

## NLC Washington conference sees record attendance

*By Kevin Bommer, CML executive director*

From March 26-28, municipal leaders from around the country gathered in Washington, D.C., for the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference.

The goal of the conference is to bring local leaders and their voices to the nation's capital and provide them with the necessary tools and connections to advocate for municipal interests with senators, representatives, and federal agencies. Over 75 Colorado officials joined more than 3,000 from around the country to make this CCC the largest in decades.

CML has always hosted a meeting with our state's senators, and the League was able to arrange that again this year. Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, both very familiar with CML and its members, spent the morning of March 28 at a breakfast meeting with Colorado delegates. As Sen. Bennet noted, Colorado senators have "always worked well together" no matter who they were and regardless of party.

Unfortunately, a schedule shift affecting this year only prevented arranging a special meeting with Colorado's members of the House of Representatives, but many Colorado delegates were able to meet with their representative as part of NLC's Hill Day on March 28. The League looks forward to arranging an event with our House delegation in 2024.

In November, NLC will hold its City Summit in Atlanta from Nov. 16-18. City Summit is a comprehensive conference experience that combines opportunities to learn about issues affecting municipalities and mobile tours to experience how the region is dealing with dramatic growth impacting affordability and diversity. The educational component addresses today's most relevant topics: economic development, rebuilding infrastructure, driving sustainability, public safety, and improving outcomes for youth and families.

More information is available at <http://citysummit.nlc.org>.



Sen. Michael Bennet speaks to Colorado delegates at a meeting arranged by CML.



Sen. John Hickenlooper speaks with Colorado municipal officials.

# EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

## NEWSLETTER

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## IN MEMORIAM

### GERALD "JERRY" ALAN PETERS

Gerald "Jerry" Alan Peters, 79, of Denver, passed away on March 7, 2023.

Jerry was known in the municipal world as the city manager of Glendale for 15 years before retiring in October 2019. On his watch, Glendale built Infinity Park and added a professional rugby team, the Glendale Raptors. He also was manager during a period of substantial commercial, entertainment, and beautification projects. "Jerry was a friend to CML, and Glendale played host to a couple of staff retreats at Infinity Park, thanks to he and the mayor," said Kevin Bommer, CML executive director. "He will be sorely missed."

Jerry is survived by his wife, Liz; daughters Tyffani Sedgwick (Dave), Michelle McMullen (Ken) and Nicholle Gonzalez; sons Chad



Peters (Sandy) and Kurt Gonzalez (Rosa); and grandchildren Daniel Peters (Myranda), Joscelyn Peters, Alexandria Gonzalez, Annabelle McMullen and Luke McMullen. He is prede-

ceased by his parents, Ervin and Mildred Peters, and his brother, Neal Peters. His full obituary may be viewed online, <https://legcy.co/3nAtokS>

Fittingly, the memorial service for Peters was held March 30 at the Infinity Park Events Center he played such an instrumental role in getting built.



## CELEBRATE WITH CML

CML wants to hear about your community's successes. Tell us about a new grant you've won, water tank that's finally finished, or anything else you're excited about! Email CML Publication & Design Specialist Alex Miller, [amiller@cml.org](mailto:amiller@cml.org), or complete the form at <https://bit.ly/3YF8XRM>.





## REBUILDING AFTER WILDFIRE

### Colorado makes fixes to Housing Recovery Program

The Department of Local Affairs is making important changes to the State of Colorado Housing Recovery Program. These changes are meant to streamline the loan application process and correct the discrepancy between the estimate and actual cost of rebuilding.

The Housing Recovery Program, introduced in November, offers resources for rebuilding to people who require support to stay in their communities after a natural disaster. The initiative is meant to encourage rebuilding in line with community-adopted building standards with optional sustainable building components, such as the use of fire-resistant building materials and energy efficiency measures.

#### INCOME VERIFICATION

The department will use an alternative to the standard HUD Part 5 income verification process. The new process is based on the 1040 tax return. While there is still a need to confirm projected income, the department will no longer need to collect information on

assets, which was the most difficult aspect of the documentation. This will have little to no impact on what income category households fall into, but the documentation requirement will be significantly reduced.

#### REBUILDING ESTIMATES

The department is supplementing the estimates determined with the e2Value software to account for typical costs in the affected area. Changes to the estimating process will include standardizing some of the add-ins, such as additional concrete flatwork, landscaping, and utility connections. Add-ins to the estimate for additional mitigation costs are also eligible and encouraged. These changes will increase the overall rebuilding estimate with the effect of more households being eligible (demonstrable rebuilding gap) and will reduce the number of households that need to go through the appeal process to identify additional costs.

For the state-funded traditional loans (\$50,000 limit), the use of a general contractor will be allowed for an estimate,

for those households that have one, as the basis of the award.

#### MITIGATION FOR HOUSING

The mitigation portion of the funding essentially allows households to add up to an additional \$30,000 (\$10,000 for manufactured housing and mobile homes) to help cover the costs of certain fire mitigation activities. If the household is eligible for the grant (forgivable loan), this is added to the grant; if the household is eligible for the traditional loan, it is added to the traditional loan. For the mitigation funds in the program, the cut-off is 120% AMI. If the household income is less than 120% AMI, it is a grant (forgivable), and if the household income is more than 120% AMI, it is a traditional loan.

Mitigation improvements include in-home sprinkler systems, fire resistant siding and windows, non-combustible fencing, and more.

Additional information is available at <https://bit.ly/3G9TtOi>.



## STATEHOUSE

### CML resources on Senate Bill 213

Senate Bill 213 represents the most sweeping attempt in recent Colorado history to remove local control and home rule authority from elected leaders, professional planning staff, and the people of Colorado.

It radically expands state authority by imposing top-down zoning standards on municipalities, and it puts decisions into the hands of developers and unelected third parties. SB23-213 does not recognize that local governments are best suited to address the needs of their communities, and it flies in the face of local efforts to solve the affordable housing crisis.

The Colorado Municipal League has compiled resources and tools you can use to oppose the legislation. You'll find the full text of the bill, a CML analysis that identifies serious deficiencies in the legislation, a sample resolution in opposition to the bill, and a statement on land use and housing affordability developed jointly by CML, Colorado Counties, Inc., and the Special District Association.

These resources are on CML's website at <https://bit.ly/42Sryfg>.

## UPCOMING WEBINAR

### HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT HOW-TO WITH CITY OF GOLDEN

Wednesday, May 3, 12-1 p.m.

City of Golden officials will walk you through the life cycle of a housing needs assessment. The presentation will teach you what to expect when undertaking a housing needs assessment for your community, including the RFP process, community outreach, and implementation of the plan. The webinar is an opportunity to learn from Affordable Housing Policy Coordinator Janet Maccubbin, Director of Community and Economic Development Rick Muriby, and Mayor Laura Weinberg. Register at <https://bit.ly/3yRMeGz>.

## FOR SALE

### NON-OPERATIONAL FORD POLICE INTERCEPTORS

The City of Federal Heights is accepting sealed bids on two non-operational Ford police interceptors. Bids will only be accepted from another approved law enforcement or governmental agency. The deadline for bids is 5 p.m. **April 14**. Please send bids in a sealed envelope and direct all correspondence to Fire Chief Marc Mahoney at 2400 W. 90th Ave., Federal Heights, Co. 80260. For questions or to schedule a time to view the interceptors in person, please contact Fleet Manager Robert Harsch at 303-412-3571 or [rharsch@fedheights.org](mailto:rharsch@fedheights.org).

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

## INTERNET FOR ALL: COLORADO BROADBAND SUMMIT

APRIL 19 – 20, 2023

THE WESTIN WESTMINSTER  
WESTMINSTER, COLORADO

This day and a half long event will bring together local governments, community leaders, industry, state and federal representatives, and other critical partners from around the state to learn about and discuss key programs that are aimed at expanding broadband infrastructure and promoting digital equity for our residents.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO



Individuals with disabilities requiring an accommodation to attend this event should contact Julia Pulidindi at [jpulidindi@ntia.gov](mailto:jpulidindi@ntia.gov).



# MUNICIPAL GRANTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



## GUIDELINES FOR BROADBAND GRANTS

Guidelines for Capital Projects Fund grants from the Colorado Broadband office are now available. The office plans to open the grant program for applications this summer.

Colorado has allocated more than \$162 million from the American Rescue Plan Act for the broadband grant program, which is intended to improve internet service in underserved locations.

Potential applicants can submit feedback on the grant program guidelines and requirements before the application window opens. The public comment period will close **April 28**.

More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3zdwPkd>.

## HIGH-SPEED CHARGING FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The Colorado Energy Office is accepting grant applications for the Direct Current Fast-Charging Plazas program. The grants are intended to increase access to high-speed charging in communities along transportation corridors across Colorado through large deployments of fast chargers. Grant applications are due by **May 5**. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/40MQIzw>.

## FEDERAL FUNDS FOR EV INFRASTRUCTURE

The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation announced the first round of discretionary funding for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program.

This nationally-competitive program created by President Joe Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will provide \$2.5 billion over five years to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in the places people live and work — urban and rural areas alike.

The first round of funding will award \$700 million to eligible applicants, which include municipalities. Applications must be submitted **May 30**. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/40Ji1FF>.

## HUD GRANTS FOR LEAD REDUCTION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes has announced \$403 million in grants for the Lead Hazard Reduction programs.

This funding helps transform communities by fixing older housing, preserving affordable housing, and improving communities and the health of children and families.

This grant program, which is open to municipalities, assists in the development and implementation of comprehensive programs to identify and eliminate lead-based paint hazards in low-income, privately-owned rental and owner-occupied housing.

More information is available at [www.hud.gov/lead](http://www.hud.gov/lead).

## ZERO-EMISSION LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT

The Regional Air Quality Council is accepting applications for grants to pay for zero emission, commercial-grade, lawn and garden equipment. Municipalities and other entities within the Colorado ozone non-attainment area are eligible.

Approximately \$1.2 million is available for funding the replacement of gasoline-powered commercial lawn and garden equipment with electric equipment. Applicants must apply for and be awarded funding before purchasing equipment. Funding applications will be reviewed by a selection committee with awards up to \$50,000.

More information, including a map of the Denver Metro/Front range non-attainment area, is available on the Mow Down Pollution website, <https://bit.ly/42NKcoG>.

*By Robert Sheesley, CML general counsel*

Zoning and land use have traditionally been fertile ground for direct democracy at the municipal level. The fact that the law protects those powers in connection with zoning further demonstrates Colorado's strong commitment to local control. The frequent use of these powers, whether successfully or

Even a fair process and sound judgment of elected officials can leave parts of a community feeling ignored. The referendum power gives the people the right to petition their governing body to repeal the zoning action or to call an election to let everyone have a direct vote. If SB23-213 passes as introduced, that voice could be silenced and only state zoning mandates will be heard. If municipalities enact code changes to comply with state law and

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

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# AURORA



## 101<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**JUNE 25-28**

### **GAYLORD ROCKIES RESORT**

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<https://www.cml.org/conference>



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- CML offers resources on Land Use bill, SB23-213
- Record attendance at Congressional Cities Conference
- State makes fixes to housing recovery program
- Upcoming webinar on conducting a housing needs assessment
- Legal Corner: Disenfranchising voters with statewide zoning

Featured in this issue:

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# NEWSLETTER

