



City Advocate Weekly

LEGISLATION AND POLICY AFFECTING CALIFORNIA CITIES

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON ARRA

The League has been contacted by city officials with questions about funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Many of the questions address similar issues and League staff has prepared answers for some of the most frequently asked questions. *For more, see Page 2.*

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MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS EXECUTIVE FORUM AND ADVANCED LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS STIMULUS PACKAGE

Everyone's looking to save a little money and stretch the dollar a bit further this year, so the League is doing its best to help make that a possibility. *For more, see Page 3.*

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BECOME A FACEBOOK FAN OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

There is a new way to connect with the League—Facebook. Launched on Friday, March 27, the League's Facebook page features updates on legislative developments, League activities as well as organizational information. *For more, see Page 4.*

The City Funding Book can be found on the Federal Economic Stimulus update section of the League's Web site at www.cacities.org/federalstimulus.

FAQs

Who should my city contact with specific questions on a program included in the City Funding Book?

Although the League will continue to update the City Funding Book as new information becomes available, it is best for city officials to contact the federal or state agency with specific questions once grant/program application guidelines are released.

Where do I find additional information on federal stimulus funding not found in the League's City Funding Book?

The City Funding Book contains general information on ARRA funds but specific grant and program information can be obtained by directly contacting the agency or department issuing the funds.

How do I know if my city's project is eligible for ARRA funds?

Review the grant application to determine if your city's project qualifies for ARRA funds. If the information is not there, contact the agency or department directly.

What key Web sites should be monitored regularly for ARRA information?

www.recovery.gov
www.grants.gov
www.recovery.ca.gov
www.cacities.org/federalstimulus

My shovel ready project doesn't exactly fit the ARRA grant guidelines, what is the next step to try to get funding for my project?

The best course of action in this situation is to contact the agency or department issuing the funds directly and find out if there are other programs or non-ARRA funds that may apply to the project.

Are projects funded through ARRA exempt from CEQA or NEPA?

No.

Can cities apply jointly for ARRA funds?

Each program is different so it is important to check the grant application guidelines for information.

Can League staff tell me if my city's project will qualify for ARRA funding?

League staff does not have the authority to determine whether specific projects qualify. Cities are encouraged to contact the responsible regional, state, or federal agency directly. League staff has indicated who the responsible agency is for each program in the City Funding Book.

Can the League assist my city in writing a grant application?

The League does not have grant writers on staff and does not maintain a list of grant writers. Contact cities in your area for references for freelance grant writers or visit the League Partners Web site <http://www.cacities.org/leaguepartners> for a list of Partners that offer grant writing services.

Will there be a second round of federal stimulus funding?

There are no current plans to issue a second stimulus package. However, the League will continue to monitor federal actions and provide updates on additional funding.

Will there be additional funding for the new programs implemented in ARRA, for example the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program?

It is likely that new programs in ARRA that prove to be successful will continue. The League is monitoring programs impacting cities, and will lobby for additional funding as appropriate. For example, the League is already lobbying for full funding (\$10 billion) of the EECBG funding over the next few years.

What are the reporting requirements for projects once funded?

The federal government is still working on reporting requirements. Federal agencies and departments will release reporting guidelines as they are finalized for each program. City officials should be prepared for the requirements to evolve over time, even after the initial guidelines are announced.

'Forum' Continued from Page 1...

Mayors and Council Members Executive Forum

Now you can get to the Mayors and Council Members Executive Forum a little cheaper by taking advantage of the League's special pricing for this conference:

- Reduced hotel rate from \$215 to \$199
- One-day registration of \$250 for city officials/city staff
- Register three individuals and get the fourth registration FREE (applies to elected officials/city staff only). For details on this offer, contact Kerri Lofte at klofte@cacities.org.

Advanced Leadership Workshops – Friday, May 29 – Saturday, May 30

- One-time special. The Friday night hotel cost is included with the Advanced Leadership Workshop registration fee of \$295. This is a \$199 savings per workshop attendee and is good for this location only, so don't miss it.

The post-conference workshops are Friday afternoon through Saturday morning. Be sure to visit www.cacities.org/events and register today for one of the following workshop topics:

- Redevelopment: Building Better Communities and Economic Development for Cities;
- A Toolbox of Meeting Management and Group Process Skills for Local Elected Officials – Teambuilding; and
- City Finances – What You Need to Know.

Ten more good reasons why you will want to attend this conference:

1. **Your tuition is tax deductible.** Even the government smiles on professional education. All expenses of Continuing Education (including registration fees, travel, meals and lodging) taken to maintain and improve professional skills are tax deductible according to *Treasury Regulation 1.162-5 Coughlin vs. Commissioner, 203 F2d 307*.
2. **We give you only the most important information.** There's a lot of information out there that could take years to gather on your own. We'll give you valuable information to help you be the best you can be.
3. **Practicality is emphasized.** You won't go home empty-handed. You'll leave this conference with specifics you can apply immediately and guidelines for using the information you've just learned.
4. **The value is unbeatable.** Not only is our enrollment fee a great value, when a fourth person registers from the same organization, they'll enjoy a 100 percent discount.

5. **Learning, learning, and more learning.** You will receive three days of education that will help you build skills and a network that you can bring back to the office.
 6. **Networking opportunities abound.** Sometimes the most valuable thing you'll learn will happen while connecting with your colleagues.
 7. **Case studies and real life examples.** Many of the sessions feature real life examples that you can learn from immediately.
 8. **Time and money.** Even one example learned could save you lots of money and time down the road. A small investment now will have big pay-off later.
 9. **Easy access.** San Diego is easily accessible from almost everywhere.
 10. **The Early Bird.** Register by 10 April and you'll save \$180.
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'Facebook' Continued from Page 1...

It's easy to become a fan of the League on Facebook if you are a Facebook member. To find the League's page either search for "League of California Cities" in the search box in the upper right corner of Facebook or click on <http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-California-Cities/76642059637> to go directly to the page. Under the League logo click on "Become a Fan."

\$9.2 Million in Grants to Combat Gang Violence

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last week announced the awarding of more than \$9.2 million in competitive grants to 17 cities and 13 community-based organizations to combat gang violence. The Governor also announced the formation of the Safe Community Partnership, a public-private partnership between the Governor's Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy and the California Wellness Foundation, the California Endowment and Kaiser Permanente Northern California Region: Community Benefits Program.

Five cities will also receive technical assistance from the Safe Community Partnership to implement anti-violence strategies. The five cities are: Modesto, Oakland, Oxnard, Salinas and Stockton. Gang members are warned under the strategy of possible prosecution of all gang members for further violence and given information on alternatives to gang life.

In January, the Governor's Labor and Workforce Development Agency released more than \$5.4 million in grants for job training and education programs targeted towards youth at risk of joining gangs or who want to leave a gang. Program funding comes from the Governor's 15 percent Discretionary Workforce Investment Act funds under the administrative authority of the Employment Development Department.

2009 grant year awards have been made to the following cities:

- Hayward: \$400,000
- Los Angeles: \$962,000
- Madera: \$400,000
- Modesto: \$383,423
- Oakland: \$400,000
- Oceanside: \$400,000
- Oxnard: \$399,690
- Richmond: \$400,000
- Sacramento: \$400,000
- Salinas: \$357,021
- San Bernardino: \$400,000
- Sanger: \$398,763
- Santa Ana: \$400,000
- Santa Barbara: \$400,000
- Stockton: \$400,000
- Union City: \$314,103
- Watsonville: \$400,000

During the first year (2008) of this program, \$9.2 million in grant funding was also issued to cities and community-based organizations for gang prevention, intervention and enforcement.

For more information on these grants or the Governor's public safety policies, please visit:
<http://gov.ca.gov/>.

Institute for Local Government's Ethics Program Receives Award

The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) recognized on Monday, March 23 the Institute for Local Government's (Institute) work in public service ethics with ASPA's Public Integrity Award for 2009. The award acknowledges the Institute's Public Service Ethics program as having made outstanding contributions to responsible public service and was given in conjunction with ASPA's annual conference.

ASPA is a membership organization of public administration educators, scholars and professionals that advances the art, science, teaching, and practice of public administration. Its Public Integrity Award is awarded in collaboration with the International City/County Management Association, the Council of State Governments, and the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws.

The Institute is the 501(c)(3) research affiliate of the California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities. To access the Institute's resources on public service ethics, please visit www.ca-ilg.org/trust.

The Institute offers wide-ranging resources for local officials on both public service ethics laws and principles, including its bi-monthly "Everyday Ethics" analyses of ethical issues commonly faced by public officials.

Orange County Division Executive Director Lacy Kelly Recognized as Leader

OC Metro magazine honored Lacy Kelly, executive director of the League's Orange County Division, as one of the "20 Women to Watch" in its March issue. Kelly was interviewed about her work philosophies and advice she has for women entering the workforce.

Kelly was nominated by Lucy Dunn, president and CEO of the Orange County Business Council for her efforts in building strong relationships between cities, nonprofits and business. "Serving our cities gives me an opportunity to work on important issues that affect the quality of life of our residents," said Kelly. "I am fortunate to work with people that offer so much knowledge and experience and share my commitment to Orange County."

Kelly, former deputy director at the National Forest Association, came to the League two years ago this month. Her focus is advocating for Orange County cities regionally as well as at the state and national levels.

"*OC Metro's* recognition of Lacy as a woman to watch comes as no surprise to her colleagues at the League, but it clearly reflects the stature of her service to the community. Orange County cities are fortunate to have a person with such broad experience, ability and commitment as their voice in Orange County, the state league and beyond," said League Executive Director Chris McKenzie. "We are extremely proud of her contributions."

Read about Lacy Kelly in *OC Metro* online at http://www.ocmetro.com/t-Covers15_20_Women_Kelly0309.aspx

Job Opening? *Western City* Magazine Can Help You Find the Best Candidate

List your job opening in *Western City* magazine. When you advertise your job opportunity in *Western City*, you also receive a Web site posting at no additional charge! Visit www.westerncity.com or call (800) 262-1801 for more information.

In a hurry to get the word out? Place your ad on our Web site today by visiting: www.westerncity.com/postjobs.

Interim Management Needs?

MuniLink is the League of California Cities' interim management employee directory. Featuring searchable categories of interim resumes, MuniLink is still the best online tool to connect with highly trained municipal veterans eager to meet your agency's needs.

SEARCHING THE ONLINE DIRECTORY IS FREE for agencies looking for products and services, and offers individuals and companies a fast and effective way of connecting with city officials in California.

MuniLink is a joint project of the League, the Institute for Local Government and *Western City* magazine. Proceeds from MuniLink benefit the League's research and advocacy efforts on behalf of cities.

Visit Today! www.cacities.org/munilink

Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) Web page (www.cacities.org/legresources). You'll find a roster and contact information for the League's legislative staff; the online Bill Search program, background materials on lobbying your legislators, and more.
