



## Cities Bulletin e-newsletter

May 12, 2025 | Issue 18

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Lawmakers met during the week of May 5 to identify differences between the House and Senate housing bills but are waiting for joint legislative budget targets before moving forward.

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## Contact Us

- For legislative questions: [Contact IGR Staff](#)
- For editorial or other Cities Bulletin questions: Contact Rachel Kats, Publications & Web Editor (651) 215-4032 or (800) 925-1122; [rkats@lmc.org](mailto:rkats@lmc.org)

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# House and Senate Tax Bills Move Out of Committees

May 12, 2025

**The House and Senate released their tax bills during the week of May 5 and floor votes are expected this week.**

The House and Senate taxes committees advanced their omnibus tax bills last week. The bills reflect different fiscal targets, and a final tax package will not come together until joint legislative spending targets are established.

## Local sales taxes

In 2023, a moratorium was placed on legislation granting local sales tax authority to local governments. A task force was established to study the topic and make recommendations to the Legislature. The moratorium is set to expire on May 31, 2025.

The task force recommended that cities and counties be allowed to enact a local sales tax for specific projects with voter approval without needing a special law passed by the Legislature.

The House bill, [HF 2437](#), ([Rep. Greg Davids](#), R- Preston, and [Rep. Aisha Gomez](#), DFL-Minneapolis) proposes extending the moratorium to June 30, 2026, and would create a new legislative task force to continue studying the issue during the interim.

The Senate bill, [SF 375](#), generally aligns with the 2023 task force's recommendations. It would grant cities general authority to enact a local sales tax for specific projects with voter approval. If that authority is not adopted, the Senate bill would also extend the moratorium to June 30, 2026. The bill is sponsored by the [Senate Taxes Committee Chair Sen. Ann Rest](#), DFL-New Hope.

## Local aids

Both the House and Senate bill would eliminate local government cannabis aid. This aid, established in 2023, was to be funded by revenue from the excise tax on cannabis products. No city has received this aid yet, because it is based on the number of licensed retailers in a city and none currently exist.

The Senate bill would reduce the local government aid (LGA) appropriation by \$20 million, about a 3.1% cut for cities. County program aid (CPA) would also be reduced by \$20 million. The House bill maintains current funding levels for LGA and CPA.

Both bills also include aid penalty forgiveness for the cities of Alpha, Odin, Stewart, and Trosky.

# Tax increment financing

The House bill would establish, extend, and modify tax increment financing (TIF) districts in 14 cities. It would also make several changes to TIF rules, including:

- Extending the five-year rule to 10 years and the six-year rule to 11 years for districts outside the metropolitan counties.
- Adjusting income limits for housing districts outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area.
- Allowing a one-year extension for using unobligated TIF funds.
- Increasing the share of TIF revenue that non-housing districts can use for housing projects.
- Permitting certain transfers to local housing trust funds.
- Allowing income averaging in some housing districts to help them qualify for funding.

The Senate bill would establish, extend, or expand tax TIF districts in 16 cities. It does not include general law changes.

## Testimony on the bill

League IGR Representative Beth Johnston testified in both the House and Senate committees voicing concerns about the proposed aid reductions. Many Senate committee members also expressed concerns over the proposed LGA cuts.

## Your next step

Floor debates on both bills are expected during the week of May 12. City officials are encouraged to contact their senator and oppose the proposed LGA reduction. You can find your senator's contact information on the [Minnesota Legislature's Who Represents Me webpage](#).

When reaching out, consider including:

- That local government aid is a key element of the state-local fiscal partnership and does not automatically grow with inflation or through increased demand.
- That cities, like the state, are facing rising costs for maintenance and construction, aging infrastructure, increased personnel and labor costs, and uncertainty around federal funding.
- Specific examples of how your city uses LGA and the potential impact of cuts on your budget.

## LMC staff take

The House and Senate bills are based on significantly different fiscal targets, requiring each committee to either reduce tax expenditures or raise taxes. Without joint budget targets, it remains difficult to predict the final shape of the tax bill.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# Senate Passes Earned Sick and Safe Time Changes

May 12, 2025

**A bipartisan vote advanced changes to the leave mandate at a key time in the legislative session.**

Changes to Minnesota's new earned sick and safe time (ESST) leave law have cleared their first major hurdle. [SF 2300](#), sponsored by [Sen. Judy Seeberger](#) (DFL-Afton), passed off the Senate floor on May 6, with a bipartisan 38-29 vote. Sen. Seeberger was joined by five other Democrats and 32 Republicans to pass the bill and send it to the House of Representatives for consideration.

As amended, SF 2300 would make the following changes to the ESST law:

- Removes the “[effect on more generous sick and safe time policies](#)” section of statute and inserts new language that would cap ESST protections at 160 total hours of sick leave. The current law applies ESST protections to all sick leave provided by an employer beyond the required 80 hours.
- Exempts “micro-employers,” which are defined as employers with three or fewer total employees.
- Allows employers to require employees provide advanced notice for using ESST, as “reasonably required by the employer.”
- Permits employers to require documentation if the employee uses ESST for two consecutive days. Current law allows documentation requirements only after three consecutive days.
- Allows employers to prorate front-loaded ESST hours based on an employee's expected annual hours. Current law only allows an employer to frontload 80 ESST hours regardless of when an employee is hired.

## What's next?

The Senate bill now awaits action by the House of Representatives, where it was referred to the [Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee](#). With the legislative session set to adjourn by midnight on Monday, May 19, it is unlikely the committee will hold a hearing. The bill's progress is expected to depend on global budget negotiations between the House, Senate, and Gov. Tim Walz.

Any changes to Minnesota's two new leave laws — ESST and Minnesota Paid Leave — are expected to move forward only if included in a larger two-year state budget agreement.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# Housing Omnibus Conference Committee Begins Work To Reconcile House and Senate Differences

May 12, 2025

**Lawmakers met during the week of May 5 to identify differences between the House and Senate housing bills but are waiting for joint legislative budget targets before moving forward.**

On May 8, the housing omnibus conference committee held its first meeting to begin reconciling differences between the House and Senate housing proposals. Both chambers passed their versions of the bill with broad bipartisan support. However, the House bill would appropriate \$75 million in new spending and authorize \$100 million for housing infrastructure bonds, while the Senate version proposes just \$3 million in new funding.

The League of Minnesota Cities submitted written testimony expressing support for various provisions in both bills. Interested cities can view the side-by-side comparison of House and Senate language, as well as the spreadsheet outlining each bill's funding position.

- [Read the League's written testimony on proposed housing omnibus bills \(pdf\).](#)
- [View a side-by-side comparison of the House and Senate housing proposals \(pdf\).](#)
- [View the budget spreadsheet for the House and Senate housing bills \(pdf\).](#)

## What's in the bills for cities

While major funding differences remain, the two sides appear to agree on many finance and policy provisions. The conference committee is now waiting on joint budget targets, which are still being negotiated by Gov. Tim Walz and House and Senate leaders, before scheduling a second meeting.

[View a comparison of the House and Senate housing omnibus bill policy provisions \(pdf\).](#)

Funding highlights of interest to cities include:

- \$20 million for Greater Minnesota housing infrastructure grants (House), compared to \$2 million in the Senate.
- \$10 million for the Housing Challenge Program.
- \$10 million for the Greater Minnesota Workforce Housing Development Program.
- \$2 million for manufactured home park infrastructure grants.

Policy provisions of interest to cities include:

- A House provision that would require the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to award additional points to project applications based on certain local zoning and land use regulations.
- A Senate provision that would allow market-rate rental projects that receive Workforce Housing Development Program grants to qualify for State Housing Tax Credit resources.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# Apply by June 6 To Serve on the LMC Board of Directors

May 5, 2025

**The nominated candidates will be presented to the League's membership for final consideration at the LMC Annual Conference in June.**

Apply now to serve on the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) Board of Directors and partner with other city officials to oversee an organization that represents over 840 member cities throughout the state.

Serving on the LMC Board is both an honor and responsibility. LMC's ability to serve its members and exhibit effective leadership by anticipating and proactively addressing challenges is the result of Board guidance that is strategic, responsible, and representative of all cities' interests.

If you are interested in serving on the LMC Board, please review the [League of Minnesota Cities Governance Handbook \(pdf\)](#) before submitting an application to ensure you are aware of the roles and responsibilities. The Governance Handbook was developed by the Board to guide the manner in which Board business is conducted and to outline the expectations of Board service.

## Board meetings and composition

Each fall, the Board approves the calendar for the upcoming year with most meetings occurring on the second or third Thursday of the month, in-person, at the League building in St. Paul. In addition, each year a two-day Board retreat is held. The 2025 retreat is scheduled for Sept. 17-19 in Walker. The League reimburses all direct meeting expenses of Board members. Mileage is reimbursed at the federally approved rate.

LMC strives to balance Board makeup by achieving a greater diversity of candidates including, but not limited to, factors of geography, community population, variety of city experience, and gender and race representative of our state's population.

## Election process

A Nominating Committee appointed by League President Justin Miller will interview candidates in person on June 24 in Duluth. The nominated candidates will be presented to the League's membership for final consideration at the LMC Annual Conference/business meeting on June 26.

League members will elect a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, and at least four directors during the annual business meeting. If a current Board member is elected to an officer position, there will be an additional opening for a director position.

# How to apply

To request an application packet, contact Kellie Sundheim at (651) 281-1214 or [ksundheim@lmc.org](mailto:ksundheim@lmc.org). The deadline to submit the Board application packet is **5 p.m. on June 6**.

If you have questions about the Board, its role, and its work, contact the League's Executive Director Luke Fischer at (651) 281-1279 or [lfischer@lmc.org](mailto:lfischer@lmc.org).

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# Meet Our Team: Q&A with Public Administration Intern Eurel Nwachi

May 5, 2025

In this Q&A, Eurel Nwachi, the League of Minnesota Cities' public administration intern, shares her experience working with the League so far and how it compares to her previous work in local government. Nwachi shares what it's been like to shift from working for a single city to supporting cities across Minnesota, and what she's learned along the way.

From exploring big-picture city challenges to building confidence in new situations, Nwachi talks candidly about the ups and downs of the role, how the internship has shaped her career goals, and why curiosity, patience, and authenticity have been key to her professional growth.



## Please tell us a bit about yourself and what led you to pursue an internship with the League.

I'm the only girl in a family of seven with four younger brothers. We all grew up in the Minneapolis-Coon Rapids area. My passion for helping others is what initially led me to pursue social work. As I moved through the profession, I realized there was so much more that could be done beyond direct practice, especially in the areas of policy and working with larger groups or macro systems. That realization pushed me to explore local government and ultimately

pursue a master's in public administration. Thanks to open conversations I had with a professor, I was able to take a leap for a career change, and that led me to my previous internship with the City of Plymouth, and that internship led me to the League.

## **Was your internship in Plymouth also focused on public administration?**

It did have a focus on public administration and related fields. I was the management intern with Plymouth, working under the direction of the city manager and the deputy city manager. I worked on special projects and had many opportunities to learn the different ways local governments support their communities.

## **What does a typical day look like for you?**

No two days are the same. I usually start by checking emails and planning my tasks for the day. Doing this, I'm able to know what to expect for my day and how to adjust some of the things I'm working on.

Right now, one of my current projects involves discussions about art in the building, specifically the third floor renovation and naming of the conference rooms. I had no idea there was a historical plan for that, so I've been learning a lot about policy, design, and presentation. It's a great opportunity to think about how to communicate and present ideas clearly and respectfully—skills that are crucial in public service.

## **Which projects or assignments have you been most excited to work on?**

There are a few that stand out! I've really enjoyed working on a project related to the third-floor remodeling and naming of the conference rooms. It's rewarding being able to contribute to something lasting and part of the organization. It also gives me valuable experience in presenting to committees and considering different contributors.

Another project I've enjoyed is a research project with LMCIT looking at polarity in local governments. This taps into my interest in analysis and studying community impact interests. I also support the Grant Navigator Committee by summarizing grant applications, which has been great for developing my communication and outreach skills.

I assist with ongoing duties like preparing for MCMA and MMA board meetings, taking minutes, and helping with event coordination. It's a great way to network and meet people throughout local government.

## **Have you attended any LMC-related meetings, trainings, or advocacy events? What stood out to you?**

Yes, I've attended events like the Elected Leader Institute, City Day on the Hill, Loss Control, and I've also been part of MCMA meetings and board meetings.

What's really stood out is the value the League provides. At almost every event, I've seen how much people—elected officials, staff, and newcomers—appreciate the resources and support the League offers. It's made me realize how much of an information hub the League is for cities across Minnesota.

## **How has working at the League changed or deepened your understanding of cities?**

Working with the League has shown me how the League plays a unique role in connecting cities across the state. Through events and trainings, I've watched council members and officials build relationships that last—even as they move across different cities or roles.

The League does so much, and I don't think they always realize how impactful they are. It's been amazing to witness and be a part of that work.

## **Have any moments surprised you about how cities operate or make decisions?**

Because of my experience with the City of Plymouth, I got to see how things operate on a day-to-day basis, so I wasn't completely surprised. Even so, I'm still surprised by how much thought and coordination go into seemingly small decisions. It's a reminder that while my education and experience have prepared me well, there's always more to learn. Every project and meeting offers new insight into the complexity of local governance.

## **How has your experience been different working at the League compared to working directly with a city like Plymouth?**

When I worked at Plymouth, I had more direct interaction with residents—whether that was them coming in to pay bills, voting, attending council meetings, or participating in city programs. That gave me a clear picture of ways residents interact with their local government.

At the League, our “residents” are city officials—elected and appointed members—so the focus shifts. We're here to support them with tools and resources to help them better serve their communities. It's one step removed, but still impactful. It's about supporting the people who work hard to make their communities better.

## **What has been the most challenging aspect of your internship so far?**

I wouldn't say anything has been overwhelmingly difficult, but I've recognized areas where I can grow. For example, I tend to stay in my comfort zone—I'm happy chatting in my corner, but putting myself out there more is something I've identified as a growth opportunity. Another challenge is balancing tasks and not falling into perfectionism.

## **Is there a specific area you're particularly drawn to in local government?**

I'm interested in many areas of government, especially the different ways we empower communities, and my interest areas continue to broaden and grow.

I've gained an appreciation for things like risk management and programming that help cities run more smoothly, effectively, and inclusively.

I'm also drawn to the intersection of advocacy, education, and community-building—creating initiatives that foster inclusive, resilient cities with room for all perspectives.

## **How has this internship influenced your future plans or career goals?**

It helped me realize there's no one "right" path. Whether I start in a metro-area role or a smaller city, there are many ways to make a meaningful impact in local government. I've gained a clearer sense of the range of opportunities out there.

It's also helped me become more open to learning as I go. I used to think I needed everything to be figured out, but this experience has taught me that being curious, intentional, and flexible is more important. The League has helped me think strategically about where I might want to go next.

## **What advice would you give to another student interested in interning at the League?**

Go for it—don't overthink. Take every chance to ask questions, build relationships, and try new things. You'll learn a lot just by being around people who are passionate about local government. Everyone is so willing to share their experiences.

Also, be yourself and stay organized. Whether you use a calendar, notebook, or some kind of app, tracking your work will help you stay grounded and reflect on your growth. Finally, recognize how special the League is—it's a rare place full of insight, connection, and opportunity.



# Honoring Service and Leadership: League Board Recognizes Outgoing Members

May 9, 2025

At its May 8 meeting, the League of Minnesota Cities Board of Directors honored five dedicated leaders whose terms will conclude in June 2025. Among them is Past President Jenny Max, whose leadership helped steer the League through pivotal moments in recent years.

As these individuals prepare to step away from their formal Board roles, they leave behind a legacy of service, advocacy, and a deep commitment to the cities of Minnesota. Current Board President Justin Miller will assume Max's seat as Past President following the end of her term.

The League is deeply grateful for the time, energy, and insight these outgoing members have contributed to advancing Minnesota's cities.

## **Audrey Nelsen – Council Member, City of Willmar**

Audrey Nelsen joined the Board in November 2022. During her tenure, she served one year on the Finance Committee and two years on the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust Board, where she will continue to serve. Known for her thoughtful contributions, Audrey played a key role in strengthening the League's relationship with the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) and was a valued voice during Board discussions.

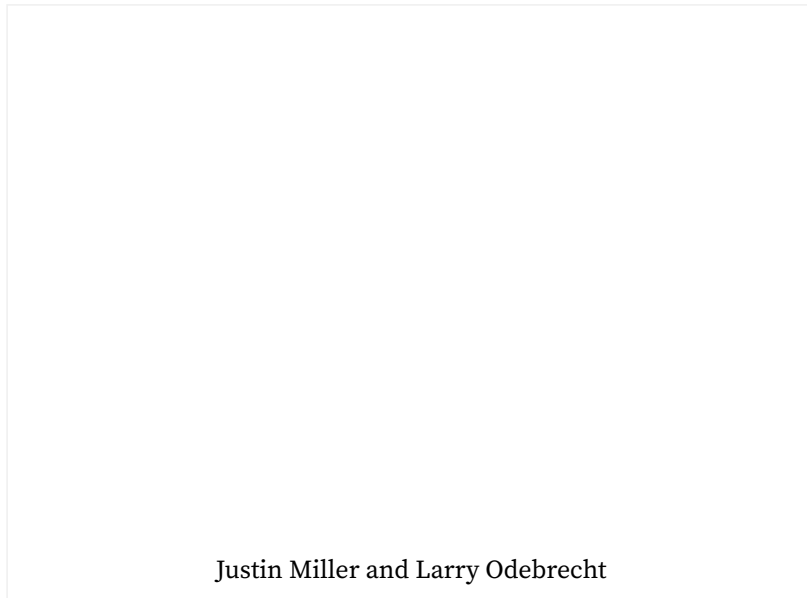


Justin Miller and Audrey Nelsen

## **Larry Odebrecht – Council Member, City of Stillwater**

Since joining the Board in June 2022, Larry Odebrecht has proudly represented Stillwater, frequently sharing the city's innovative projects and how they could inspire others. His enthusiasm for collaboration and local innovation left a positive mark on his colleagues.

“Larry was always quick to point out innovative projects Stillwater has implemented and how other cities could potentially benefit from similar projects,” Miller said.



Justin Miller and Larry Odebrecht

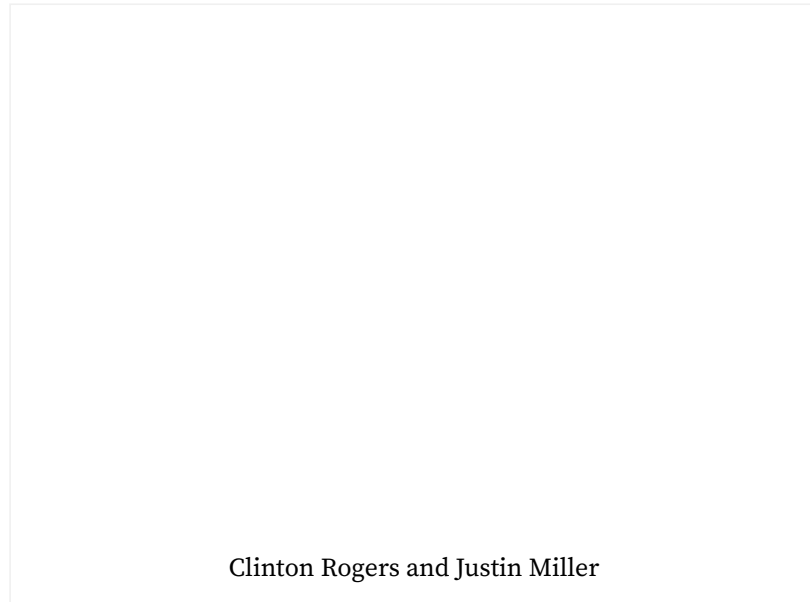
## **Clinton Rogers – City Administrator, City of Janesville**

Clinton Rogers has served on the Board since 2021, completing two two-year terms—first filling Jenny Max's unexpired term and later Wendy Berry's. Throughout his four years, Clinton was

known for his eagerness to engage in Board efforts and his passionate support of the League’s mission.

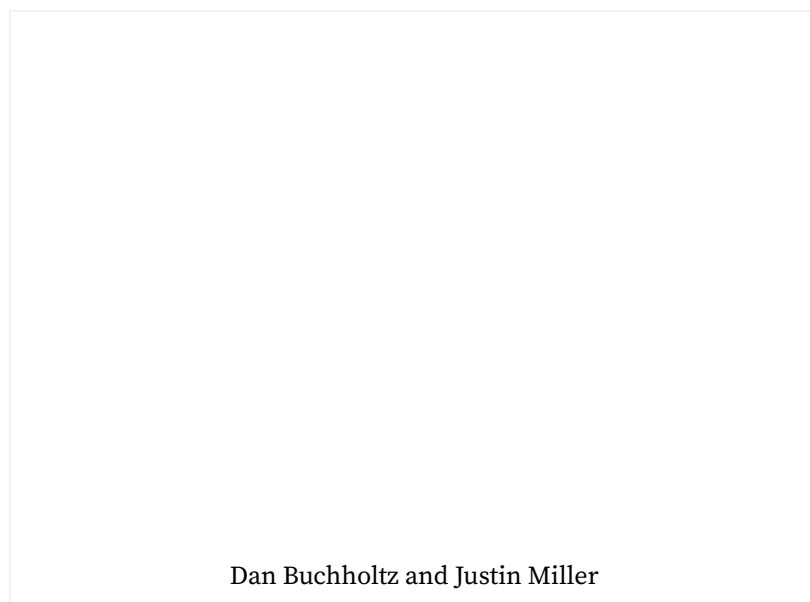
“We have been very fortunate to have Clinton serve on the board as a director for four years,” Miller said. “This doesn’t happen too often.”

He also brought a personal touch to meetings, sharing “meat treats” from his local meat locker!



## **Dan Buchholtz – City Administrator, City of Spring Lake Park**

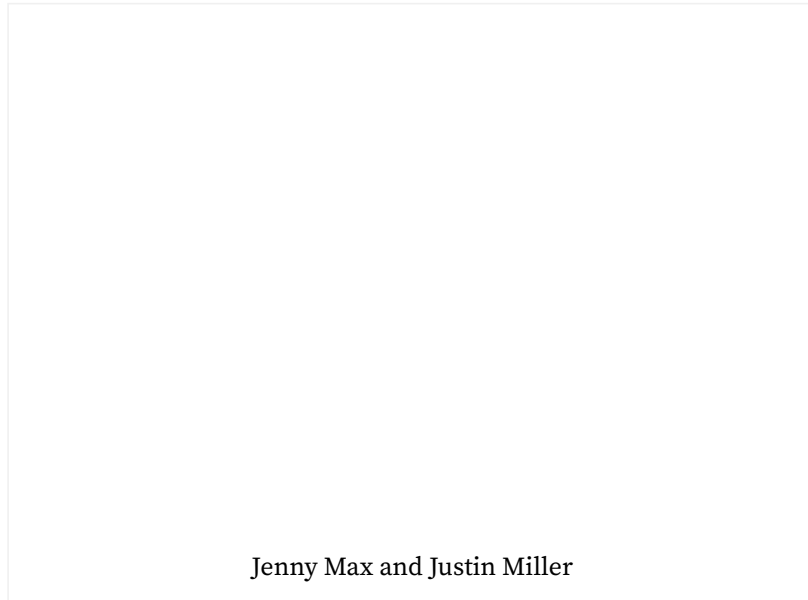
Dan Buchholtz joined the Board in June 2024 as the Metro Cities representative. During the 2025 legislative session, he played a key role in advocating against housing and zoning preemption, building connections with lawmakers, and reinforcing the League’s relationship with Metro Cities.



## **Jenny Max – Past President, League Board of Directors; Outgoing City Administrator of Nisswa; Incoming City Administrator of Champlin**

Jenny Max has served on the League Board since 2020. After a year as a director, she was appointed Second Vice President in 2021 and eventually served as Board President. Jenny's leadership was marked by action and advocacy—she helped guide the organization through the pandemic, supported the transition to a new executive director, represented Minnesota cities in Washington, D.C., and advocated for critical issues like local sales taxes and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) support for first responders.

“Jenny truly believes in the support the League provides to cities across the state and brought first-hand experience on key legislative issues,” Miller said.



# Current Grant Opportunities

## Clean Energy Projects Reimbursement Program

City and county governments, municipally owned utilities, schools, and other tax-exempt institutions, for the first time ever, could have 30-70% of expenses for clean energy projects eligible for reimbursement after filing with the IRS. This is called Elective (or Direct) Pay, and it allows tax-exempt and governmental entities to receive a payment equal to the full value of tax credits for qualifying clean energy projects.

To assist tax-exempt orgs with navigating this new opportunity, the Minnesota state government has contracted with Deloitte to provide 1-on-1 technical assistance for Minnesota-based entities that are filing for Direct Pay tax credits for projects that were completed in 2024 (some projects completed in July-Dec 2023 might be eligible, based on your organizations' fiscal year) or are planned for completion in 2025. This assistance is provided at no cost to Direct Pay eligible organizations based in Minnesota, with priority given to entities filing for fiscal year 2024 projects.

**May 15** is the deadline for tax credit reimbursement filing or to request a 6-month filing extension.

[Learn more and apply for reimbursements to pay for clean energy projects \(pdf\).](#)

## Outdoor Heritage Fund Grants

The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is accepting applications for Outdoor Heritage Fund Grants, and estimates that more than \$150 million is available to support habitat work.

Eligibility for these grants includes local units of government, nonprofit organizations, watershed districts, etc. The key is that the monies are dedicated for use in projects that “protect, restore, and enhance habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

Applications are due **May 23**.

[Learn more and apply for Outdoor Heritage funds.](#)

## Fiscal Year 2026 Cultural Expression Grants

Application materials are now available for the Cultural Expression grant program. [Cultural Expression](#) provides project grants to support activities that share, explore, pass on, express, or celebrate culture through the arts. Culture may be defined by a common ethnicity, tribal affiliation, geographic or regional identity, or language. Traditional and contemporary forms of cultural expression may be funded in this program. Funds could be used to support practicing

a cultural art form; presenting cultural festivals, community celebrations, performances, media or exhibitions; offering demonstrations, etc. Funds could also be used to deepen or pass on cultural traditions through apprenticeships or documentation.

Applicants may request between \$5,000 – \$35,000. Details, including full program guidelines, eligibility, and resources for applicants can be found on the [Cultural Expression program page](#). The application deadline is **June 6**.

## Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grants

There is \$8 million available for the Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grants to support cities, counties, and tribal nations in creating sites for workforce and affordable housing in Greater Minnesota.

Grant funds can be used to cover up to 50% of capital costs of physical public infrastructure necessary to support a qualifying housing development. This may include sewers, water supply systems, utility extensions, streets and more, necessary to support single-family, multifamily, homeownership and rental housing development.

Grants are generally limited to:

- \$40,000 per lot for one to four units.
- \$180,000 per lot for multifamily housing (five or more units/building).
- \$60,000 per manufactured housing lot.
- No more than \$500,000 to any grantee or project over a two-year period.

Applicants' matching funds may include in-kind contributions, such as donation of land.

For additional details on the program, [please review the program guide](#).

[Learn more and apply for Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grants.](#)

## Minnesota SolarAPP+ Solar Permitting Software Incentive

The Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources requests applications for the SolarAPP+ Solar Permitting Software Incentive Program. The purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to local units of government that issue permits for residential solar projects and solar plus energy storage systems by incentivizing a permitting authority to adopt the SolarAPP+ software to standardize, automate, and streamline the review and permitting process.

The Department of Commerce will administer \$2 million in incentives to eligible jurisdictions across Minnesota, with incentives ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Eligible applicants include local units of governments with authority to issue permits for residential solar projects and solar plus energy storage system projects.

Applications must be submitted through the grant interface website, Minnesota Department of Commerce's online grant interface website. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will have detailed information and application questions as well as required forms and reference materials. It will

be available for download on the Department's RFP website beginning Feb. 28 and remain available until **June 30, 2028**, or until fully expended. Instructions for submitting applications are detailed in the RFP.

[Learn more and apply for the SolarAPP+ Solar Permitting Incentive Program.](#)

## Community Innovation grants

The Bush Foundation's Community Innovation (CI) grant program is a flexible program that invests in great ideas and the people who power them across our region. The program aims to:

- Develop, test, and spread great ideas.
- Inspire, equip, and connect leaders.

[Learn more and apply for a CI grant.](#)

## Establish a Local Housing Trust Fund With Help From the Minnesota Housing Partnership

The Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) is offering free assistance to rural communities to establish Local Housing Trust Funds (LHTF). Funds can be used for education on Local Housing Trust Funds, as well as implementation of LHTF programs and community engagement activities.

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$4.8 million to a [Local Housing Trust Fund \(LHTF\) State Match Program](#); with \$1 million appropriated in a prior year, available funds for the state match program total \$5.8 million. An application for state match funds is likely to be released in late summer or early fall.

[Learn more and apply for free technical assistance from MHP to establish or implement your LHTF.](#)

## MNOSHA WSC: Safety Grant Program

The Safety Grant Program awards funds up to \$10,000 to qualifying employers for projects designed to reduce the risk of injury and illness to their workers.

To qualify, an employer must meet several conditions, including but not limited to:

- Having been in business for at least two years.
- Having at least one employee to create the employer/employee relationship.
- Having workers' compensation insurance.
- Having had an on-site hazard survey conducted by a qualified safety professional and a written report of the findings and recommendations to reduce the risk of injury or illness to employees.
- Having the knowledge and experience to complete the project and is committed to its implementation.
- Being able to complete the project within 120 days of a fully executed contract.

To qualify, the project must be supported by all public entities involved and comply with federal, state, and local regulations where applicable.

Businesses that are the current focus of the [Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation strategic plan](#) will be given added priority. If your grant is approved, you will be notified in writing of the specific approval. Whether we approve your grant application or not, in no way diminishes, delays, or absolves you of any obligation to abate safety and health hazards.

When a project is complete, the applicant must submit a certificate of completion form, with invoices and proof of payment, to the grants administrator, to initiate issuance of the grant. An employer that has received a grant for a particular worksite will not be eligible to receive another grant for that worksite during the two years after the date of their award.

[Learn more and apply to the MNOSHA WSC: Safety Grant Program.](#)

## Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program

The Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program will equip cities, towns, counties, and other local governments and Tribal Nations to lower utilities costs, increase energy independence, expand the clean energy workforce, and take essential action to address climate change.

\$4.3 million in state funding will be distributed to local governments to build solar arrays (system size up to 40 kilowatts) across Xcel Energy territory in Minnesota. These grants can be paired with federal clean energy tax credits now available to local governments.

[Learn more and apply for Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program funding.](#)

## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Technical Assistance Grants

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) IIJA Technical Assistance Grant Program is now open. \$2 Million in state funds is available to qualifying local units of government and tribal governments that seek to submit an application for a federal discretionary grant for a transportation purposes.

State technical assistance funds can be used to hire a consultant for identification of available grants, grant writing, analysis, data collection, technical review, legal interpretations, planning, pre-engineering, application finalization, and similar activities. Learn more and apply for an IIJA Technical Assistance Grant.

[Learn more and apply for a IIJA Technical Assistance grant.](#)

## Cybersecurity Grant Program Now Available Statewide

The state's IT agency, Minnesota IT Services (MNIT), in partnership with the [Minnesota Cybersecurity Task Force](#) recently released the [Whole-of-State Cybersecurity Plan](#) that will be used to implement \$23.5 million of funding from the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program and the Minnesota Legislature.

### Eligibility

All state and local government entities are eligible to participate in the SLCGP, including:



- A county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government.
- Authorized Tribal governments and organizations.
- A rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.

## How to get involved

- Visit MNIT's website for more information [about the plan, how to participate](#), and who to contact if you have questions or need help.
- You can also [sign up to receive news and updates](#) about the Whole-of-Security Plan and the SLCGP.
- If your organization is ready to get started, complete the [Minnesota Whole-of-State survey for SLCGP participants](#).

# Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is accepting requests for technical assistance for the Thriving Communities technical assistance program. This funding will help local governments ensure housing needs are considered as part of their infrastructure plans. To be eligible, jurisdictions must be a unit of general local government that is receiving federal transportation funding to support a project that coordinates transportation and housing plans, programs, or investments to benefit residents and businesses located in a disadvantaged community. Priority will be given to jurisdictions with populations of less than 250,000 people, as well as to those receiving certain Department of Transportation competitive funds. Requests will be reviewed as they are received, on a rolling basis, beginning on March 15.

[Learn more about the interagency Thriving Communities technical assistance program](#)

# Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity: Energy Upgrades for Affordable Housing

Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity (R2E2) will provide deep technical assistance to state, local, and tribal governments as well as community-based organizations to jumpstart energy upgrades for single family and multifamily affordable housing, especially in frontline communities. These retrofits will lower utility bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve residents' health, create good-paying local jobs, and help mitigate racial inequity. R2E2 will kick off with training sessions in January for state, local, and community teams on scaling up building energy retrofits and leveraging the unprecedented federal funding available from COVID-19 relief programs, the bipartisan infrastructure law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and other sources. R2E2 is a partnership of the American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Elevate, Emerald Cities Collaborative, and HR&A Advisors, with People's Climate Innovation Center advising on centering equity in the project and its outcomes and on facilitating community-driven planning processes.

[Learn more about Residential Retrofits for Energy Equity](#)

# Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program for Rural Areas

Low-interest direct loans, grants, or a combination of the two are available to develop essential community facilities (not including private, commercial, or business undertakings) in rural areas through the Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant program. The program is offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses. Rural areas, including cities, villages, townships, and federally recognized tribal lands, with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest [U.S. Census data](#), are eligible for this program. Applications for this program are accepted year-round.

[Learn more about the Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant program](#)

## Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in startup funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to implement the Community Heart & Soul model. Community Heart & Soul engages a motivated and dedicated group of individuals to help your town identify what matters most. The grant program is specifically designed for small cities and towns with populations of 2,500 to 30,000. Grant funding requires a \$10,000 cash match from the participating municipality or a partnering organization.

[Learn more and apply for a Community Heart & Soul Grant](#)

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Your LMC Resource

Research & Information Service staff members are ready to help you apply their broad knowledge to the issues you're dealing with today.

**[Access online form to submit a question](#)**, or call us: (651) 281-1200 or (800) 925-1122

# Help Select the 2025 League Board of Directors

April 28, 2025

**The League is seeking city officials to serve on the Nominating Committee.**

Do you want to have an important role in the selection of new members for the 2025 League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) Board of Directors? If so, apply by 5 p.m. on **May 30** to be part of the Nominating Committee that interviews and recommends Board candidates.

## Eligibility

The Nominating Committee is made up of 8-12 individuals, consisting of both elected and appointed city officials, from throughout the state. Any city official interested in serving is encouraged to apply. LMC President Justin Miller, Lakeville city administrator, will choose committee appointees by June 6.

## Selection process and dates

Once the Nominating Committee has been selected and members have been notified, there will be a conference call to provide information on the selection process and guidelines for conducting the Board candidate interviews, deliberations, and decision-making steps. The meeting will be held virtually on June 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

If you are providing a letter of reference for an individual who plans on applying to the Board of Directors, we ask that you refrain from applying to be on the Nominating Committee. This ensures that no conflicts of interest arise during the process.

The interview schedule will be finalized after the Board application deadline of June 6. The committee will convene in-person in Duluth on the morning of June 24 to interview candidates for the positions of president, first vice president, second vice president, and four director positions. The committee's recommendations will then be presented to the League's membership at the LMC Annual Conference/business meeting on June 26.

## How to apply

City officials interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should contact Kellie Sundheim, LMC executive assistant, by 5 p.m. on **May 30** at (651) 281-1214 or [ksundheim@lmc.org](mailto:ksundheim@lmc.org). If you have questions about the Nominating Committee or the process for selecting Board candidates, reach out to Kellie or LMC Executive Director Luke Fischer at (651) 281-1279 or [lfischer@lmc.org](mailto:lfischer@lmc.org).

[Read more news articles.](#)

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Your LMC Resource

Kellie Sundheim

Executive Assistant

(651) 281-1214 or (800) 925-1122

[ksundheim@lmc.org](mailto:ksundheim@lmc.org)