The Spring 2023 Emerging Leaders Academy is now enrolling

The Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) is a talent management program for public sector employees. The program prepares promising, non-supervisory staff for leadership roles in their departments and organizations. This work has never been more crucial as organizations face leadership retirements or vacancies without comprehensive succession plans to promote existing staff into those roles. ELA participants gain knowledge and skills in leadership, organizational dynamics, communication, and career planning to help them identify and achieve their professional goals while equipping them with tools that strengthen their contributions to organizations.

To Explore Spring 2023 ELA Dates and to Register, Click Here.

LEAGUE HIRES NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - NATHAN EBERLINE

The League has hired Nathan Eberline as Executive Director. Nathan worked at the League from 2007 to 2011 as the Intergovernmental Relations Associate. He then served as the Associate Legislative Director and Legal Counsel for the Kansas Association of Counties from 2011 to 2018. Most recently, Nathan served as the Vice President of Operations at the Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACBSP) in Overland Park, Kansas since 2018.

“I think I can speak for all of the Board in saying that we are excited about the organization's future under Nathan's leadership,” said League Governing Body President Michael Wilkes. “His experience and passion for serving Kansas cities comes to us at a pivotal time as we embark on a strategic plan, seek to enhance the value of membership, and work to become a stronger partner in the legislative process.” To read the full press release, visit here.

MAYOR OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Mayor of the Year Award was first established in 2001 recognizing outstanding mayors who have made significant contributions to their community as well as their profession through personal growth and involvement. It is again time to nominate a deserving mayor for this award.

If you have a mayor whose service to the community is worthy of special recognition, who deserves recognition for their supreme effort, or has achieved something which benefits your community, then please take the time to complete the nomination form and write a short one-page letter listing their accomplishments. Nominations will be accepted until March 17, 2023. Get all the information on how to submit on our website. The winner will be announced at Leadership Summit & Mayors Conference, April 14 & 15 in Hays. To register for that event, click here.

KMA also invites you to submit nominations for the KMA Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or another KMA member to any eligible seat (eligibility rules are listed for each Board position). Voting will take place at the annual business meeting on Friday, April 14th, at the Mayors Conference in Hays. Each position serves a term of one year. For more information, visit our website. Contact Tami Martin with any questions concerning the Mayor of the Year Award or KMA Board Nomination.
2/7 Webinar on Community Compass Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is announcing the availability of at least $80,681,000 for the Community Compass TA Program and capacity-building activities for HUD’s customers. This program is focused on solving complex housing and community development challenges by equipping HUD customers with the knowledge, skills, tools, and systems to implement agency programs and policies successfully – with the goal of empowering communities to sustain program implementation over the long term. On February 7, a Notice of Funding Opportunity Overview (NOFO) Webinar will be offered by HUD via Webex and will include a question and answer session. For meeting access information or to send questions in advance, please reach out to communitycompass@hud.gov. For more information, read the press release here.

2/8 USDOT Grant Webinar

On February 8, 2023, from 3:00-4:00 PM, we hope you’ll join leaders from across DOT – including FRA Administrator Amit Bose and senior officials from FTA and the Office of the Secretary – in a webinar designed to highlight several resources created to help potential grant applicants navigate different USDOT funding opportunities. This session will explore the tools available on the DOT Navigator the Department’s one-stop-shop for technical assistance – including: the upcoming funding opportunity calendar; tools for identifying federal disadvantaged community areas; and discerning which programs offer non-Federal-match flexibility. The session will also spotlight several funding opportunities at USDOT that are currently accepting applications to expand transportation opportunities to urban, rural, and Tribal communities. The session is free of charge but registration is required.

FTA Announces Availability of Nearly $1.7 Billion to Modernize Fleets and Deploy Clean Transit Buses

On January 27, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of nearly $1.7 billion to support state and local efforts to modernize aging transit fleets with low- and no-emission buses, renovate and construct bus facilities, and support workforce development.

- FTA’s Low or No Emission (Low-No) Program helps transit agencies buy or lease U.S.-built zero-emission and low-emission transit buses along with charging equipment and supporting facilities. The BIL provides $5.5 billion over five years for the program – more than six times greater than the previous five years of funding. For Fiscal Year 2023, approximately $1.22 billion will be available for grants under this program.

- FTA’s Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program supports transit agencies in buying and rehabilitating buses, vans, and related equipment and building bus facilities. The BIL provides nearly $2 billion over five years for the program. For FY 2023, approximately $469 million for grants will be available.

Instructions for applying and eligibility information can be found on and in GRANTS.GOV (FTA-2023-002-TPM-LWNO; FTA-2023-003-TPM-BUS). Complete proposals must be submitted electronically through the GRANTS.GOV “APPLY” function by April 13, 2023.
MIH, KHITC, MIH-ARPA Office Hours for Applications

The Kansas Housing Resource Corporation's (KHRC) Moderate Income Housing (MIH) program is currently accepting applications from local governments for housing development projects. MIH grants and/or loans are awarded to cities and counties to develop multi-family rental units and single-family for-purchase homes in communities with populations fewer than 60,000 people. The ARPA funded portion of the program will be used for housing development in rural areas, although the program is open to any community that meets the population requirement.

KHRC’s Housing Development Team has scheduled office hours during the month of February to discuss application-related questions for the upcoming MIH, KHITC, and MIH-ARPA applications, which are due **Friday, February 17 at 5:00 p.m.** While KHRC’s team cannot review applications, they can answer specific questions relating to applications. Please plan to join KHRC’s Housing Development Team during one of the offered times if you have questions regarding upcoming MIH, KHITC, or MIH-ARPA applications. Potential applicants are welcome to join KHRC’s team for one or all sessions.

**Wednesday, February 8:** 1:00-2:00 p.m. Office Hours – [Register Here]
**Wednesday, February 15:** 1:00-2:00 p.m. Office Hours – [Register Here]

Questions? Email the Moderate Income Housing team at MIH@kshousingcorp.org.

### Water

Several examples have been identified as specific issues that relate to municipalities. We are trying to identify which issues relate to specific cities or if there are additional issues that should be added to our list. In addition, we are compiling a list of cities and contacts for water issues. Please reach out to **Wendi Stark** with your city's issues and let her know if you would like to be added to the water contact list. Our goal is to set up a municipal water meeting in the next few weeks.

Municipal Water Issues:
- Flexibility in point of diversion moves
- New application with offset
- GMD 2 Reasonable Municipal Use regulation
- Dealing with ownership issues in unconverted water rights
- Increased representation on GMD Boards

### ACP Training Opportunity on 2/22

Following Governor Laura Kelly’s new statewide initiative to increase awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), the Kansas Commerce Department is providing a training. Local leaders are well-positioned to increase awareness of this critical program. Join us on **Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. CST** for ACP Act Now: Jump-start ACP Awareness In Your Area to learn all about best practices, data, resources, and tools available to help reach unconnected households in your community, help them overcome barriers to adoption, and close the digital divide. Register today! If you have questions, email morgan.a.barnes@ks.gov.

### 2023 RAISE Grant NOFO Open through 2/28

USDOT published a NOFO for $2.3 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2023 in mid-December. The deadline for applications is February 28, 2023. For more information, please visit here.