

8.A-1

ANALYSIS, COMMENTARY & UPDATES
PRIORITY FOCUS
ON LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ISSUES THAT AFFECT CALIFORNIA CITIES

December 3, 2004
Issue #46-2004

LEAGUE BOARD SETS NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR 2005

Resolving to build on the recent success of the League and its LOCAL partners with the passage of Proposition 1A, the League Board of Directors adopted three new strategic goals after a retreat with the division, department, caucus and policy committee leaders of the organization in Newport Beach on November 19, 2004. While celebrating the success of the coalition that was put together to support Prop. 1A, League officers and board members indicated they understood the special responsibility to lead that passage of Proposition 1A now places on the shoulders of city leaders around the state. *For more see page 3.*



**HOW TO JOIN A LEAGUE POLICY COMMITTEE
AND HELP SET LEAGUE POLICY**

What Are League Policy Committees? The League's eight policy committees are composed of city officials from around the state. Policy committees help to make League policy by reviewing legislation, suggesting broad new policy guidelines and studying key issues impacting cities. Policy committees were created by the League's Board of Directors to assist it in its policy deliberations. *For more see page 2.*



**GRANT OPPORTUNITY— PUBLIC ACCESS
TO EMS EQUIPMENT SERVICES**

HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration— U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services) has announced a grant program to support projects that increase public access to emergency medical devices and services. *For more see page 2.*

Hot Bills

Act Now

The legislature is in Final Recess and will adjourn on November 30. The 2005-06 Regular Session will convene on December 6.

Want more details on these and other bills? Log on to the League of California Cities Web site at www.cacities.org/legtracking.

8.A-2

POLICY COMMITTEES from page 1

- The eight standing policy committees are:
- ✓ Administrative Services
 - ✓ Community Services
 - ✓ Employee Relations
 - ✓ Environmental Quality
 - ✓ Housing, Community and Economic Development
 - ✓ Public Safety
 - ✓ Revenue and Taxation
 - ✓ Transportation, Communication and Public Works

appointments and each Department has one appointment. The League President may appoint 16 members to each policy committee.)

Questions? If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact League staff. Additional information about policy committees is available on the League's website at www.cacities.org.

What Is the Role of League Policy Committees? Over 400 elected and appointed city officials currently serve on policy committees, and thus participate directly in establishing League policy. They add their collective expertise, wisdom and opinions to the policy debate that is the foundation of League policy. The recommendations from the policy committee are forwarded to the League's Board of Directors.

GRANT from page 1

The pre-application process consists of a short (up to 9 pages) summary due Jan 10, 2005. Of those initial write-ups, several will be invited to apply to grant funding. There are five awards available nationwide.

How To Become A Policy Committee Member? It is easy to become a member of a policy committee. First, decide what policy areas interest you and thus on which policy committee you wish to serve. Second, ask your Division or Department President to appoint you to that policy committee. Third, if those slots are already filled, ask the League President to appoint you to a committee. At this time, most of the Divisions and Department Presidents have already appointed their representatives to policy committees. Thus, if you are still interested, the best route is to request a Presidential appointment, since at this time, Presidential appointment opportunities are available for all policy committees.

The purpose of this program is to support projects that increase public access to emergency medical devices and services. Applicants who propose to use a regional approach and distance learning to address common needs of the region will be given preference.

Applications will be evaluated based on how well a project:

- Demonstrates the greatest community need for services and programs;
- Uses innovative, comprehensive, community-based public access to defibrillation; or
- Proposes an effective mechanism for the collection of data regarding resuscitation, defibrillation, and survival rates within the setting served by the project.

If you wish to pursue a League Presidential appointment, please write or email the League President with your request. It is helpful if you include a brief background statement about yourself. And, be sure to indicate on which committee you wish to serve. League Presidential appointment requests should be sent to the League's Sacramento office, attention Linda Hicks (lhicks@cacities.org). (Please note that the League bylaws provide that each Division has two

For more information, please visit: www.hrsa.gov.

STRATEGIC PLAN from page 1

In small group discussions of possible strategic directions for the League in the next year, city leaders stressed the importance of tackling issues that would unite and energize our membership. While the list of complex problems facing cities is extensive, consensus emerged from the discussions around three areas that were ultimately adopted by the Board of Directors as the League's 2005 goals. They are:

The final detailed 2005 strategic plan for the League is now being reviewed by the Board and will be shared with the membership in the near future. The League's divisions, departments, policy committees and caucuses will then finalize their own work programs to focus on these priority areas.

GOAL 1: Expand Housing Supply and Affordability. This goal will be pursued through a host of strategies that will involve legislation, training, exchange of best practices, coalitions, and other efforts to expand the tools available to city leaders to expand housing supply and affordability. The cornerstone will continue to be local control, but it will be with a special emphasis on the responsibilities city officials have to provide leadership in addressing our housing crisis.

GOAL 2: Expand Investment in Infrastructure. The California infrastructure deficit is growing on a daily basis as we continue to divert valuable funding to supporting the general operations of state and local governments. The League has an opportunity to partner with other groups that want to increase our public investment in all types of infrastructure development and maintenance to meet the needs of our growing state. A variety of strategies will be used to address this goal, including coalition building, communications about the infrastructure deficit, legislation and ballot measures, and other approaches.

GOAL 3: Protect Critical Redevelopment Funding. City leaders are united in their commitment to use redevelopment as a tool to meet the growing housing and infrastructure needs of California and its cities. They are equally committed to keeping the state from limiting or diverting redevelopment funding for state or other purposes. Specific strategies will be used in partnership with the California Redevelopment Association to protect redevelopment funding and enhance its use to meet the infrastructure and housing needs of the state.

Economic Development Handbook

Economic Development, Business Growth & Decline, and The Strategic Planning Process

A tool to help educate city officials about ways to tackle serious economic policy issues.

Plus:

- Best practices and case studies
- Secrets for developing economic development success
- Tools for understanding and analyzing a community's economic base
- Developing and implementing a strategic economic development plan
- Benchmarking tools and tips on putting it all together.

This publication is available from the League for \$15. There is a ten percent discount on orders of five or more.

Questions? Contact League Publications at 916/658-8257 or order online at: www.cacities.org/store.