American Rescue Plan: Contact Governor Kelly ASAP

Funds for local governments under 50,000 in population from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) have arrived at the State of Kansas. The Kansas Department of Administration/Office of Recovery has likely been in touch with you for information needed to receive funds.

A looming decision prior to the distribution of those funds is whether the State of Kansas is going to include the 1,100+ townships in the distribution of ARPA funds. From the League’s perspective, it is clear that townships in our state do not meet the criteria for receiving funds. In looking at funding estimates, we believe that the inclusion of townships in the distribution would decrease a city’s per capita funding from about $152 down to just over $98 – over a one-third decrease in ARPA funds to your city!

ACTION REQUESTED: Contact Governor Kelly’s office and let them know of the impact to your city if townships are awarded funds. You may call 785-368-8500 or toll free at 877-KSWORKS (877-579-6757). You may also go to the “Constituent Services” page of Governor Kelly’s website and click on “Questions & Concerns” to submit comments.

What to share:
- First and foremost, Governor Kelly needs to hear from you about the challenges your city, your businesses, and your residents have had from the pandemic.
- To help the most people – particularly people impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic – funds will have the most impact when placed in cities.
- Townships are not appropriate recipients for ARPA funds:
  - Townships have exceedingly narrow charges, with few, if any, of their expenses allowable under ARPA.
  - The U.S. Treasury’s own guidance on these funds tells states that small units of government like townships “that lack the capacity or do not provide the broad range of services that would constitute eligible uses under ARPA should not be eligible for a NEU distribution.”
  - Townships have virtually no employees,
  - Townships are Dillon Rule entities and are not allowed to take actions absent legislative authority (& they are adjourned until January). Their ability to act on ARPA funds at all is unlikely.
  - Funding can only equal a maximum of 75% of an entity’s budget. Any amount above that – running into the millions of dollars – would have to be sent back to Treasury. That does not benefit Kansans.
- Some cities received very limited CARES Act funding via counties last year and many had requests rejected outright. If that was the case for your city, you may want to share such anecdotes.

Please make contact with Governor Kelly’s office ASAP! We would appreciate you cc’ing us anything you share with them or make us aware that you’ve contacted them. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information or answer questions. Contact Executive Director Erik Sartorius if you have questions.
**Leadership Summit & Kansas Mayors Conference**

The KMA Conference and Leadership Summit will be offered June 18 and 19 in Lawrence, Kansas. We will be following any Douglas County/City of Lawrence rules and regulations that may be still in place at the time of the event.

The keynote speaker for this event is Holly Hoffman, a former star of hit reality TV show "Survivor." Holly is a professional motivational speaker and the author of *Your Winner Within* and *Write Yourself a Note*. Holly inspires her audiences to take opportunities and focus on attitude, determination, confidence, desire, and perseverance.

Additional topics and the schedule of events will be announced soon. Friday’s sessions will begin with the Kansas Mayors Association portion at 1:30 p.m., and also include a general session for all attendees featuring Holly Hoffman. Saturday’s sessions will conclude no later than 2:30 p.m. We hope you will join us for this event.

Visit our website for more information.

**Budget Tips Now Online**

Every year, the League publishes Budget Tips to assist local officials in preparing their operating budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. You can find the most up-to-date bulletin, local alcohol tax distribution information, and information on the special street/highway fund. League members can access budget tips online.