatory compliance.

Englewood is in a water-constrained and rapidly changing region. As a result, the city is pursuing a comprehensive water

infrastructure modernization plan called One Water Modernization Program.

With this loan, Englewood will modernize its drinking water treatment and distribution systems to be more resilient during floods, blizzards, and other extreme weather events. The city will also replace thousands of lead service lines, improve drinking water taste and odor, and increase water supply by 290 acre-feet of water per year. Additionally, homeowners will be converted from flat rate, non-metered water services to a metered system to promote water conservation.

"The EPA's \$38 million WIFIA loan will be

critical to modernizing our water treatment plant, addressing lead service lines, and making our water system safer and more resilient," said Englewood Mayor Othaniel Sierra. "We feel very fortunate to access this level of funding with much lower borrowing costs. It allows the city to make these critical improvements while keeping rates affordable for our customers."

Englewood will save approximately \$15.7 million by financing with a WIFIA loan. Construction and operation are estimated to create approximately 565 jobs. For More information about the WIFIA program, visit <https://www.epa.gov/wifia>.

## Stimulus funds available for innovative housing programs

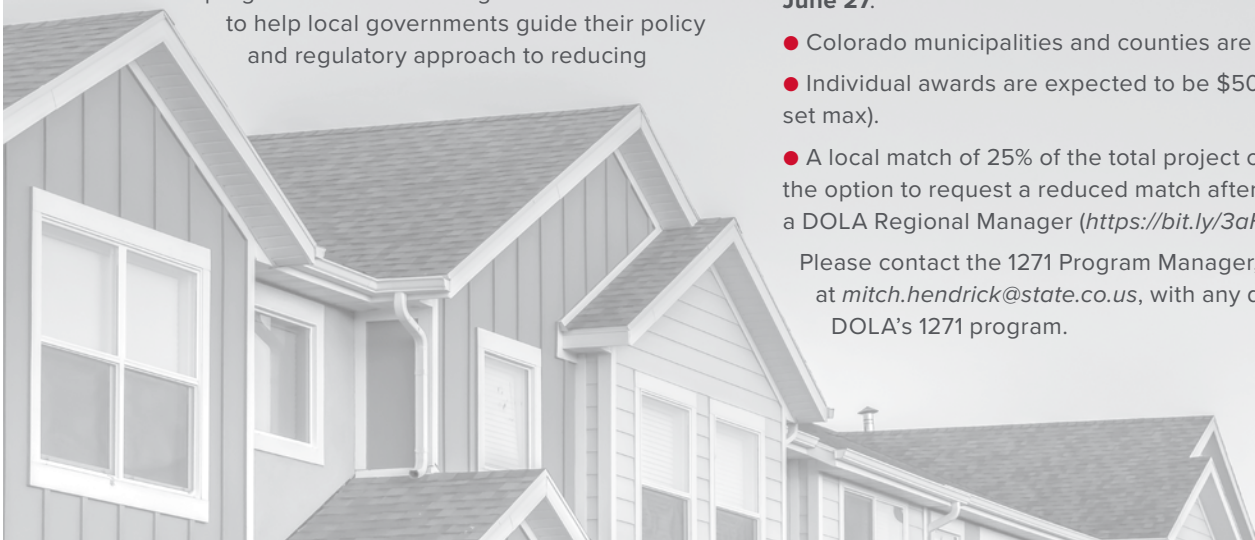
The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) received stimulus funds from HB21-1271 (<https://bit.ly/3aFWIQL>) to promote innovative solutions to the development of affordable housing across the state. The Community Development Office is partnering with DOLA's Division of Housing to provide grants to local governments through the Planning Grant Program. This program can fund housing needs assessments to help local governments guide their policy and regulatory approach to reducing

barriers to affordable housing development. The application for funding must include work to adopt a qualifying strategy (from the options listed in the bill). For more information on the Innovative Housing Planning (IHOP) Grant Program, please visit DOLA's website at <https://bit.ly/3msMCoD>.

Round 6 Applications are due at close of business **Monday, June 27**.

- Colorado municipalities and counties are eligible.
- Individual awards are expected to be \$50,000-\$200,000 (no set max).
- A local match of 25% of the total project cost is required, with the option to request a reduced match after consulting with a DOLA Regional Manager (<https://bit.ly/3aHnVCf>).

Please contact the 1271 Program Manager, Mitch Hendrick, at [mitch.hendrick@state.co.us](mailto:mitch.hendrick@state.co.us), with any questions about DOLA's 1271 program.





A banner for the Colorado Municipal League 100th Annual Conference. The background is a grayscale image of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a cloudy sky. Overlaid on this are three red rectangular boxes with white text. The top box says 'COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'. The middle box, which is the largest, says '100TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE'. The bottom box says 'BRECKENRIDGE | JUNE 21-24'.

**COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

# 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**BRECKENRIDGE | JUNE 21-24**

## We can't wait to see you at the CML 100<sup>TH</sup> Annual Conference!

Get ready to celebrate CML's 100<sup>TH</sup> conference in Breckenridge! We hope you will arrive on Tuesday, June 21, for pre-conference sessions, the welcome reception, and to visit our exhibitors. We are opening the exhibit hall early this year so you can enjoy more time with our sponsors who provide municipal products and services.

### Exhibitor Passport

The Exhibitor Passport is back and promises great prizes on Tuesday AND Wednesday!

### Tuesday Prizes:

- RTIC Cooler Backpack
- Birdie Scooter
- Yeti Cooler
- Google Nest Smart Speaker
- REI Backpack and Nalgene Water Bottle

### Wednesday Prizes:

- National Parks Pass
- JBL Flip5 Speaker
- 2 Tickets to the Adams Mystery Playhouse
- Google Nest Smart Speaker

### Entertainment

Hazel Miller will perform at the 100<sup>TH</sup> Conference Celebration on Wednesday night!

CML's 100<sup>TH</sup> Annual Conference has lots in store, especially our 100<sup>TH</sup> Conference Celebration from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, at the Riverwalk Center in Breckenridge. Walk through history on our Main Street, where there will be roaming performers, snacks and drinks, and a special performance from Colorado legend, Hazel Miller!

# CML LEGAL CORNER



## Plan now for web-accessibility compliance in 2024

By Ashlyn DuThorn, CML law clerk

More and more, Colorado municipalities rely on websites and web-based platforms to publicize meetings and events, provide information, and communicate with their residents. The increasing use of internet platforms requires careful planning and consideration to ensure all members of a community can use the platform.

Last year, House Bill 21-1110 was enacted to address accessibility standards for state and local government websites. Although many of the protections in this law are subsumed in the general provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, this law established more specific protections in state law so that persons with disabilities can bring web accessibility lawsuits in state courts.

Compliance with this law is not required until **July 1, 2024**, but it is important for municipalities to plan now so they are not subject to discrimination claims.

### Understanding web accessibility standards

In compliance with HB21-1110, the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) has established minimum accessibility standards using the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 AA (WCAG 2.1 AA Guidelines, W3C). These guidelines are based off the principle of creating "perceivable, operable, and understandable digital content that enables an individual with a disability to access the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services offered to other individuals, with the same privacy, independence, and ease of use as exists for individuals without a disability." These standards apply to all technology, hardware, and software, both public-facing and internal-facing, including (but not limited to) websites, applications, kiosks, digital signage, documents, video, audio,

and third-party tools. Texts, links, images, forms, PDFs, documents, and embedded third-party applications are all examples of online content and material that must be in compliance with these standards.

### Local government requirements

So, what does this mean for municipalities? By **July 1, 2024**, local governments must develop an accessibility plan using the accessibility standards developed by OIT and be in full compliance with WCAG 2.1 AA Guidelines in the creation and publication of any online content and materials. These plans do not need to be submitted to OIT.

In their budgeting cycle, municipalities should consider funding the development of an accessibility plan and consider future funding for updates needed to their current systems. Additionally, contracts for hardware and information technology services should be updated to ensure vendors provide compliant systems. Municipalities should consider establishing procedures to ensure that any content (including third-party content) complies with the accessibility standards.

### Consequences of noncompliance

Failure to create and implement an accessibility plan by this date is defined as discrimination against persons with disabilities and could subject a municipality to a civil action. Penalties may include a court order requiring compliance, monetary damages, and/or a statutory fine of \$3,500 payable to each plaintiff for each violation. Additionally, prevailing plaintiffs may be able to recover attorney's fees.

Liability for noncompliant content lies with the government entity that manages the content and liability for noncompliance of the platform hosting the content lies with the government entity that manages the platform. While HB 21-1110 does not

provide additional details regarding these liability provisions, it seems to suggest that a government entity may be on the hook for its digital content and platforms, even if a third-party contractor is involved.

### Resources

OIT has published many resources on its website ([oit.colorado.gov](http://oit.colorado.gov)) and will be providing accessibility training soon. Helpful resources for local governments include a summary of the requirements under HB 21-1110, WCAG 2.1 AA Guidelines, an accessibility guide for help managing and creating accessible site content, and free accessibility evaluation tools.

OIT, in collaboration with the Attorney General's Office, has also released an Accessibility Operations Memorandum to help clarify some of the confusion surrounding HB21-1110. This memo outlines the law's purpose, OIT's role, and summarizes much of the information from its FAQ section. It is also recommended that municipalities sign up for OIT's Monthly Accessibility Newsletter to stay up to date on the latest news and any changes to OIT's accessibility standards, which can also be found on their website. In addition, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) ([w3.org](http://w3.org)) has many helpful resources, like an accessibility fundamentals overview, a guide for planning and managing web accessibility, and support for developing an organizational policy for creating, managing, and delivering accessible websites. Lastly, state agencies are required to submit accessibility plans to OIT by **July 1, 2022**, so it may be helpful for local governments to refer to these as models.

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

## RESEARCH CORNER: 2022 POLICE OFFICER SURVEY

Over one-third of respondents of CML's 2022 State of Our Cities and Towns survey anticipate that policing will be a challenge over the next five years. Eighty percent of municipalities with their own police force reported experiencing difficulties with recruitment, and half of municipalities with their own police force are experiencing difficulties with retention.

A recent survey by Police1 may provide insight for Colorado

departments seeking to address these challenges. The report on the survey's findings, *What Cops Want in 2022*, aims to help agencies implement strategies that prioritize officer health and safety and create workplace cultures that attract new officers and retain veteran law enforcement officers.

Explore the survey's full findings and solutions-focused analysis at <https://bit.ly/3xMrxMx>

### JOB SATISFACTION

Officers report that serving the community is the most satisfying aspect of their job.

**Why did you choose law enforcement as a career?**  
(Respondents could select all that apply.)

- 72%** To help people
- 57%** Variability of the job
- 46%** Challenges of the job
- 31%** Job security
- 30%** Salary and benefits
- 16%** Family tradition
- 13%** Friend was a police officer
- 3%** Lack of other job opportunities

**The top three most satisfying aspects of the job:**

- 64%** Serving the community
- 42%** Fighting crime
- 31%** Interacting with public

### LEADERSHIP

While most officers believe their supervisor is a good role model, a large minority does not.

**Do you consider your supervisor a good role model?**



### DECLINING MORALE

More than three-quarters report decreasing morale.

**Over the past year, has morale in your agency:**



### COMMUNITY DISCONNECT

More than 4 in ten officers do not believe their agencies effectively educate the public about what they do.

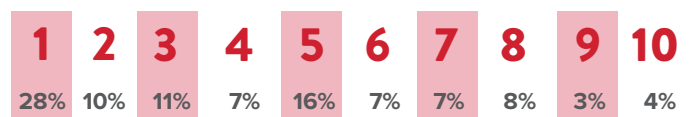
**My agency effectively educates the public about what law enforcement officers do.**

- 6%** Strongly agree
- 26%** Agree
- 25%** Neutral
- 27%** Disagree
- 16%** Strongly disagree

### NOT RECOMMENDED

Even as a majority of officers report overall job satisfaction, most respondents said they'd be unlikely to recommend the career, with the largest percentage choosing "not at all likely."

**How likely are you to recommend a career in law enforcement to others? (1 = not at all likely, 10 = extremely likely)**





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## Featured in this issue:

- CML's 100<sup>TH</sup> Annual Conference is almost here!
- Water Quality Control conducts eligibility survey for funding
- Office of Economic Development hopes to give outdoor recreation a boost
- Research Corner: What Cops Want in 2022
- Legal Corner: Plan now to meet 2024 deadline for web accessibility

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# NEWSLETTER

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