Participation in the National Opioid Settlements is a time sensitive matter with deadlines approaching. In order to ensure that your city is able to participate and receive funds, you should be working to get participation forms, agreements, and the required resolution in by December 30, 2021.

Check out our website for resources and instructions and contact John Goodyear with any questions.

**OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

**LEAGUE ORIENTATION MATERIALS**

The League is excited to release two NEW training/education pieces for cities. We have updated our Newly Elected Officials Guide to Governing. This is a downloadable publication you can print off and provide to new or returning elected officials that breaks down some of the basics of local government – effective meetings, KOMA basics, role of the mayor, etc.

We also produced a video that your city council/elected officials can watch any time at their convenience with our tips for successful public service and orientation to elected office. Thank you to former League Past President Sara Caylor (Ottawa Mayor) and former League Deputy Director Trey Cocking for sharing their ideas on how to get started in public service and get ready to lead!

We have the 52 Tips for Public Service online as well. Everything is easily printable and can be good additions to council packets as you onboard your new council and mayors over the coming weeks!

We have all of these resources and more at our website – please take a few minutes to look over the materials. Encourage your elected officials to sign up for League News, too. Just e-mail Megan Gilliland with e-mail addresses to be added to the League News distribution list.

**COOLEY PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT**

Kate Cooley has been promoted to the newly-created role of Director of Engagement. In this position, Kate will be the primary lead for the League’s conferences, events, and external business partnerships through the Municipal Business Alliance program. She will also be responsible for creating, strengthening and maintaining relationships between the League and its member cities, affiliate groups, and other business partners by providing support and assistance in member engagement efforts.
The League of Kansas Municipalities will once again co-host Local Government Day, an event for our members, with the Kansas Association of Counties on January 26, 2022. Registration is now open, and a schedule of events and additional information can be found at our website.

Local Government Day provides an opportunity to make appointments to visit your legislators about issues that are important to your community. Legislative leadership will join us late in the afternoon for programming, followed by a reception where all legislators are invited to attend to network with city and county government officials.

This event is free to attend, but please register so we may get an accurate headcount for evening refreshments.

**Broadband Grant Program Opens**

The Office of Rural Prosperity announced this week that the second round of the Broadband Acceleration Grant Program has opened. The program was created to address broadband access gaps across the state with an emphasis on supporting areas unlikely to receive service without government funding.

The deadline for the intent to apply is Friday, January 14, 2022 with final applications due by noon on February 11, 2022. For program information and webinar opportunities click here. There will be additional webinar opportunities in January for those who cannot make this meeting.

For more information on the program visit their website.

**Road Usage Survey**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is studying how a road usage charge (RUC) system that reflects unique Midwestern needs could help fund transportation investments. A RUC is a policy whereby drivers pay to use the road based on miles driven.

The study will provide an important Midwest rural, agricultural, and freight industry perspective to the national conversation. To date, RUC research has been primarily focused on the East and West coasts.

Throughout this voluntary, multi-phase study, KDOT will be seeking volunteers to engage in activities and provide feedback that will inform what a study pilot looks like. The first opportunity to get involved is participating in a short statewide survey that will be open through the end of the year. You can also sign-up for email updates to stay informed of future input opportunities such as workshops and pilot recruitment. Take the survey.