Legislative Updates

The 2018 Legislature adjourned on May 4. The League staff is working on a wrap-up article for an upcoming Kansas Government Journal which will outline the legislative changes affecting cities. The article will be in the June Kansas Government Journal. Thank you to all of our municipal officials who contributed testimony, contacted legislators, and developed policy statements for Kansas cities.

Summer Fun: A Webinar for Cities to Prepare for Summer Activities and Legal Considerations

Grab your sunblock and get ready for summer in Kansas! In this webinar, we’ll review some of the main issues Kansas cities face during the summer months. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. Main topics will include:

- Fireworks Regulations
- Amusement Ride Act (Impact on Cities and Legislative Changes)
- Hiring of Youth Employees
- Special Events Featuring Alcohol
- Music Licensing

Who should participate: This course is developed for city managers/administrators, city attorneys, city clerks, communications staff, and elected officials. Webinar Registration is required ahead of time (limited to 100 participants). Webinar cost is $25 for member cities, $35 for non-member cities. Register online.
KDOT Rail to Trail Grants

Effective July 1, 2018, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will have up to $5,000,000 available through the State Rail Service Improvement Fund (SRSIF) for railroad rehabilitation, capacity improvement and construction projects. The SRSIF is a loan/grant/applicant match program. Of the total project cost, 40% is in the form of a loan, 30% is a reimbursable grant and the applicant is responsible for a 30% match. Project categories include: major rail line rehabilitation; capacity enhancement; and economic development.

The SRSIF application form can be accessed from the KDOT website. Applications are due no later than June 1, 2018. It is anticipated that project award announcements will be made no later than July 13, 2018. For questions about the program, please contact Eddie Dawson or (785) 296.3219.

League Launches New Community Awards

The League is excited to announce the all new Inspire - Create - Innovate - Community Awards to celebrate recent innovations, programs, community projects, and acknowledge overall excellence in local government. Beyond honoring cities, we aim for these awards to spotlight innovations that other communities might replicate.

Recipients of the new Community Awards will be recognized at the League’s Annual Conference later this fall. A representative from the winning city will receive a complementary conference registration and may be asked to present on a panel highlighting some of the projects. All winning entries will be featured in League social media and in a future issue of the Kansas Government Journal.

Award Categories:
- Community Health
- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Youth Engagement
- Communications

For more information including judging criteria and entry rules, visit our website.