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Carolyn Coleman Takes the Helm of the League of California Cities

Carolyn Coleman officially began her tenure as the League of California Cities® executive director on Monday, Dec. 19. The League board of directors selected Coleman in October to replace Chris McKenzie who retired this fall after leading the League for the past 17 years. *For more, see Page 2.*



League to Host Member-Only Proposition 64 Briefings on Local Regulation and Taxation

New League Executive Director Participates in State Treasurer's Cannabis Banking Working Group

With the passage of Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA), cities are eager to understand the law and how it affects various aspects of city operations. The League has scheduled five information briefings in Northern, Central and Southern California for members to learn about local regulations and taxations under the AUMA. The first will be held on Jan. 11 in Sacramento and the last has been scheduled for March 1 in Pasadena. *For more, see Page 2.*



Community Based Transitional Housing Grants FAQ Now Available-Application Open

The Department of Finance's (DOF) [FAQ for the Community Based Transitional Housing grant program](#) is now available online. *For more, see Page 3.*

'Coleman' Continued from Page 1...

She joins the League after a decade with the National League of Cities (NLC) in Washington, D.C. as senior executive and director of federal advocacy. While at NLC, Coleman oversaw the organization's advocacy efforts and worked closely with city leaders and the 49 state municipal leagues throughout the country to advance NLC's priorities in matters before Congress, the Administration and the courts.

Prior to working with NLC, Coleman served as deputy mayor for the city of Indianapolis where she focused on economic development, infrastructure and community engagement. She previously practiced law and held marketing leadership positions in the private sector. In addition to her professional endeavors, Coleman serves on the board of trustees of the University of Indianapolis, the National Urban Fellows Program board of directors and as a member of the Dean's School of Business advisory board at the University of Kansas.

Western City magazine will feature an interview with Coleman in the January issue of the magazine.

'Cannabis Task Force' Continued from Page 1...

League Fiscal Policy Advisor Michael Coleman will join League Legislative Representative Tim Cromartie for the member-only briefings, which are geared for mayors, council members, city managers, assistant city managers, fiscal officers, city planners, city attorneys and law enforcement.

Topics will include:

- Summary of the AUMA;
- Key differences between AUMA and the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act of 2015;
- Rules on personal use and cultivation;
- State licensing;
- Local regulation of commercial recreational marijuana operations;
- Taxation; and
- Policy issues for local governments to consider.

Details

Five briefings have been scheduled throughout California to make the sessions as convenient as possible to a large number of cities.

Dates and cities are listed below:

- Jan. 11, Sacramento City Hall, 2–4:30 p.m.;
- Jan. 25, Fresno, UC Center, 1–3:30 p.m.;
- Feb. 1, Ukiah, location and time to be determined;
- Feb. 15, Riverside City Hall, 1–3:30 p.m.; and
- March 1, Pasadena Central Library, 9 a.m. to noon.

Register online at www.cacities.org/events.

Please contact [Sarah Nowshiravan](#) with questions.

Treasurer Convenes Cannabis Banking Working Group

California State Treasurer John Chiang invited League Executive Director Carolyn Coleman and Legislative Representative Cromartie to join the Cannabis Banking Working Group, which held its first meeting on Monday, Dec. 19 in Sacramento. The group comprises representatives from the banking and cannabis industries, local government and state agencies that are responsible for the regulation of the marijuana industry in California.

The Dec. 19 meeting was the first in a series of meetings that will focus solely on issues related to the cannabis industry and banking. Panels addressed the impact that the lack of banking access has had on the industry, financial institutions and public agencies. The Cannabis Banking Working Group is expected to complete its work and issue a set of recommendations by the middle of 2017.

'Transitional housing grants' Continued from Page 1...

Applications will be accepted on a first come basis over a two-year period that began Oct. 1. DOF will stop accepting applications when the \$25 million appropriation is fully awarded even if that occurs prior to Oct. 1, 2018. The [application](#) is available on DOF's website.

Cities and counties will be eligible for grants under the new Community-Based Transitional-Housing Program. Established by [SB 837](#), a budget trailer bill approved in June 2016, the program provides \$25 million in grants for cities or counties that agree to site transitional housing connected with support services for recently released offenders. Individual grants can be up to \$2 million, depending on the size of the facility, and priorities will be provided for applications with local matching contributions.

Key features include:

- The applying city or county must agree to issue a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a facility providing transitional housing and supportive services for ex-offenders released from county jail or state prison. While the measure is primarily directed at ex-offenders there is some additional flexibility on the types of individuals housed. The CUP must be for at least 10 years.
 - An experienced facility operator must be identified.
 - As part of application process, the local agency must include a list of "all permitted facilities ... that in a residential setting, provide transitional housing services, psychological counseling, or cognitive behavioral therapy." This list must include the number of residents residing in each facility in their jurisdiction, including those on probation or parole. Presumably, state agencies must provide a local agency the information necessary to assemble this information.
 - Sixty percent of the grant may be retained by the approving jurisdiction, and can be used for public safety enhancements, community outreach efforts, or any other community-based activities that the local agency believes will improve community relations or concerns with the facility.
 - Forty percent of the funding must be shared by the local agency with nonprofit facility operators to support start-up costs, service provision, security improvements, rehabilitative services and community outreach.
 - Participating local agencies and facility operators must submit annual reports, as specified.
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Third Round of Proposition 41 Funds Available for Veteran Housing and Homelessness

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), in collaboration with the California Housing Finance Agency and California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), recently announced the availability of approximately \$75 million in funding for veterans and their families under the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Program (VHHP). This is the third round of funding available to communities throughout California through the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) pursuant to Chapter 727, Statutes of 2013 and Proposition 41 (2014).

Approximately \$65 million is available for the development of affordable multi-family rental housing containing permanent supportive housing units, transitional housing units or affordable housing units. Awards will be made to qualifying developers and nonprofit entities to construct, acquire, rehabilitate, or preserve affordable multi-family housing for veterans and their families.

As part of the funding, and in accordance with Chapter 44, Statutes of 2016, \$10 million is reserved for the construction or rehabilitation of transitional housing or shelter facilities that

provide services to homeless veterans. Funds will be awarded to programs or counties that demonstrate need, focus on long-term solutions, include mental health and addiction treatment services, and have proven long-term effectiveness.

California voters approved \$600 million in 2014 to build housing for homeless veterans. HCD, CalVet, and the California Housing Finance Agency were tasked with jointly managing and developing the guidelines for how the funds would be expended.

The objective of the VHHP is to develop housing for our veterans at risk of homelessness or experiencing temporary or chronic homelessness. To date, \$176 million has been awarded to 45 developments through the first two NOFA application cycles. When complete, these developments will provide more than 1,500 housing units for veterans, including 900-plus units for homeless veterans.

Additional funds will be released annually until all of the \$600 million is exhausted, with an objective of addressing the housing needs of low-income veterans and reducing veteran homelessness in California. Geographic distributions intend to focus on areas with the largest concentrations of veterans in need. For more information about VHHP and this NOFA, please visit www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/vets.

For questions regarding this NOFA, please contact [Evan Gerberding](#) with HCD at (916) 204-9310 or [Thora Chaves](#) with CalVet at (916) 653-2547.

League-Sponsored Bond Agency Issues \$27.8 Million in Tax-Exempt Affordable Housing Bonds in Fresno

Some of the most significant benefits of League membership for cities since 1988 have flowed from the League's co-sponsorship of the [California Statewide Communities Development Authority](#) (CSCDA).

This program provides a variety of public agencies and developers access to low-cost, tax-exempt financing and economic development tools. CSCDA recently issued \$27,791,620 in tax-exempt multifamily affordable housing bonds for Parks at Fig Garden Apartments in Fresno.

About Parks at Fig Garden Apartments

Parks at Fig Garden Apartments is an acquisition and rehabilitation of 366 multifamily affordable housing apartments by Fruit Avenue Housing Associates, LP. The project sponsor is Community HousingWorks. Parks at Fig Garden will continue to be 100 percent affordable and provide 75 one-bedroom, 229 two-bedroom, and 57 three-bedroom apartments to low-income families in Fresno.

CSCDA and Community HousingWorks partnered with Jones Lang LaSalle Multifamily, LLC to provide tax-exempt multifamily affordable housing bonds for Parks at Fig Garden. The rehabilitation will include extensive exterior and interior renovations which include energy and water efficiency upgrades. The financing of Northwest Manors II will maintain the affordability of units for low-income tenants for 55 years.

Background

CSCDA is a joint powers authority created in 1988 and is sponsored by the League of California Cities® and the California State Association of Counties. It was created by cities and counties for cities and counties. More than 500 cities, counties and special districts are program participants in CSCDA, which serves as their conduit issuer and provides access to efficiently finance locally-approved projects. CSCDA has issued more than \$50 billion in tax exempt bonds for projects that provide a public benefit by creating jobs, affordable housing, healthcare, infrastructure, schools and other fundamental services. Visit [CSCDA's website](#) for additional information on the ways in which CSCDA can help your city.

Comments on Political Reform Act Revisions due Dec. 31

The [California Fair Political Practices Commission](#) (FPPC) is seeking comments on draft two of the revisions to the Political Reform Act (PRA) to help simplify, streamline and reform the law.

First enacted in 1974, an estimated 500,000 to 750,000 people in California are subject to the PRA. Rules on campaign spending and funding, conflicts of interest, and Form 700s are all part of the PRA.

The revision project will not change the substance of the law, but is designed to make the law less complex, with less “legalese” and more plain English. It is also aimed at putting the various laws and regulations into groupings that are more obvious, intuitive and understandable to the average person.

After initial drafts which included partners such as the California Constitution Center at Berkeley Law and UC Davis School of Law, the first draft was made public. Those public comments were incorporated, and another draft included the work of nationally-recognized legal author Professor Bryan Garner and his team at LawProse.

Comments can be [submitted online](#) to the FPPC through Dec. 31.
