



COLORADO  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 51, No. 13, June 27, 2025



*By the CML Engagement & Communications team*

**T**he Colorado Municipal League is proud to announce the publication of our newest book, the 2025 edition of *Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments*.

Each year, the League analyzes the new laws passed by the General Assembly that affect cities and towns. Our annual publication focuses on selected acts that have a particular significance for municipal operations, services, and powers. Key issues this year included criminal justice, elections, taxation, employment,



and municipal courts. The 2025 edition includes a new section highlighting laws that preempt

local control, create unfunded mandates, and other laws of special interest to municipalities.

The *Laws Enacted* series exemplifies the League's ongoing commitment to provide members with the information they need as inexpensively and easily as possible. The new edition of *Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments*, as well as past years' editions, are available as free ebooks on the Colorado Municipal League website, [tinyurl.com/mrva9s7s](https://tinyurl.com/mrva9s7s).

**Empowered cities & towns, united for a strong Colorado**

# EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO



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## 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).

## CML UPDATE



CML is excited to announce the newest member of our team. Haley Doyne is the League's Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. Haley is responsible for greeting visitors and members in person and by phone, directing inquiries to the appropriate staff, and providing support for events and administrative tasks. Haley began working at CML in fall 2024 and is now officially a CML staff member. Congratulations, Haley!

## UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATION

### UNDERSTANDING & MANAGING SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Utah State University is offering an online course designed to help municipal leaders learn about the short-term rental industry. This course is aimed at small, rural, gateway, and high amenity communities. It will explore short-term rental industry trends and how to navigate the development of balanced policies and regulations to reach the outcomes communities want. Each lesson in this course highlights an important part of understanding and managing short-term rentals. Members of the Colorado Association of Ski Towns contributed significantly to course content. More information and registration are available at [tinyurl.com/yc3mz8aj](https://tinyurl.com/yc3mz8aj).

### EPR & THE STATE

*July 23 at 2 p.m.*

Join CML and Recycle Colorado for the sixth and final installment of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) recycling program webinar series. The state's EPR Program Manager Darla Arians will provide an overview of how the program will affect local governments. Register at [tinyurl.com/yc57bzj9](https://tinyurl.com/yc57bzj9).

## 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), to have your community featured in the CML Newsletter.



## CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN



PHOTO BY ALEX MILLER

In the week before the Colorado Municipal League Annual Conference, members of the League's conference team worked tirelessly to ensure all our attendees have an amazing experience. Pictured in the back row, from left, are Receptionist/Administrative Assistant Haley Doyne, Engagement and Communications Manager Denise White, Meeting and Events Planner Karen Rosen, and Database Specialist Mark Vanderbrook. In the front row, from left, are Executive Assistant Lara Larkin and Finance and Administration Manager Allison Wright. Not pictured, Marketing and Communications Specialist Kharyl Jackson. The League hopes everyone has a great time at the conference!

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## Grant program for design, engineering, environmental clearance

The Department of Local Affairs has created a new Design, Engineering, and Environmental Clearance program as part of the Community Development Block Public Facilities program for eligible local governments in Colorado.

The new grant program offers financial assistance for eligible local governments to complete design, engineering, and environmental clearance activities for an eligible public facilities/infrastructure project.

Examples of projects include sewer and water systems, commercial streetscape improvements, community centers, food banks, shelters, health clinics, and non-profit infrastructure.

To be eligible, applicants must be a local government. Applicants must also be non-entitlement areas, which are municipalities with populations of less than 50,000 that do not receive Community Development Block Grant funds directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Local Development (HUD).

Eligible projects must benefit primarily low- to moderate-income persons, assist in prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or meet an urgent need as defined by HUD.

The maximum grant award for the program is \$100,000. Applications will be accepted July 1-Sept. 1.

A program overview webinar with a question and answers period will be held June 25 at 1 p.m. More information on the webinar and grant program is available at [tinyurl.com/4rwsswmb](https://tinyurl.com/4rwsswmb).



# Energy and building code legislative updates

By the Colorado Energy Office

Colorado recently enacted new laws that will affect energy and building codes in Colorado. These laws further clarify code adoption requirements across the state.

- **HB25-1269** Exempts local governments that adopt the wildfire resilience code developed by the state's Wildfire Resiliency Code Board from having to update their energy code at the same time.

- **SB25-142** Extends the date by which local governments must adopt the wildfire resiliency code developed by the state's Wildfire Resiliency Code Board from 3 months after state adoption to 9 months after state adoption.

- **HB25-1273** Requires jurisdictions over 100,000 people to update their building codes to allow multifamily buildings that are 5 stories or fewer to be served by a single stairway/exit.

In addition to these new laws, some legislation passed in recent years have

## Laws Enacted

To learn more about new state laws, read CML's 2025 edition of *Laws Enacted Affecting Municipal Governments*

[tinyurl.com/LawsEnacted2025](https://tinyurl.com/LawsEnacted2025)

deadlines that cities and towns should be aware of.

- **HB22-1362** (passed in 2022) The state Energy Code Board has completed final voting on the Model Low Energy and Carbon Code and the final code will be published no later than Sept. 1, 2025. Updates on this process will be provided on the Colorado Energy Office's Building Energy Codes & Toolkit webpage.

- **HB23-1161** (passed in 2023) The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will conduct a rulemak-

ing hearing beginning on June 20, 2025, to set a minimum efficiency standard for residential windows. The rulemaking will consider both the Energy Star v7 standard for residential windows as well as CEO's recommendations to align with the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code.

- **HB23-1233** (passed in 2023) Requires all new multifamily developments permitted on or after March 1, 2024, to meet the EV ready requirements of the Colorado Model Electric Ready and Solar Ready Code in order to receive electrical permits in accordance with the Colorado Electrical Board rules (section 2 of the bill). Allows any local government that adopts an updated version of the National Electrical Code, the Colorado Plumbing Code, or the Colorado Elevator and Escalator Code to align with those statewide codes to have more time to adopt the state minimum energy code (sections 10 and 11 of the bill).

## Model code of conduct for youth athletics

Senate Bill 24-113 required the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) to make a model code of conduct policy available for use by youth sports organizations. Under the act, local governments that operate youth athletic activities must also adopt a prohibited conduct policy and are authorized to adopt the model code of conduct policy developed by CDEC, available at [tinyurl.com/3tesvcsz](https://tinyurl.com/3tesvcsz).

Prior to adopting the model policy, consider the impacts on your municipality's existing policies and procedures and consider changes that might be appropriate for your organization or youth athletics programs.

## Colorado launches property tax map

The Department of Local Affairs and the Governor's Office of Information Technology launched a new pilot Colorado Property Tax Map to offer Coloradans a centralized, accessible and reliable source to estimate property taxes and view statewide taxing jurisdictions and boundaries.

This first-of-its-kind map aggregates data provided to the state by local governments and displays historical taxing,

parcel, and levy information in a way that has never been done, adding context and clarity to an often confusing subject. The map launched just shy of a year since a statewide property tax deal was reached during the 2024 legislative session.

The Colorado Property Tax Map can be viewed from any device and does not require an account. Visit [dpt.colorado.gov/property-tax-map](https://dpt.colorado.gov/property-tax-map) for more information and to access the map.

## Stay up to date on Resiliency Framework

The State of Colorado is updating the Colorado Resiliency Framework in 2025. This framework serves as the vision and action plan for strengthening the resilience of our state, and updates will improve Colorado communities' ability to adapt to changing conditions by helping reduce risk, enhance collaboration, and identify solutions

The framework was developed in 2015, then updated in 2020 to reflect new chal-

lenges and opportunities facing the state. Now Colorado is launching an update in 2025 to ensure the framework continues to address today's realities, emerging risks, and long-term resilience goals.

To keep up with the framework, opt-in to receive regular updates and information, including engagement opportunities over the summer, [tinyurl.com/393dr46x](https://tinyurl.com/393dr46x). More information is available on the office's website, [tinyurl.com/yc6ak5yf](https://tinyurl.com/yc6ak5yf).

## RESEARCH CORNER

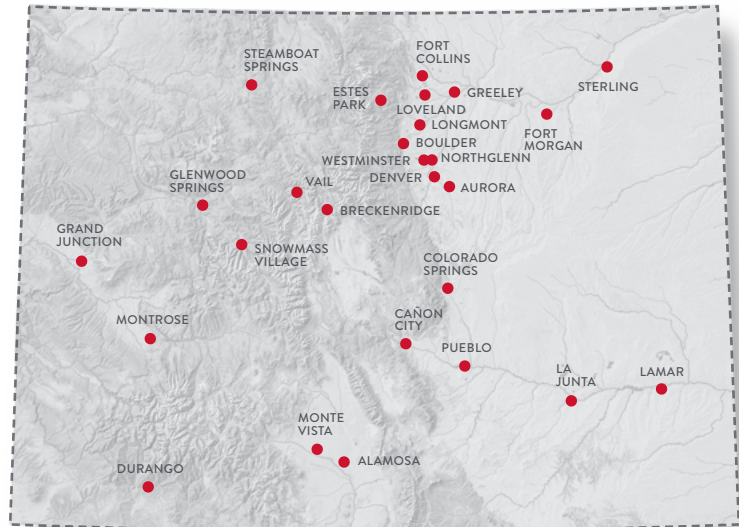
# CML CONFERENCE THROUGH THE YEARS

Data visualization by **MAEVE McHUGH**, CML municipal research analyst, and **ALEX MILLER**, CML publication & design specialist

## LOCATION

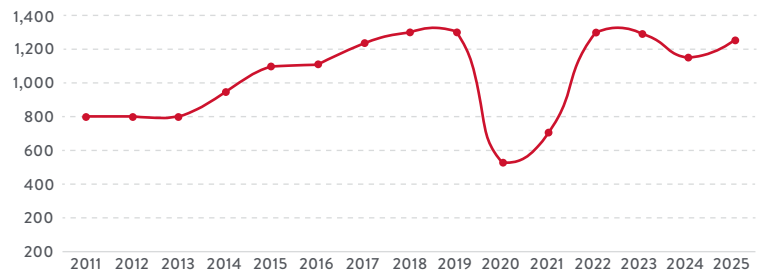
Since the Colorado Municipal League's founding in 1923, its Annual Conference has taken place in cities and towns across the state. This map identifies municipalities that have hosted the conference.

This year, CML is holding the conference in the Town of Breckenridge. This marks the thirteenth time Breckenridge has hosted the conference. That's the second highest number of conferences hosted by a municipality. The record is held by Colorado Springs, which has hosted the conference fourteen times. Colorado Springs last hosted in 1990.



## ATTENDANCE

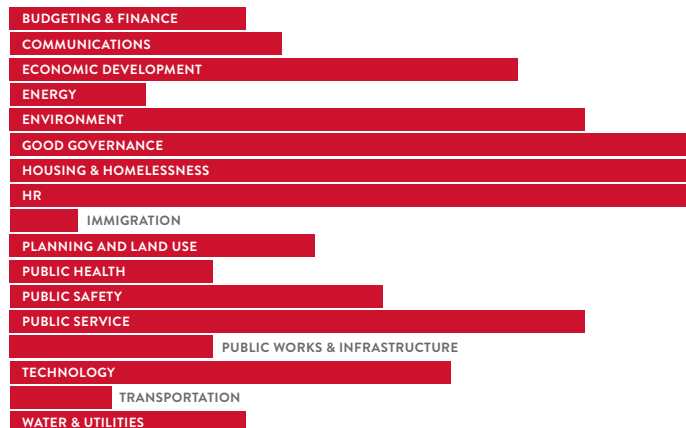
The conference has grown tremendously in size even in recent years. Since 2011, total attendance has steadily increased from 800 to over 1,200 in 2025. Even through the pandemic when the event was held virtually, our members showed up and continued CML's legacy of advocacy, information, and collaboration.



## TOPICS

In addition to our exciting keynote speakers and annual business meeting, CML and our partner host dozens of sessions targeted to an audience of municipal officials. Here is a breakdown of topics of interest since 2020.

Every year, CML works hard to provide a lineup of engaging and educational sessions devoted to the issues municipal leaders face every day. We hope attendees will leave with fresh ideas to bring back to their communities.



# Colorado invests \$780,000 in rural communities

*By the Colorado Department of Local Affairs*

The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) recently awarded \$780,000 for 13 projects across Colorado through the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) program, which aims to help rural communities diversify their local economies and build resilience.

“The REDI program demonstrates DOLA’s commitment to Colorado rural communities,” said Maria De Cambra, executive director of the Department of Local Affairs. “From childcare to main street revitalization, this vital funding helps communities attract investment, encourage entrepreneurship, stimulate economic growth, and improve the quality of life for rural Coloradans.”

## CITY OF ALAMOSA

*City of Alamosa Little Learners Early Care and Learning Center — \$134,030*

This project funds the workforce infrastructure component of the Alamosa Early Care Learning Center. It includes six observation rooms and a resource room to support the recruitment, training, and advancement of early childhood professionals, aiming to credential 50 new professionals by 2027 through hands-on training and professional development.

## SAGUACHE COUNTY

*Saguache County Launchpad — \$15,000*

This project creates the Saguache County Civics Lab, offering paid high school internships on public sector projects to build workforce skills, local engagement, and economic resilience. The goal is to have 30+ internships/job placements and increase enrollment in technical colleges, apprenticeships, and colleges by 10%.

## ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

*Moffat County Geothermal Equipment Project — \$62,470*

Funding is requested for High Altitude Geothermal to purchase a skid steer for company expansion and to retain former coal miners. This project aims to diversify the region’s economy by providing the first dedicated geothermal drilling service in Northwest Colorado.

## TOWN OF LYONS

*Lyons Maker Space and Retail Small Business Incubator — \$16,500*

This project seeks to transform the Lyons Visitors Center into a hub for local artisans and entrepreneurs, initially improving the space for retail and maker activities and culminating in a plan for a larger expansion with workshops, creation space, a retail incubator, and potentially an artist-in-residence studio.

## CITY OF STERLING

*Retread Expansion Phase 3 — \$100,000*

This project funds the expansion of a tire retread facility with new equipment, allowing for the repurposing of more truck tires and keeping them out of landfills, benefiting Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska and creating 8-10 new jobs.

## MORGAN COUNTY

*Morgan County Economic Development Innovation Center — \$87,000*

This project seeks funding to renovate the Morgan County Economic Development (MCEDEC) Innovation Center into a central hub for business training, networking, and expert consultation, supporting the Roots76 Workforce Development Program and the Revolving Loan Fund.

## TOWN OF EAGLE

*Town of Eagle Business Advancement Program — \$100,000*

This funds a Business Assistance Program to boost sales tax revenue and revitalize commercial areas by providing financial aid to small businesses for improvements, helping them establish and grow.

## SAN LUIS VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*San Luis Valley Economic Outreach and Engagement Project — \$25,000*

This project will establish a collaborative network of San Luis Valley economic development organizations and provide targeted resources to support local businesses in professional development, employee retention, and business resilience.

## CITY OF VICTOR

*City of Victor Main Street Revitalization Initiative — \$50,000*

The City of Victor, in partnership with the Victor Main Street Program, is launching a business grant program to revitalize the downtown business district through funding for facade renovations, outdoor dining areas, and public art installations.

## CUSTER COUNTY

*Custer County Wet Mountain Valley Agricultural Marketplace — \$100,000*

This project involves establishing a brick-and-mortar agricultural marketplace in downtown Westcliffe to connect local producers with residents and tourists, aiming to address economic hardship and support the region’s agricultural heritage.

## TOWN OF AKRON

*Town of Akron Hotel Feasibility Study — \$15,000*

The Town of Akron seeks funding to conduct a Hotel Feasibility Study to assess market demand, analyze economic leakage, and estimate the economic impact of a hotel, providing data to attract developers and drive long-term economic growth.

## ELBERT COUNTY

*Strengthening Community Spaces Study — \$25,000*

The Elbert County Fairgrounds Feasibility Study aims to transform the fairgrounds into a more versatile and accessible community space. The study will assess the current condition of the fairgrounds and identify improvements to better serve the community’s diverse needs.

## KIOWA COUNTY

*Driver for Infrastructure Improvement and Resiliency — \$50,000*

Kiowa County seeks funding to support its Economic Development Foundation by hiring a full-time director for three years. This leadership will manage the impact of incoming energy project workers by addressing infrastructure needs like housing and childcare, and by implementing economic development strategies.

## CML LEGAL CORNER



# Working out the knots — background check requirements for massage facilities

By Molly McClure, CML law clerk

Around 2018, municipalities, beginning with the City of Aurora, began to regulate illicit massage facilities to address human trafficking schemes. The Colorado General Assembly followed, enacting several bills over the last few years relating to local regulation of massage businesses. However, recent legislation preempted local ordinances and made errors that have limited the ability of municipalities to appropriately regulate massage facilities to deter illicit massage business schemes.

### LOCAL ORDINANCES

Local licensing regulations of massage facilities are intended to ensure that only legitimate massage facilities can operate in a community and focus enforcement on perpetrators – not victims – of human trafficking. Licensing standards prohibit certain practices, equipment, and facility structures and require that inspectors have access to all facilities and records. License applications by people with suspect backgrounds, including prior sex crimes or previously revoked facility licenses, may be denied. To avoid overbreadth and burden on legitimate businesses, most local ordinances include exceptions for certain facilities and limit background check requirements to owners and operators.

### STATE LEGISLATION

In 2022, HB 22-1300 granted authority to counties to enact ordinances regulating massage therapy facilities through licensure programs to prevent human trafficking. County regulations were strictly prescribed in the law. The act recognized that cities already possessed the power to license massage facilities and deferred to existing municipal efforts. The law simply required that home rule municipal ordinances include a fingerprint-based criminal background check for all current

and prospective owners, operators, and employees of a massage facility.

In 2024, the General Assembly extended the authority, limitations, and requirements provided for counties to all municipalities through HB24-1371. That act buried a requirement in Title 30 that all local governments, including home rule municipalities, enact background check requirements for massage facilities if any such businesses were present in the jurisdiction. The law also purported to preempt “more restrictive” local structures regarding licensing conditions and practices by including a mandate that all current and prospective operators, owners, and employees of massage facilities submit to a fingerprint background check.

There are key differences between state law and existing ordinances that should be carefully considered. Beyond the requirement for broad background checks, state law limits license fees to \$150. Licenses can only be denied if fees are not paid, zoning does not allow for a massage facility, background checks are not completed, or there is a particular criminal history or prior revocation of a similar license. The power to suspend or revoke a license is similarly limited to particular causes. State law lacks the flexibility present in some local ordinances to account for situations where fact patterns indicate illicit activity despite no clear code violation. State law also mandates certain exceptions and identifies prohibited conduct that may not mirror local standards. The bill’s failure to include certain provisions from local ordinances and preemption of “more restrictive” local structures could adversely allow illicit operators to take advantage of these restrictions.

### FIXING THE ERROR

Obtaining fingerprint-based background checks for massage facility license appli-

cants has been a problem for municipalities under the requirements of federal law. HB24-1371 sought to impose a statewide standard that would enable the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to process these background checks. Unfortunately, that law’s mandate did not meet federal requirements.

This year, the General Assembly passed SB25-146 to broadly align state law with federal requirements for fingerprint-based criminal record checks. The act establishes standards by which local ordinances can require fingerprint-based criminal history checks for local licensing. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-424.5. This includes massage facilities but also includes other local licensing ordinances. The permitted use of the criminal history information is “to investigate and determine whether an applicant or licensee is qualified.”

SB25-146 extends the time by which background check ordinances must be in place if a massage facility is located within the jurisdiction to July 1, 2026 – or any other date the local government specifies. A municipality may wish to coordinate with a county for background checks, prohibit massage facilities in their zoning codes, or set a later date for compliance. Municipalities that currently license massage facilities or plan to do so should consider whether HB24-1371’s mandates and preemptions impact local goals. Despite its language, the law represents both an unfunded state mandate and potential interference with a matter of local concern. All municipalities should consult with their legal counsel to decide the appropriate course of action.

*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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## GOING DIGITAL

The CML Newsletter is going fully digital this year. Beginning in July, CML will stop producing the print version of the newsletter, and all subscribers will begin receiving the electronic edition. The new and improved digital newsletter will be more accessible and easier to navigate. The decision to go fully digital reflects our commitment to using member resources effectively. We look forward to seeing you online!

- CML publishes 2025 edition of *Laws Enacted*
- State creates model code of conduct policy for youth sports
- Research Corner: CML Annual Conference through the years
- Legal Corner: Background check requirements for massage facilities

Featured in this issue

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