# 2024 Annual Report

NLC



NAT

ATIONAL EAGUE

A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES

### A message from the CEO

Our centennial was a unique opportunity to connect with our members in their towns and capture their unique spirit. This year, NLC celebrated 100 years, marking a historic milestone with our members that in many ways captured the unique spirit and pride of America's communities. Together, we made this moment special— for NLC—and the many leaders and staff in our member cities. All the while, we continued to deliver the services and programs that our members have come to rely on from us while growing our membership and our budget. The momentum of our celebration will carry us over the next year and the next century as we expand and grow NLC to reach more communities and share ideas and concepts that will strengthen local government leaders.



It is my great honor to lead this association supporting our nation's cities, towns and villages in partnership with you. We're just getting started. NLC has an incredible future ahead.

Over the last century, this incredible organization has accomplished so many things to be proud of—from our major legislative accomplishments to our transformational research, to simply harnessing the immense power of convening local leaders from across the country. The great news is that we're just getting started. NLC has an incredible future ahead, and it is my great honor to lead this association supporting our nation's cities, towns and villages in partnership with every single one of you.

CEO & Executive Director National League of Cities



# A Century of Strengthening Cities Celebrating

**100 Years of NLC** In 1924, the National League of Cities was founded by 10 state

municipal leagues, whose leaders met to convene one organization that could unify and elevate city voices at the federal level.

Our **Centennial Roadshow** kicked off in February at the site of NLC's founding, the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. After that, the NLC Roadshow visited more than 130 communities in every region of the country. Our roadshow also included visits to 15 state municipal leagues, which carry special significance as the state leagues that initially founded NLC 100 years ago. During those visits, NLC leadership and staff attended state league conferences and had the chance to tour state municipal league offices and meet with local staff. Some visits coincided with a few of the league's special anniversaries – such as in Arkansas, where we joined the celebration of the Arkansas Municipal League's 90th anniversary, and Michigan, where we rang in 125 years of the Michigan Municipal League.

As part of our centennial activities, we declared May the inaugural **National Cities, Towns and Villages Month**. All month long, our members shared stories from their communities and discussed the evolving roles and responsibilities of local governments. In celebration, more than 200 municipalities throughout the U.S. officially declared May "National Cities, Towns and Villages Month."

The history of NLC is also full of legislative victories and an evolving organization that continues to advocate for America's 19,000 cities, towns and villages. To capture NLC's history and the impact that cities, towns and villages have had on our nation, we produced a **history book** that tells our story decade by decade through to the present day.

The yearlong anniversary celebration culminated at the **2024 City Summit** in Tampa, Florida, where more than 4,000 local leaders from across the country gathered.



### Member Growth

NLC membership has continued to grow, totaling 2,761 members. The majority of our members continue to be based in the South, followed closely by the West region, though we continue to grow in the Midwest and Northeast regions as well. Since last year, we added 101 new member cities, surpassing our goal of recruiting 100 cities in celebration of our 100th anniversary.

NLC continues to prioritize recruitment and engagement within each of our constituency groups. The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) is currently our largest constituency group with 584 members, followed by Women In Municipal Government (WIMG) with 554 members, the Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) group with 164 members, LGBTQ+ Local Officials with 99 members, and Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials (APAMO) with 64 members. NLC's Local Indigenous Leaders (LIL) group, our newest constituency group, has doubled in size since last year. Four of the six groups hosted very successful summer meetings this year, bringing local leaders from across the country to network, exchange ideas, discuss challenges and share solutions.







In addition to our constituency group meetings, in September, we welcomed 18 Council Presidents from the nation's largest cities to Washington, DC, for several days of discussion on the unique issues their communities face. Topics discussed included affordable housing, improving transportation and mobility in a postpandemic world, and public safety. TOTAL MEMBERS 2,761

AFFILIATE MEMBER CITIES 1,348

**MIDWEST** 

287

NORTHEAST/ MID-ATLANTIC

88

DIRECT **MEMBER** CITIES 1,413





1,609

### **WEST**

77

As of 9/30/24 (FY24 end totals)

### New Enterprise Partners:

#### CivStart

### New Capstone Partners:

Cisco Chick Fil A GoFundMe Orange Barrel Media UL Standards & Engagement UKG

### New Executive Partners:

Baker Tilly Carahsoft/LinkedIn GoRail National Association of Home Builders Quickbase Skydio SL Environmental Law

### Centennial Collection Sponsors:

Enterprise Mobility Google Wells Fargo WM

## **Expanding Our Partnerships**

Much like our membership, NLC's strategic partnerships continue to grow. Over the last year, we welcomed 14 new partners at the Executive, Capstone and Enterprise levels. The latest additions have brought our total number of strategic partners to 72, contributing to a total partner revenue of \$3,509,135 for the year.

Our 72 strategic partnerships include eight Enterprise-level partners, 21 Capstone-level partners, and 43 Executive-level partners.

Sponsorships continue to have a big impact on NLC's finances. This year, our total revenue from sponsorships grew to \$2,350,000, which includes \$775,000 specifically for this year's City Summit and \$1,575,000 dedicated to our 100th anniversary activities.









Our 72 strategic partnerships include:

8 Enterprise partners

21 Capstone partners



### **Helping Local Governments Navigate Challenging Issues**

### **Building Local Workforce with the Good Jobs Great Cities Academy**

NLC worked with the U.S. Department of Labor to co-host the Good Jobs, Great Cities (GJGC) Academy Capstone Convening in August in Washington, D.C. The GJGC Academy Capstone Convening brought together teams from all 16 participating GJGC cities, towns and villages to celebrate and uplift their accomplishments from the last year. At the capstone convening, local leaders exchanged best practices and lessons learned about partnering with key local industry partners, developing plans to create more green jobs, growing opportunities for women in trade industries, developing workforce solutions for the care economy, and better connecting and preparing local workforces for careers in growing manufacturing fields.

### **Supporting Communities with Free Grant-Writing Training Through the Local** Infrastructure Hub

Since the Local Infrastructure Hub launched in 2022, more than 1,000 cities, towns and villages from all 50 states have participated in NLC's free grant-writing training program for small communities. As a result, more than 90 participating local governments have secured more than \$315 million in federal grant funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. The next phase of free grant-writing trainings continued in January 2025, with programs focused on grant implementation, developing clean energy projects, clean water projects, safe streets and roads, and rail infrastructure and safety improvements.





NLC LEAG

NLC's work on the Housing Supply Accelerator continues to help local governments develop housing supply strategies that will address the specific needs of their communities. In September, NLC published nine case studies that demonstrate municipal best practices on housing supply, and in November, NLC released a new report entitled Ending Homelessness: A Guide for Local Governments, to provide an overview of the homelessness crisis, its causes and how local governments can work with partners to shape solutions.

### **Growing the Capacity** of Local Communities

The Southern Cities Economiin initiative (SCEI), a partnership made possible with financial support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, convened a site visit in Jackson, Mississippi, this past July. During the visit, Mayor Lumumba and his leadership team welcomed staff from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and NLC to explore methods of strengthening partnerships and supporting the City of Jackson. The visit also included staff from the City of Chattanooga, sharing best practices to enhance support for Minority and Women Business Enterprises. The site visit highlighted the critical role of collaborative relationships and peer learning in driving inclusive economic growth. NLC opened a second round for a new cohort of cities earlier in January.



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### Your Voice in Washington

### Preparing for the Next Presidential Administration with NLC's Presidential Election Task Force

NLC launched the 2024 Presidential Election Task Force in the fall of 2023 with three goals for the year-long election cycle:

Ensure local government has a seat at the federal decisionmaking table.

Promote good governance and direct support to localities.

Celebrate civil discourse and strong engagement in the democratic process.



Throughout the last year, the Task Force created a toolkit for local leaders with sample outreach materials, an action guide of priorities as well as blogs and webinars to mobilize local officials around these three shared goals, regardless of who would ultimately win.

NLC officers connected with prospective administration officials by attending and networking at both the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. The Task Force also developed an advocacy toolkit for local officials to use when engaging with presidential campaigns on the ground.

### Ensuring Local Access to Federal Disaster Relief & Resilience Programs

NLC successfully pushed Congress to pass an emergency supplemental appropriations bill before the end of the year to provide the necessary funding for communities impacted by a series of devastating natural disasters in 2024. Particularly concerning was the potential for FEMA to run out of funds, which would have severely hampered both short-term and long-term recovery efforts for the many cities and towns still grappling with the aftermath of these catastrophic events.

In a meeting held in Washington, D.C., NLC's Second Vice President, Mayor Steve Patterson, along with a coalition of mayors and councilmembers, engaged in strategic discussions with Erik Hooks, FEMA's Deputy Administrator. Together, they explored innovative ways to strengthen the partnership between FEMA and NLC, aiming to bolster disaster risk mitigation and build resilient, safe communities nationwide. NLC highlighted the critical need for these initiatives and engaged with major national media outlets like *The Hill, Politico* and *Business Insider*.

### **Providing Legal** Advocacy & Education

Along with our partners at the National Association of Counties and the International Municipal Lawyers Association. NLC founded the Local Government Legal Center two years ago to ensure a unified local government voice before the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) and lower federal courts in cases that are of consequence to municipal operations. This past term, NLC submitted amicus briefs on significant SCOTUS rulings and their implications for local governments. We also provided our members with explainers on each of these rulings, because we know that understanding federal court decisions is essential for local officials to navigate the changing legal landscape and effectively serve their communities.

> THE HONORABLE STEVE PATTERSON

## Telling Your Story

This year, NLC piloted a new monthly "3 Things to Know" video series highlighting the top three NLC updates from the past month local leaders should be aware of.

Our podcast, CitiesSpeak with Clarence Anthony, continues to deliver in-depth conversations with compelling guests on issues important to city governments.

- Taking Risks to Build Better Cities with Rancho Cordova, CA Mayor David Sander
- Reimagining City Infrastructure with Dearborn, MI Mayor Abdullah Hammoud
- Combatting Hate & Extremism in our Communities with Bill Braniff from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Bipartisan Leadership in Congress with U.S. Representatives Don Bacon and Salud Carbajal
- The History and Future of the National League of Cities with Secretary Henry Cisneros
- Creating Communities Resilient to Natural Disaster with Mayor Nic Hunter of Lake Charles, LA
- Designing Partnerships to Create the Housing Supply Accelerator Playbook
- S Breaking Down the U.S. Supreme Court Term
- Economic Success in American Cities with Phoenix, AZ Mayor Kate Gallego and Wells Fargo's Roby Schapira
- The Value of NLC for Local Leaders with Fairfax, VA, City Council Member Jon Stehle and Central Point, OR, City Council Member Taneea Browning
- Integrating AI with City Services with Atlanta, GA Mayor Andre Dickens and Google's Jon Berroya
- Electrifying Municipal Fleets with Enterprise
   Mobility & South Pasadena, CA
   Councilmember Michael Cacciotti

NLC's voice and perspective on key issues facing local leaders today continue to resonate, with a 58 percent increase of visits to the NLC CitiesSpeak blog over the previous year. Our top-performing posts positioned NLC as a thought leader on topics such as broadband, federal budget implications for local leaders, affordable housing, court decisions impacting local leaders, and many more.





**2024 ANNUAL REPORT** 

NLC's brand continues to grow, with 1.4M visits to our web properties, up 25% compared to the previous year.

### **NLC'S REACH BY THE NUMBERS**







2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# **Tools and Resources**

As we move into the next century of NLC, one of our goals is to become a go-to resource for local leaders in finding solutions to their most pressing issues. Our research and technical assistance spans nearly every area relevant to municipal government. Below are a select few resources our team has produced over the last several months that have been especially relevant.





#### 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## **Tools and Resources**



#### Workforce Development 101

- This resource is designed to help vi
- How others advance workdorce development by serving as plan makers and program implementers.
- How to leverage and maximize the use of state and federal funds that support workforce development, and,





#### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT SAFETY AND HEALTH: **Roles, Considerations,** and Recommendations for Getting Started

- of all sizes are undertaking efforts to prevent, respond to, and mpact of community violence especially as it affects youth and The diversity of policies, program models, and partmentings has lee and momente proteins for underper prevention arms compared provided and the proteins for an experiment of the supervised provided and the supervised for the supervised and the supervised provided and the supervised for the supervised arms and the supervised provided and the supervised for the supervised supervised provided and the supervised supervised arms and the supervised provided and the supervised supervised arms and the supervised supervised arms and the supervised supervised supervised arms and the supervised nitigate the im community sectors. This brief serves as an int
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#### RACE, EQUITY, AND PUBLIC FINANCE: Lessons Learned from **City Leaders**

NLC LEAGUE OF CITIES

5 Steps Toward

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OPPORTUNITY & IMPACT: Investing in City and **Community Partnerships Toward Safety** 

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RACE, EQUITY, AND PUBLIC FINANCE:

Lessons Learned from

**City Leaders** 

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FROM THE SOUTHERN CITIES ECONOMIC INCLUSION (SCEI) INITIATIVE



# NLC LEAGLE OF CITES

EVALUATING PFAS TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES: A Technical Framework to Meet the 2024 EPA Drinking Water Regulation

On April 19 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (ERA) assued a National Immary: Dening Nation Registration for speech per- and polyfuscratilist sostationes, a group of Torever chemicals' commonly fusion in RFARs. This regulation registrate a syste of PFAS for long to be completed in manopalities by 2022, and may specificatify inpact addre tradiment in Nova Communities, specification of non-market PAS is on a number of in Nova Communities. Specification on non-market PAS is on a nunicipality's water source. Water systems with PEAS above specifier levels must reduce them to the required level by 2029. This I the history of PEAS and the specifics of the new regulation is providing a framework for choosing a treatment technology. on the three most common treatments granular acti

# NLC

Lessons from the Cities of **Opportunity Mayor's Institute** on Community Revitalization CITIES LEVERAGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT TO FOSTER BELONGING, BUILD REALTHIER COMMUNITIES, AND ADVANCE EQUITABLE WELLBEING.

In 2021 an unprecedented wave of federal funding created a once in a ge opportunity for local leaders: direct federal dollars were made available to encovering them to use this mits or resources to reinitize neighborho boost public health, and champion equity to reshape their communities. NLC supported cities to turn this potential into action through its Cities o Opportunity initiative, founded on the principle that where up is Opportunity instative, founded on the principle that where we live, work and play can influence how well we we and how long we live - and that our physical surroundings impact our physical, mental and social health. The Mayors' Institute on Advancing Community Revitalization to improve Health & Equity was designe to holp cities revisit infrastructure, land use, zoning, and built environment police well and the second sec

NLC LEAGUE OF CITIES

ADVANCING HOPE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL:

Children's Savings Accounts

	Lands
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Healthy Housing **Community of Practice** Overview The NLC Healt

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Successfully Filing
for the IRA Elective
Pay Provision for Local
Clean Energy Projects
     es. But unlike grants, which have b
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**Powering Cities** 





#### **Innovation During Crisis** LEVERAGING INNOVATION FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE, PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION



#### **Paid Leave and Local Authority**

Since 2019, the National League of Cities (NLC) has partnered with the Center for Public Health Law Research (CPHLR) at Temple University Beadley School of Law to track and understand state-level preemptions of local authority. This brief provides an overviee of trends in paid leave preemption tracked in the CPHLR database from 2019 to 2022. The analysis highlights types of paid leave peremotion state impose on local governments and provides and preemption tracked in the single presented and provides to the single present and provides the single presented and provides the single presented and presented to the single presented base of the single pre-traction of the single presented base of the single pre-traction of the single presented base of the single pre-traction of the single presented base of the single pre-traction of the single presented base of the single pre-traction of the single presented base of the single pre-traction of the single presented base of the single pre-traction of the single preexamples of local gover







#### 2023-24 **CIE** Commitment Summary by City

The City Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CIE) program "commitments" provide city leaders with a range of proven, place-appropriate strategies to drive raculty and obsergativical inclusive economic development. Highly rengaged participants have the option to apply for SIS2000 in catalytic funding, to advance these commitments. While by no mans softwarther this summary is an attempt to cachure the key advancement of each CIE participant and their partners across each commitment teated below. mitment listed below.

### **Strategic &** Foundation **Partners**

SEED

### **Enterprise Partners**

Build America Mutual CivStart CGI Digital CVS Caremark HomeServe US Lexipol Mission Square Retirement Public Finance Authority

#### **Capstone Partners**

AARP Airbnb Amazon AT&T Chick-Fil- A Cisco City Health Dashboard Enterprise Mobility Esri GoFundMe Google JustServe Orange Barrel Media Pallet

### Supernal Tyler Technologies UKG VC3 Wells Fargo **Executive Partners** Aetna AIA American Gas Association AtkinsRealis Axon Baker Tilly Barnes & Thornburg Black & Veatch BRINC Drones Inc. Carahsoft/LinkedIn Cigna CityHealth Clear Channel Comcast Edison Electric Institute Everytown for Gun Safety Flock Safety

**FUSE** Corps

IBTS Jacobs mySidewalk NASPO National Association of Home Builders National Association of Realtors NCTA NuHarbor Peregrine Quickbase Rubicon Siemens SL Environmental Law Stantec T-Mobile U-Haul US Green Buildings Council Veolia Walgreens Walmart Waste Management Skydio Polco

GoRail

Grubhub

### **Foundation Partners** Amazon American Association of School Administrators American Institute for Research (AIR) Annie E. Casey Foundation Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation Aspen Institute Baller Foundation

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Department of Labor (DOL)

**Economic Development** Administration (EDA)

Management Corporation (ECMC)

**Emerson Collective** 

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Ford Foundation

Foundation for Child Development (FCD)

(ICMA)

Bezos Family Foundation

Children's Defense Fund

Doris Duke Foundation

Educational Credit



PayPal

Fund for Philadelphia

George B. Storer Foundation

International City/County Management Association

International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co

Freedom Together Foundation

Kresge Foundation

Lumina Foundation

Pritzker Children's Initiative

MacArthur Foundation

Maryland Philanthropy Network

Melville Charitable Trust

New York Afterschool Alliance

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Science Foundation (NSF)

(NACCHO)

Pohland Family Foundation

Public Finance Initiative -Third Sector New England

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Rocket Community Fund

Sergey Brin Family Foundation

Siemens Foundation

State Exchange on Employment and Disability (SEED)

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

The Melville Family Foundation

The Nathan Cummings Foundation

The Wallace Foundation

Tides Center

Vanguard Strong Start for Kids

Waverley Street Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Wells Fargo

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### 2024 Leadership

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The Honorable Dan Gilmartin Executive Director, Michigan Municipal League



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The Honorable Jodi Miller Mayor, City of Freeport, IL

Park. MD

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The Honorable Josh Moenning Mayor, City of Norfolk, NE

The Honorable Bianca Motley Broom Mayor, City of College Park, GA

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**Overview** 

### **Financial Review** 2024

FY24 revenue reached \$50.2M, with strong support from philanthropic funding (\$20.3M) and membership dues (\$8M), showcasing diverse funding sources.

A broad and well-balanced revenue base supports key initiatives, ensuring sustained impact. The mix of philanthropic funding, membership dues, and corporate sponsorships highlights NLC as a financially healthy organization.





NLC's investments in technical assistance, digital engagement and leadership development reflect a commitment to growth and innovation.

Strategic spending enhances modernization and program development supporting expanded reach and engagement. This investment strengthens connections with members, partners, and the public, reinforcing the organization's presence and influence.

Financial Activity



### **Consolidated Financial Statement**

REVENUE	FY24
Contributions	20,273,643
Membership Dues	8,044,847
Service Fees	4,497,393
Corporate Partners/Sponsorships	5,463,032
Annual Conferences and Exhibits	3,064,27
Interest and Dividends	1,312,29
Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments	3,393,73
Partnership Distribution Income	2,198,158
Other	1,962,35
Total	50,209,717
Leadership, Education, Advancement and Development	18,726,554
Center for Municipal Practice	
	7,405,160
Business Events	3,575,393
Business Events Federal Advocacy	
	3,575,393
Federal Advocacy	3,575,393
Federal Advocacy RISC Program	3,575,393 1,956,946 686,007
Federal Advocacy RISC Program NLC Mutual Insurance Company	3,575,393 1,956,946 686,007 3,379,670
Federal Advocacy RISC Program NLC Mutual Insurance Company Member and Partner Engagement	3,575,393 1,956,946 686,007 3,379,670 4,010,67
Federal Advocacy RISC Program NLC Mutual Insurance Company Member and Partner Engagement Digital Engagement, Marketing and Communications	3,575,393 1,956,946 686,007 3,379,670 4,010,67 3,838,353

