Application for Census Outreach Grants Due Nov. 27

As we’ve announced earlier, the League is working to promote the 2020 Census and help to achieve a complete count of all of our residents in the April 1, 2020 decennial Census.

In the November Kansas Government Journal, you will receive an insert called “Engaging Your Community.” This guide has Kansas-specific information which is ready for you to use to promote the census in your community. The League has created a lot of communication tools for you so you don’t have to. We have city-specific infographics for each city in Kansas, social media messages/graphics, logos, etc. for you to use on your city social media accounts. We are working to produce 3 videos that you can use on your websites, social media accounts, etc. to promote the census next year. The best way to access these resources for cities is to go to the website www.KansasCounts.org and click on “Government Resources” in the main navigation. Then, scroll down until you see a maroon buttons that say branding + messaging, and other resources.

The League is offering direct-to-city grants to promote the census in your community. The grants will be awarded in January and will have a maximum value of $2000 for social media promotion and $500 for printing needs. The funding is to pay for social media advertising and printing needs to promote the census. The grant process is underway and grant applications are due on November 27. We want the message of how important the census is for your community to come from your community – you are the trusted, known, and local entities who should be communicating this. We’re here to support you and provide funding to apply toward your promotional efforts. To apply for a grant, go to our website. We will also be offering a “how to” webinar in December to show cities how to purchase social media advertising and most efficiently use your tools to get the message out.

Lastly, we have been traveling the state and visiting with cities and counties to get them involved in the census and create a Complete Count Committee. Wendi Stark is the League's Census Outreach Manager. Don’t hesitate to ask her about to get involved and make sure your community is represented. The census in 2020 will determine future congressional representation and billions of dollars of aid that comes to Kansas (and cities). We need your help to be successful! Contact Wendi at t (785) 409-9868.

MTI: Ethics and Civility Set for December

Ethics and civility are essential parts of good government. At this training, you will learn about the ethics laws your city officials need to follow, along with best practices for creating an ethical organization and civil meeting environments. Specific topics include: conflict of interest laws and regulations; rules regarding use of public funds and property; sample ethics codes; appropriate interaction with vendors; practices in ethical behavior; conflict resolution; and smart meeting procedures.

The MTI will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, December 6 in Lindsborg. Cost to attend this course is $75 for members, $100 for nonmembers. Register online.
**Statement of Municipal Policy for 2020**

The *Statement of Municipal Policy* (SMP) is revised each year to reflect the League’s advocacy goals and agenda for the upcoming legislative session. This year’s SMP is now online and available for cities to review. The SMP is developed with the membership during Policy Committees each summer and then is adopted as a final document at the Annual Conference in October.

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**If I Were Mayor Entries Due Monday!**

The League of Kansas Municipalities invites 7th grade students to participate in the “If I Were Mayor” Contest! Entries are due on Monday, November 18. Winners are named for each region of Kansas and one winner is selected as the statewide winner. Find details online and submit entries online, too!

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**Strategic Plan Update Surveys Due Next Week**

The League of Kansas Municipalities launched a survey that will help guide our Strategic Plan update. Every few years, organizations should take time to step back and evaluate the organization and review their strategic direction, objectives, and goals. Please visit our website to take our survey. Your comments are very important to us and are critical to developing a relevant and forward-focused plan. The survey closes on November 22, 2019.

As a thank you for your time, we will be entering all respondents in a giveaway for five, $75 gift cards. The city with the highest percentage of respondents (elected officials or appointed officials), will be featured in a cover story in a future *Kansas Government Journal*. 
Rural Housing Incentive District Webinar

The Rural Housing Incentive Districts (RHID) is a program designed to aid developers to build housing within communities by assisting in the financing of public improvements. Cherise Tieben, City Manager for the City of Dodge City, and Mollea Wainscott, Housing Coordinator for the City of Dodge City, will discuss how Dodge City has successfully utilized the Rural Housing Incentive District (RHID) to develop much needed housing units in Dodge City.

The webinar will be held on December 10 at 10 a.m. The presentation will include funding methods, steps to developing a district, state requirements and more.

The webinar is free to the first 100 participants. Sign up online at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/695691835683127051.

New Earnings Rule Effective Jan. 1, 2020

On September 24, the U.S. Department of Labor announced its new rule to increase the earnings thresholds necessary to exempt executive, administrative, and professional employees from the Fair Labor Standards Act’s (FLSA) minimum wage and overtime pay requirements.

Effective January 1, 2020, the salary threshold for exempt employees under the FLSA will increase from the current level of $455 per week to $684 per week. This equals $35,568 per year. Additionally, under the new regulations, employers may use nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments, including commissions, if paid at least annually, to satisfy up to 10% of the standard salary level.

If your city has exempt employees who currently earn less than $684 per week, the city has until January 1 to raise the salary above the new threshold. If your city chooses to keep the salary below the new threshold, these employees will no longer be exempt employees as of January 1, 2020 and will be owed overtime pursuant to your city policy for non-exempt employees.

KDOT Local Consult Meetings - Round 2

KDOT is following up their regional meetings that were held earlier this year with a second round of consult meetings. These Local Consult meetings will inform the state’s next Long Range Transportation Plan, the planning document that will guide investments from 2020 to 2045. That document will shape the state’s next transportation program, known as FORWARD. Make plans to attend on the of Round #2 meetings (shown below). More details are available on KDOT’s website. Also note at the KC and Wichita area meetings, Economic Lifelines will have an additional meeting immediately following the Local Consult meetings in those locations. Local government officials are welcome to attend those meetings as well.