Winter Meeting Preview • January 17-19 • Washington, DC

MAYORS TO FOCUS ON SEQUESTRATION, GUNS, JOB CREATION, SANDY RESPONSE, TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING, IMMIGRATION REFORM

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Conference President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter presides this week over our 81st Winter Meeting. We gather in the aftermath of 20 precious babies and six adults whose bodies were riddled with bullets in the Sandy Hook Elementary School of Newtown, Connecticut.

We gather after a horrific storm, Sandy, which did tremendous damage to New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut citizens. At issue is the response from Congress to provide with some immediacy the resources to rebuild.

And there is general consensus that Congress will act on and finally provide some aspect of immigration reform legislation. For years, the Conference of Mayors has advocated to both Democratic and Republican members of Congress that there must be true immigration reform to address the needs of today.

The response to the murdering of the innocent children of Connecticut is being led by Conference President Mayor Michael Nutter, as he works with California Senator Dianne Feinstein toward common sense gun legislation and controlling assault weapons. Our policy is quite clear on common sense legislation. Our organization, since 1968, in the wake of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, has stood for decades, reminding our nation that we must all join to keep guns of any type out of the hands of children, the mentally ill, and criminals. Since the Sandy Hook massacre, mayors throughout the nation in all regions are standing up demanding a plan.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg is here with us, and he has been most forceful, along with Boston Mayor Tom Menino, in leading Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG), the advocacy group composed of hundreds of mayors who are standing with Mayor Bloomberg, demanding a plan from Washington to bring the full force of our national government to support our efforts to stop the violence and stop the massacre and killings of men, women and children here in America.

We welcome Vice President Biden as he opens our Winter Meeting at 1:30 pm Thursday, January 17. President Obama has asked him to come forth with a plan to help us all work toward stopping the gun violence in our country. He has also helped us with our issues as Congress reaches decisions on the fiscal cliff economic issues. These challenges continue and we will count on him as the budget negotiations continue in the months ahead.

As you can see from the photos on the front page of U.S. Mayors, we have a power meeting. And in addition to the leaders pictures, we are most aware that the people who make the Conference relevant are the mayors of this nation who join us this week at our Winter Meeting.

We welcome you. We appreciate you. Please, if I can be of any assistance to you during our Winter Meeting, let me know. Meantime, engage in our meetings this week. And it’s okay if you have fun too. We congratulate all of you for a job well done in governing our cities. YOU are The United States Conference of Mayors!

Thanks to all of you. I look forward to seeing many of you this week here in D.C.
WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Full agenda available at usmayors.org
Over 275 mayors. See full list and pictures at usmayors.org

• Focus on Job Creation, Fiscal Cliff Agreement and Sequestration, Gun Control, Threat to Tax-Exempt Financing, Sandy Response, Immigration, and so much more...

• Conference of Mayors President Michael A. Nutter’s Report at Opening Plenary (Thursday Lunch)...

• Vice President Biden (Thursday Lunch)...

• Ten (10) Cabinet Members, Members of Congress, Business Leaders, National Policy Experts all accessible in interactive Committees, Task Forces, Workshops...

• New York City Mayor Bloomberg (Friday Lunch), Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa (Saturday Morning), Chicago Mayor Emanuel (Saturday Morning)...

• Networking through New Mayors/New Members Orientation (Thursday Morning), Women Mayors (Thursday Afternoon), Republican Mayors (Friday Afternoon), Democratic Mayors (Friday Afternoon)...

• Mayors and Business Leaders engagement (Saturday Breakfast)...

• Maryland Governor O’Malley (Friday Morning), Connecticut Governor Malloy (Saturday Morning)...

• MC Hammer (Thursday), The Roots (Friday Morning), John Legend (Friday Afternoon)...

• Best practice learning on Arts (Friday Breakfast), Healthy Lifestyles (Friday Lunch), Age-Friendly Cities (Friday Afternoon), Digital On-Ramp Learning (Saturday Morning), and much more...

• Special best practice forum on Employee Benefits and Deferred Compensation (Saturday Lunch)...

• USCM-Scotts Miracle GRO1000 Gardens and Green Spaces Grant Awards (Thursday Lunch), USCM Arts Leadership Awards (Friday Morning), USCM Public/Private Partnership Awards (Saturday Breakfast), USCM-Purdue Pharma Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Awards (Saturday Morning), USCM DollarWise Awards (Saturday Lunch)...

• Opening Reception (Thursday Evening) and Late Night Celebration Honoring USCM President Michael A. Nutter (Friday Evening)...

And so much more...
Thank You

In appreciation for your sponsorship of the U.S. Conference of Mayors 81ST Winter Meeting

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CONFERENCE OF MAYORS TO CELEBRATE ARTS LEADERSHIP

2013 Public Leadership in the Arts Awards – Population Under 100,000: Santa Fe Mayor David Coss
2013 Public Leadership in the Arts Awards – Population Over 100,000: New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu
2013 National Award for State Arts Leadership: Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley

2013 Citizen Artist Award: The Roots
2013 Arts Advocate Award: John Legend

Kerry Sullivan, President, Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Bill Heydt, Public Sector Director, Colonial Life

Mary Kate Campbell, Public Affairs Manager, DuPont
Becky Johnson, Director of Public Affairs, Infrastructure & Cities, Siemens

Robert Boland, New York University
Mary Kate Campbell, Public Affairs Manager, DuPont

Eric Spiegel, President & CEO, Siemens Corporation
Bill Heydt, Public Sector Director, Colonial Life

Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Zia Eftekhar, Chairman, Emeritus, Philips Lighting

John Zogby, Zogby Analytics, Founder, The Zogby Poll
Zia Eftekhar, Chairman, Emeritus, Philips Lighting

Zia Eftekhar, Chairman, Emeritus, Philips Lighting
Zia Eftekhar, Chairman, Emeritus, Philips Lighting

2013 Arts Advocate Award: John Legend
2013 Arts Advocate Award: John Legend

Eric Spiegel, President & CEO, Siemens Corporation
Eric Spiegel, President & CEO, Siemens Corporation

January 14, 2013
Slow Economic Recovery Keeps Pressure on U.S. Cities’ Emergency Food, Shelter Services

Mayors’ Annual Report on Hunger and Homelessness Documents Growth in Demand, Shortfall in Services, Concern for Future

A survey report issued by The U.S. Conference of Mayors just days before the threatened sequestration of tens of billions of dollars of federal agency funds projects the need for more, not less, spending in the year ahead to meet the needs of growing numbers of hungry and homeless families and individuals in the nation’s cities.

Released December 21 in Washington (DC), the Conference of Mayors annual assessment of hunger and homelessness found continuing growth in the demand for emergency food and housing across 25 cities whose mayors are members of the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness. Not surprisingly, unemployment and poverty lead the list of causes of hunger cited by officials in the survey cities; lack of affordable housing, poverty, and unemployment are seen as the main causes of homelessness.

All but four of the cities in this year’s survey reported that requests for emergency food assistance increased over the past year; only three of these four said requests remained at the same level as the previous year. Across the cities, the increase in demand averaged 22 percent, and 19 percent of those needing emergency food assistance did not receive it. Emergency kitchens and food pantries in nearly all of the cities had to reduce the quantity of food a client could receive during a food pantry visit or in a meal at an emergency kitchen. In nearly 90 percent of the cities, lack of resources meant that these facilities had to turn away people in need.

On the homeless front, 60 percent of the cities said they saw an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness; across the cities, the increase averaged seven percent. Over 70 percent of the cities reported an increase in homelessness among families; 35 percent reported an increase among individuals. Across the survey cities, an average of 17 percent of homeless persons needing assistance did not receive it. Because no beds were available for them, homeless families with children were turned away by emergency shelters in 64 percent of the survey cities; shelters in 60 percent of the cities had to turn away unaccompanied individuals.

This year’s report was released in a telephone press conference by members of the Conference of Mayors leadership group, who were joined by the Director for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. “We expected that problems related to the slow national economic recovery would be reflected in the reports on hunger and homelessness coming in from the survey cities this year – and they were,” said Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy, who Chairs the Conference’s Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness. “Dealing with growing needs in the face of dwindling resources is nothing new for mayors, but we are especially concerned about what could happen to our emergency food and shelter programs next year, and in the years beyond, if Washington cannot find a responsible way around – not over – the fiscal cliff,” she said.


Conference of Mayors President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter cited the mayors’ repeated appeals to Congress for a balanced approach to fiscal responsibility that will create options for people increasingly reliant on emergency help. “In Philadelphia, I see people who are hungry and in need of shelter on a daily basis,” he said, “and explaining to them that Congress is cutting funding for the help they need is not acceptable. What they need are jobs so they can support their families, and Congress can help to create those jobs if it passes a fair and balanced budget with investments in infrastructure, innovation, and real people.”

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, who Chairs the Conference of Mayors Committee on Metro Economies, described this year’s report as a “stark reminder of the long-lasting impact that the recession is having on too many of our citizens. Families who once lived in middle class homes now find themselves without a roof over their heads and, for the first time in their lives, in need of a variety of social services that have been hard for us to provide, and that uncertainty about the federal fiscal future could make even harder to provide.”

Survey city officials are pessimistic about the future: Three out of four expect the number of homeless families to increase over the next year; those in 56 percent of the cities expect the number of homeless unaccompanied individuals to increase; and those in more than 58 percent expect that the resources needed to provide emergency shelter will decrease.

“For the past 30 years, this report has called national attention to the problems of hunger and homelessness in this country and has helped to direct resources where they are needed,” Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tam Cochran explained. “Looking back over the past year, problems have been made worse by the slow recovery from our economic recession. Looking ahead, we see the problems continuing, so the Conference of Mayors will continue to document the need for emergency services in cities across America, as a service to the nation’s mayors and to the families and individuals in their communities who need our help.”

A copy of the report, which also contains descriptions of dozens of programs that the survey cities have undertaken to combat hunger and homelessness, can be downloaded from the Conference of Mayors Web site at www.usmayors.org. An audio file of the press conference call also is available on this site.

The Conference of Mayors will continue to document the need for emergency services in cities across America, as a service to the nation’s mayors and to the families and individuals in their communities who need our help.”

The 25 cities participating in this year’s survey on hunger and homelessness are:

Asheville, NC
Boston, MA
Charleston, SC
Charlotte, NC
Chicago, IL
Cleveland, OH
Dallas, TX
Denver, CO
Des Moines, IA
Gastonia, NC
Los Angeles, CA
Louisville, KY
Minneapolis, MN
Nashville, TN
Norfolk, VA
Philadelphia, PA
Phoenix, AZ
Portland, OR
Providence, RI
San Antonio, TX
St. Paul, MN
Salt Lake City, UT
San Francisco, CA
Trenton, NJ
Washington, DC

January 14, 2013
138 mayors from 36 states and the District of Columbia, and Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran called on Congressional leaders December 19 to pass the Senate supplemental appropriation bill to provide $60 billion in disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Sandy before the 112th Congress adjourned. The call came in a letter sent to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Minority Leader of the House.

As has been widely reported, while the Senate passed the bill, the House adjourned before taking up the measure. An outcry quickly arose from Congressional representatives, governors and residents of the affected areas in response to the House's adjournment before taking up the measure, with some of the sharpest criticism coming from Republicans. New York Representative Peter King called the action “a betrayal of trust.” New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said failure to take up the measure is “why the American people hate Congress. Unlike the people in Congress, we have actual responsibilities.”

In response to that outcry, one of the first actions of the 113th Congress was the January 4 passage of a $9.7 billion measure that provided additional borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance Program. Two days earlier the Federal Emergency Management Agency had announced that without additional borrowing authority, the flood insurance program would run out of money for processing claims the following week. House leaders have promised a vote on the $50 billion remainder of the original bill on January 15. If it passes, the Senate would then have to take it up since its original bill was passed by the previous Congress.

In addition to funding, the original Senate bill included reforms developed by Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, the primary federal statute that guides the nation’s response to natural and man-made disasters. Many of those provisions were included in the 2010 report of the Conference of Mayors Stafford Act Reform Task Force and have been adopted as Conference policy. It’s unclear whether those provisions will be included in the legislation which eventually passes the Congress.

Mayors Who Signed the December 19 Letter Calling for Quick Passage of Disaster Relief

Michael A. Nutter, Philadelphia, PA, President
Scott Smith, Mesa, AZ, Vice President
Kevin Johnson, Sacramento, Second Vice President
Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Charleston, SC, Past President
Thomas M. Menino, Boston, MA, Past President
Donald L. Plusquellic, Akron, OH, Past President
Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles, CA, Past President
Michael R. Bloomberg, New York, NY
Rahm Emanuel, Chicago, IL
Gerald D. Jennings, Albany, NY
William D. Euliss, Alexandria, VA
Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, PA
Terry Bellamy, Asheville, NC
Kevin J Dumas, Attleboro, MA
Steve Hogan, Aurora, CO
Lee Leffingwell, Austin, TX
Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale, AZ
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore, MD
Becky Ames, Beaumont, TX
Denny Doyle, Beaverton, OR
John B. Callahan, Bethlehem, PA
William W. Brien, MD, Beverly Hills, CA
Matthew T. Ryan, Birmingham, NY
Bill Finch, Bridgeport, CT
Bill Moehle, Brighton, NY
Connie Boardman, Huntington Beach, CA
Ava Frisinger, Issaquah, WA
Harvey Johnson, Jr., Jackson, MS
Alvin Brown, Jacksonville, FL
Samuel Tensi, Jamestown, NY
Bobby Hopewell, Kalamazoo, MI
Bernard Carvalho, Kawau, HI
Alberto G. Santos, Kearny, NJ
Richard Clanton, Kentwood, MI
Craig Cates, Key West, FL
Art Madrid, La Mesa, CA
Jack Hoffman, Lake Oswego, OR
Raul Salinas, Laredo, TX
Ken Miyagishima, Las Cruces, NM
David Berger, Lima, OH
Richard J. Gerbounka, Linden, NJ
Mark Stodola, Little Rock, AR
Paul R. Sargin, Madison, WI
Michael Fressola, Manchester Township, NJ
Kathy Cattazzaro-Perry, Massillon, OH
A. C. Wharton, Memphis, TN
Scott A. Marr, Menifee, CA
Tom Barrett, Milwaukee, WI
Mary Ann Lutz, Monrovia, CA
Ernest D. Davis, Mount Vernon, NY
John Rhodes, Myrtle Beach, SC
Donna Lee Loebe, Nashua, NH
Jan Mitchell, New Bedford, MA
Mitchell J. Landrieu, New Orleans, LA
Setti D. Warren, Newton, MA
Paul A. Dyster, Niagara Falls, NY
Paul D. Fraim, Norfolk, VA
Chris Koons, Normal, IL
Andre D. Pierre, North Miami, FL
Robert Stefanik, North Royalton, OH
Owen Henry, Old Bridge Township, NJ
Jim Suttle, Omaha, NE
William Capote, Palm Bay, FL
Jeffrey Jones, Paterson, NJ
Shawn Connors, Peckatonica, IL
Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines, FL
David Glass, Petaluma, CA
Greg Stanton, Phoenix, AZ
Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway, NJ
Sam Adams, Portland, OR
Michael Brennan, Portland, ME
Susan Brooks, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
John Marchione, Redmond, WA
Daniel Rizzo, Revere, MA
Alvin Brown, Jacksonville, FL
Sandra Armenta, Rosemead, CA
Francis F. Slay, Saint Louis, MO
James Iretor, Jr., Salisbury, MD
Edwin Lee, San Francisco, CA
Mark Barlet, San Jacinto, CA
Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara, CA
David Cass, Santa Fe, NM
Mike McGinn, Seattle, WA
Barbara A. Wallace, Sewell, NJ
Pedro Gonzalez, South San Francisco, CA
Noramie J. Jasmin, Spring Valley, NY
Joseph T. McEween, Jr., Sumter, SC
Mike Ryan, Sunrise, FL
Stephanie Miner, Syracuse, NY
John Marks, Tallahassee, FL
Chuck Washington, Temecula, CA
Mark W. Mitchell, Tempe, AZ
Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Union City, CA
Scott Avedisian, Warwick, RI
Vincent C. Gray, Washington, DC
Jeri Muoio, West Palm Beach, FL
Susan M. Kay, Weymouth, MA
Mayors React to Newtown Mass Shooting, Call for Quick Action on Gun Violence

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Just a few hours after the horrific events at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown (CT) became known on December 14, Conference of Mayors President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter released a statement on behalf of all mayors expressing their condolences to the victims, their families, and their community. He expressed their confidence that Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra and Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy were doing everything possible today to help the community cope with so much loss and pain.

“Too many times this year, mayors have expressed shock at a mass shooting,” Nutter said. “The Conference of Mayors has been calling for sensible gun laws to protect the public for more than 40 years. We hope that today’s monstrous act of gun violence finally forces this nation’s leaders to make reasonable changes in our gun laws and regulations – changes that will help prevent senseless tragedies such as the one that has rocked Newtown and the nation.”

“Children are dying; adults are doing nothing,” Nutter continued. “The time for action – not more debate, not more excuses – is now!”

Open Letter to the President, Congress

And it was action that Conference of Mayors quickly began to take. Just three days later on December 17 in an open letter to the President and Congress, Nutter, the mayors of the three largest cities, other Conference of Mayors leaders, and Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran urged immediate action, calling on the President to exercise his powers through Executive Order and Congress to introduce and pass legislation to make reasonable changes in gun laws and regulations. Specifically the letter called for quick action to:

• Enact legislation to ban assault weapons and other high-capacity magazines being prepared by Senator Dianne Feinstein and others;
• Strengthen the national background check system and eliminate loopholes in it; and
• Strengthen the penalties for straw purchases of guns.

Recognizing “that preventing gun violence – whether it is a mass shooting in a school or a murder on a street corner – will take much more than strengthening our gun laws,” the letter also called for reversing the culture of violence in the nation, establishing a bi-partisan commission that examines the broader issues of violence in the country, and strengthening and more adequately funding the mental health system. The letter cautioned, however, that “strengthening our gun laws should not have to wait for these other actions to occur.”

Biden Task Force

Just five days after the shooting, President Barack Obama called for “concrete proposals to reduce the epidemic of gun violence that plagues this country every single day” and designated Vice President Joe Biden to lead the effort and produce those proposals during January. Reaching to the announcement, Nutter said that it “comes as welcome news to the nation’s mayors who must deal directly with the consequences of gun violence in their cities, too often on a daily basis.”

“If the horrific experience of Newtown could produce a positive outcome, it would be a national commitment to reduce the culture of violence, the easy access to guns, and the lack of access to needed mental health services,” Biden continued.

Nutter praised the appointment of the Vice President to lead the effort. “Putting Vice President Joe Biden in charge of this effort is a reflection of its importance to the nation. No one is better equipped than Vice President Biden to lead a diverse team from President Obama’s Cabinet and outside organizations in the quick development of a set of ‘real reforms,’ with reforms to our gun laws and mental health system at the top of the list,” Nutter stated.

Nutter said that the nation’s mayors look forward to working with the Vice President through The U.S. Conference of Mayors, and participating in the development of long-needed reforms.” Since then the Vice President has spoken with several mayors individually. He will meet with all of the mayors when he addresses the Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting in Washington (DC) on January 17.

Feinstein Assault Weapons Ban

Well before the Newtown shooting, the Conference of Mayors had been working with Senator and former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein on legislation to reinstate the ban on semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines. Nutter met with her on September 20 to discuss the legislation and pledged the Conference’s support for it and commitment to getting it enacted.

Feinstein will introduce her bill early in the week of January 22, the first week in which Senators may introduce new legislation. Specifically, the Feinstein bill would:

• Ban the sale, transfer, importation, or manufacturing of 120 specifically-named firearms and certain other semiautomatic assault rifles, handguns, and shotguns;
• Ban large-capacity ammunition feeding devices; and
• Require that grandfathered weapons be registered under the National Firearms Act; ban the transfer of grandfathered large-capacity ammunition feeding devices; establish a voluntary buy-back program for grandfathered assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition feeding devices; and impose a safe storage requirement for grandfathered firearms.

The Conference of Mayors plans to make passage of this legislation a top priority and will urge mayors individually through social media and press conferences and collectively through the Conference of Mayors to work in support of its passage.

Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy, center, with Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra, left, and Connecticut Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, right, observe moment of silence in Newtown on December 21, one week after the shootings occurred.
Mayors Who Signed Open Letter to President Obama and Congress

Michael Nutter, Philadelphia, PA, President
Michael R. Bloomberg, New York, NY
Antonia R. Villaraigosa, Los Angeles, CA, Past President
Rahm Emanuel, Chicago, IL
Kevin Johnson, Sacramento, CA, Vice President
Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Charleston, SC, Past President
Thomas Menino, Boston, MA, Past President
Donna L. Plusschule, Akron, OH, Past President
Gerald Jennings, Albany, NY
William Eulie, Alexandria, VA
Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, PA
Joshua J. Cohen, Annapolis, MD
Wade Harper, Antioch, CA
Arlene Mulder, Arlington Heights, IL
Terry Bellamy, Asheville, NC
Nancy Denson, Athens, GA
Kasim Reed, Atlanta, GA
Kevin Dumas, Attleboro, MA
Pete Lewis, Auburn, WA
Deke Copenhaver, Augusta, GA
Lee Leffingwell, Austin, TX
Stephanie Rowlings-Blake, Baltimore, MD
Denny Doyle, Beacon, OR
Conrad Lee, Bellingham, WA
John B. Callahan, Bethlehem, PA
William B. Craven, Birmingham, AL
Matthew Ryan, Binghamton, NY
Joseph Sullivan, Braintree, MA
Bill Finch, Bridgeport, CT
William Moon, Brighten, NY
Arthur Ward, Bristol, CT
Linda Balzott, Brockton, MA
Dave Golonksy, Burbank, CA
Mira Weinberger, Burlington, VT
Henrietta Davis, Cambridge, MA
Evan Low, Campbell, CA
Edwin Garcia, Camuy, PR
Harold Weinbrecht, Cary, NC
Kathleen DeRosa, Cathedral City, CA
Mark Kleinschmidt, Chapel Hill, NC
Anthony Foxx, Charlotte, NC
Ron Littlefield, Chattanooga, TN
John A. Linder, Chester, PA
Mary Golof, Chico, CA
Michael Bissone, Chicopee, MA
Cheryl Cox, Chula Vista, CA
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Andrew Weissman, Culver City, CA
Edward MacDougall, Cutler Bay, FL
Bill Gluba, Davenport, IA
Judy Paul, Dave, IL
Joe Krovacz, Davis, CA
John O’Reilly, Dearborn, MI
Tim Sbranti, Dublin, CA
Ray Boul, Dubuque, IA
William Bell, Durham, NC
Marcelo Libedez, East Hartford, CT
Sal Panto, Easton, PA
Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Eden Prairie, MN
Richard H. Garcia, Edinburg, TX
Antonia Ricigliano, Edison, NJ
Dave Earling, Edmonds, WA
John Cook, El Paso, TX
Gary Davis, Elk Grove, CA
Dick Moore, Elkhart, IN
Randy, Penn, Englewood, CO
Kitty Piercy, Eugene, OR
Michael Tetreau, Fairfield, CT
Randy McClement, Frederick, MD
Bill Harrison, Fremont, CA
Craig Lowe, Gainesville, FL
Sidney Katz, Gaithersburg, MD
Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary, IN
John Bridgman, Gastonia, NC
George Heartwell, Grand Rapids, MI
Joy Cooper, Hollandale Beach, FL
Rodney Craig, Hanover Park, IL
Pedro Segarra, Hartford, CT
Michael Sweeney, Hayward, CA
Timothy McDonough, Hope, NJ
Annie Parker, Houston, TX
Ron Fisher, Huber Heights, OH
Jill Swain, Huntersville, NC
Cannie Boardman, Huntington Beach, CA
Ava Frisinger, Issaquah, WA
Harvey Johnson, Jackson, MS
Samuel Terei, Jamestown, NY
Sylvester “Sly” James, Jr., Kansas City, MO
Richard Clanton, Kentwood, MI
Lucy Johnson, Kyle, TX
Art Madrid, La Mesa, CA
Jack Hoffman, Lake Oswego, OR
J. Richard Gray, Lancaster, PA
Virg Bernero, Lansing, MI
Paul G. Salinas Laredo, TX
Patricia Gerard, Largo, FL
Ken Miyagishima, Las Cruces, NM
Carolyn Goodman, Las Vegas, NV
Richard Kaplan, Lauderhill, FL
Bernard Carvalho, Lihue, HI
David Berger, Lima, OH
Patricia Krause, Lincoln Park, MI
Richard Gerbounka, Linden, NJ
Randy Wats, Logan, UT
Bob Foster, Long Beach, CA
Chase Ritenauer, Lorain, OH
Paul Soglin, Madison, WI
Wayne Powell, Manhattan Beach, CA
Frank Talarico, Margate, FL
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Alan Arakawa, Maui, HI
A C Wharton, Memphis, TN
Matt Bower, Miami Beach, FL
Lori Morey, Miramar, FL
Mary Ann Lutz, Manor, CA
Steve Tate, Morgan Hill, CA
Jill Techel, Napa, CA
Robert Mezzo, Naugatuck, CT
Jonathan Mitchell, New Bedford, MA
John DeStefano, New Haven, CT
Mitch Landrieu, New Orleans, LA
Noam Bramson, New Rochelle, NY
Alan Nagy, Newark, CA
Seit Warren, Newton, MA
Paul Oyster, Niagara Falls, NY
Paul Fraim, Norfolk, VA
Keith Summy, North Charleston, SC
Andre Pierre, North Miami, FL
Stephen Scaffidi, Oak Creek, WI
David Pope, Oak Park, IL
Jean Quan, Oakland, CA
Anne E. Sollee, Oakland Park, FL
Owen Henry, Old Bridge, NJ
Stephen Buxbaum, Olympia, WA
Satish Hiremath, Oro Valley, AZ
William Capote, Palm Bay, FL
Bill Bogaard, Pasadena, CA
Shawn Connors, Pecatonica, IL
Frank Oris, Pembroke Pines, FL
Sandra Bradbury, Pinellas Park, FL
Brian Wahler, Piscataway, NJ
Nancy Parent, Pittsburg, CA
Luke Ravenstahl, Pittsburgh, PA
Michael Collins, Plainfield, IL
Michael Brennan, Portland, ME
Charlie Hales, Portland, OR
Angel Taveras, Providence, RI
Nancy, McNalty, Raleigh, NC
Vaughn Spencer, Reading, PA
Denis Law, Renton, WA
Daniel Rizzo, Revere, MA
Sally Hutton, Richmond, IN
Ardele Brede, Rochester, MN
Phyllis Marcuccio, Rockville, MD
Jim Ellison, Royal Oak, MI
Christopher B. Coleman, Saint Paul, MN
Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City, UT
Thomas O’Donell, Sanamassam, WA
Edwin Lee, San Francisco, CA
Mark Bartel, San Jose, CA
Jan Marx, San Luis Obispo, CA
David Lim, San Mateo, CA
Miguel Pulido, Santa Ana, CA
Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara, CA
David Cass, Santa Fe, NM
Pam O’Connor, Santa Monica, CA
Michael McGinn, Seattle, WA
Barbara Wallace, Sewell, NJ
Keith McGlashan, Shoreline, WA
Joseph Curtatone, Somerville, MA
Frank Gambatese, South Brunswick, NJ
Brenda Lawrence, Southfield, MI
Noramie Jasmin, Spring Valley, NY
Christine Lundberg, Springfield, OR
Francis Slay, St. Louis, MO
Nancy Johnson, Stockton, CA
Joe McElveen, Sumter, SC
Anthony Spitaleri, Sunnyvale, CA
Sharon Wolcott, Surprise, AZ
John Marks, Tallahassee, FL
Bob Buckhorn, Tampa, FL
Jeffrey Lamarand, Taylor, MI
Mohamed Hameduddin, Teaneck, NJ
Patrick Dunlaplow, Tooele, UT
Joyce Cameron, Trotwood, OH
Jonathan Rothchild, Tucson, AZ
Carol Vernac, Union City, CA
Shelley Welsch, University City, MO
Laurel Prussing, Urbana, IL
Vincent Gray, Washington, DC
Jeffrey Prang, West Hollywood, CA
Jeri Muio, West Palm Beach, FL
Christopher Cabaldon, West Sacramento, CA
Kathy Coruzzi, Westerville, OH
Andrew Curren, Wilkes-Barre, PA
James Baker, Wilmington, DE
Barry Wright, Winslow Township, NJ
C. Kim Bracey, York, PA

Update on Partner America: The Mayor’s Small Business Initiative

By Jeff Bean

Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch summarized PartnerAmerica™ best when he said, “Small businesses are the engine of growth for cities and towns across America. They stabilize our neighborhoods, create jobs and serve our communities. In Bridgeport, we’re working with Partner America™ to provide our small businesses with a wealth of tools and information to help them thrive and succeed.”

PartnerAmerica™ is a private-public partnership that was created by The United States Conference of Mayors and American Management Services, Inc (AMS). This program helps small and medium-sized businesses in cities across the nation improve profits and sales through management assistance. PartnerAmerica™ is designed to assist mayors in providing the resources and information small businesses need to thrive within their local communities and global economy.

Because of the program’s success and positive impact on cities, the PartnerAmerica™ program has been extended, thanks to the dedication of the Conference of Mayors and the generous support of AMS. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran said, “The PartnerAmerica™ program has been extremely successful and we anticipate continued success throughout the coming years.”

PartnerAmerica™ focuses on combining the resources and programs offered by local and federal government agencies with the management and technical expertise provided by private enterprise. The program initiated the compilation and publication of Best Small Business Practices, assisted mayors across the country in hosting small business roundtables and conferences, and helps local companies enjoy sustained growth through increased profits and sales. Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, who hosted an event in his city, explained, “This is the type of partnership that mayors really need in their cities when it comes to small business. Partner America™ is invaluable and I would encourage every mayor to reach out to Conference of Mayors about this partnership.”

In 1999, AMS was selected to administer PartnerAmerica™, and is authorized to offer The Business Survey™ to qualified owners. Since the inception of PartnerAmerica™, AMS has contracted over 3500 Business Surveys with companies in virtually every business sector, with 70 percent of these being family owned and operated. The PartnerAmerica™ Business Survey has helped AMS to target the specific needs of small business, increase profit, and improve management technique. Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard noted, “All businesses need technical assistance, especially small businesses. The PartnerAmerica™ program provides resources to help keep companies profitable and growing.”

As the backbone of the national economy, the Conference of Mayors truly understands why communities need successful small businesses. Mayor’s Small Business events, through PartnerAmerica™, spread this message to the businesses that can benefit from this program’s information and expertise.

If you have any questions regarding the PartnerAmerica™ program, contact Jeff Bean, Managing Director, at 202-446-8140 or send e-mail to jbean@usmayors.org.

Key Factors in Selecting a Purchasing Cooperative

By Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland

U.S. Communities is a nonprofit government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services for participating public agencies by aggregating their purchasing power nationwide. It is the only cooperative purchasing program co-founded and sponsored by The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the National Institute of Government Purchasing, and the Association of School Business Officials. The cooperative is non-exclusive, allowing cities to exercise due diligence in selecting the best individual contracts for their needs.

Since its inception in 1996, U.S. Communities has saved cities and other public entities hundreds of millions of dollars. U.S. Communities combines the purchasing power of over 55,000 public agencies. The Conference of Mayors has continued to partner with U.S. Communities because it is the gold standard for public procurement. The advisory board of cities, counties, and schools provides additional oversight.

Over time, the market has grown to include many other cooperatives. When it comes time for cities to consider a cooperative purchasing contract, prudence must be exercised when looking at the structure of the cooperative. U.S. Communities has provided cities with a list of questions to ensure that the best cooperative purchasing processes, methods, and structure to provide the best value and protection for mayors and cities.

1. Was the soliciting entity an independent lead public agency that meets the standard definition of a political subdivision (county, city, school district, state, public higher education or special district)?
2. Was the development of the solicitation, evaluation of the responses and award determination performed by public employees of a political subdivision that is separate from and independent of the cooperative organization?
3. Did a National Evaluation Team comprised of public procurement professionals from multiple political subdivisions participate in the creation, evaluation and award process?
4. Was the procurement process substantially similar to the process your agency is required to use?
5. Does the cooperative organization have independent and broad oversight of the program and its operations?
6. Does the cooperative organization conduct independent third-party supplier audits to ensure contract compliance?
7. Does the cooperative organization have adequate staff relative to the number of awarded suppliers?
8. Does the cooperative organization’s staff conduct quarterly performance reviews with supplier executives and Lead Public Agency to evaluate performance and compliance?
9. Does the cooperative organization’s agreement contain terms and conditions that require the supplier to provide their best government pricing to your agency?
10. Does the cooperative organization have field personnel focused on educating public agencies on the benefits of cooperative purchasing program and resolving problems or concerns?

Keeping these ten items in mind as your city makes decisions about cooperative purchasing will help to ensure your city saves the most money under a transparent, competitive contract.

To learn more about U.S. Communities and other purchasing best practices, contact Jeannie Fanning with the Conference of Mayors at 240-393-9672 or send e-mail to jfanning@usmayors.org.
Selecting Service Providers

Question – “Hello, we have not made any changes to our 457 plan in a number of years. Whose responsibility is it to select and monitor our plan’s service providers? Can the city allow our employees to make the decision?”

Great-West Financial Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Senior Director Marilyn R. Collister answers:

Mayors and staff members are busy creating and maintaining the best possible cities for their employees and residents. Taking the time to understand and properly supervise the 457 plan is often not on the top of the priority list. As the sponsor of your 457 plan, however, the city is a fiduciary, and thus, the city – not your employees – is responsible for selecting the service providers for the plan.

Selecting competent plan providers is part of your fiduciary duty as a plan sponsor. Under the fiduciary rules applicable to 457 plans, plan sponsors and individuals who serve on plan boards or committees have fiduciary liability when it comes to selecting, monitoring and deselecting plan providers. Fiduciary prudence requires a careful evaluation of the provider’s qualifications, the nature and extent of the services being offered, and the reasonableness of the fees charged for those services. It also requires you to monitor your current relationships and assess whether the current provider’s fees and services continue to be in the best interest of the plan.

To ensure you are in compliance with your fiduciary duty when deciding whether to retain a current service provider or switch to a new provider, it is extremely important to use objective criteria and prudent processes to:

- Compare the quality of funds and services being offered to the plan,
- Compare the fees charged by the fund companies and service providers, and
- Document your deliberations and your rationale for retaining or selecting service providers.

In summary, being a fiduciary requires the highest standard of care in making service provider decisions. You must be able to show that you have engaged in meaningful analysis when comparing service providers and their fees. Maintaining written documentation showing that the decisions you made are in the best interest of the plan participants and their beneficiaries will help lesson your fiduciary liability.

NOTE: This feature provides general information only. It does not constitute legal or tax advice upon which you may rely. We encourage you to seek the advice of your own counsel when you have plan related questions.

If you have questions about fiduciary responsibility, send them to the Fiduciary Corner at fiduciary@usmayors.org. To read more about the new Conference of Mayors Retirement Program, visit the website www.USCMRetire.org. You can also call the Conference of Mayors Retirement Program at 202-302-6944.

Revolutionary Conference of Mayors Retirement Program with Great-West

Effective October 8, 2012, the United States Conference of Mayors Deferred Compensation Program (formerly known as the Nationwide/USCM Program) selected Great-West Retirement Services to administer the Program.

The Conference of Mayors selected Great-West based upon an extensive, qualitative review of benefits, cost structures, product offerings, and supporting services in this market. Great-West was identified as the best-in-class service provider capable of offering products and services that focus on benefitting city employees. Under the Conference of Mayors Program, with Great-West as the service provider, cities and their employees will realize these benefits:

- Elimination of administrative fees, meaning more of employees’ dollars will go toward their retirement savings (and not toward fees)
- Enhanced education services and communications materials for employees, including face-to-face and online seminars
- An expanded lineup of quality investment options, including existing target date funds and a guaranteed lifetime withdrawal benefit
- A plan fiduciary warranty
- New account management tools available 24/7 through the Program’s new website www.USCMRetire.org/transition and an automated voice response system 1-888-303-USCM
- Continued advocacy and oversight of the Conference of Mayors combining the negotiating power of thousands of government entities, Great-West is one of the nation’s leading providers in the retirement services industry. In fact, they are the number one provider of retirement plan record keeping for the 457 public market and the fourth-largest retirement plan record keeper in the U.S., servicing 25,000 plans representing 4.5 million participant accounts and more than $166 billion in assets. The new partnership is committed to providing mayors and cities with the innovative tools and services needed to serve city employees and their beneficiaries up to and through retirement. The flexibility in products and services puts the Conference of Mayors Program in its own unique retirement solutions market, with a laser focus on enabling cities to adopt best practices in providing for employee retirement.

If you have not done so, the Conference of Mayors encourages your city to schedule an appointment with a representative of the new Conference of Mayors Great-West Program to learn more about how this Program can add tangible value to your city’s overall employee retirement plan. As always, Conference of Mayors is working for no more than the assurance that they are offering the very best to America’s cities and their employees.

To learn more about the Conference of Mayors Program with Great-West, contact Kathryn Kretzschmer-Weyland with the Conference of Mayors at 202-302-6944 or send e-mail to kweyland@usmayors.org.

Funding Essential Services in Times of Austerity, Linebarger Goggan Offers Solutions

By Kathryn Kretzschmer-Weyland

The slow pace of our economic recovery has forced drastic cuts across all levels of government. Add to that the wave of natural disasters and protests that have struck this year, many cities are now faced with even tougher financial situations. To help make sure that cities are able to continue providing essential public services, many of them are turning to one of the most respected collection firms in the industry, the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

Linebarger Goggan, a Platinum Partner and long-time Business Council Member with The U.S. Conference of Mayors, currently represents more than 500 cities throughout the United States, including some 84 members of the Conference of Mayors. In 2012 alone, 27 cities have joined the firm’s client roster.

With over 36 years of success under their belt, and a singular focus on collecting delinquent government receivables, Linebarger Goggan has honed its service offering to meet the unique needs of its more than 2,200-plus government clients. A third of the firm’s clients have partnered with them for over 20 years.

Linebarger Goggan recovers approximately a billion dollars in additional revenue for its public sector clientele each year. The firm’s business model has already resulted in four Conference of Mayors Public-Private Partnership Awards, including recognition for the firm’s work with the Cities of Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Port Arthur. They are the only four-time winner in the 75-year history of the Conference.

For more information on Linebarger Goggan, contact Kathryn Kretzschmer Weyland with the Conference of Mayors at 301-460-5251 or kweyland@usmayors.org; or Jeannie Fanning at 240-393-9672 or jfanning@usmayors.org.
There’s a reason it’s called the Iron Man competition.

Iron = Strength.
And in the race to replace our aging water infrastructure, iron pipe will go the distance.
With a track record reaching back over a hundred years, it already has.
Ductile iron pipe is strong—ten times stronger than PVC. It is reliable, easy to install and it creates none of the laying and tapping headaches associated with PVC.
And ductile iron has environmental advantages—while PVC production creates toxins that have caused some cities and corporations to ban it, iron pipe is made from recycled and recyclable materials and uses less energy in pumping.
Iron Pipe. It’s What America Was Built On.
FROM THE BENCH

Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Los Angeles County Regarding Stormwater Case

By Judy Sheahan

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled on January 8 that: “The flow of water from an improved portion of a navigable waterway into an unimproved portion of the same waterway does not qualify as a ‘discharge of a pollutant’ under the Clean Water Act.” The U.S. Conference of Mayors supported Los Angeles County’s position by signing onto an amicus brief in the case Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LA County) v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC).

In this case, Los Angeles County operated a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), and had a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The county also operates a series of concrete-lined portions of the river with monitoring stations. The downstream monitoring stations established that the county was violating the terms of its NPDES permit. The District Court said that is was undisputed that the monitoring stations did not demonstrate that the number of pollutants exceeded water quality standards but that “thousands of (other) permitted dischargers,” other than the county, discharged into the rivers upstream of the monitoring stations and therefore there was insufficient evidence to find that the county had violated their permit.

The Appellate Court reversed the District Court’s decision and ruled that the county was liable for the discharge of pollutants that “occurred when the pollutant discharge elimination system (MS4) and, had a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The county also operates a series of concrete-lined portions of the river with monitoring stations. The downstream monitoring stations established that the county was violating the terms of its NPDES permit. The District Court said that it was undisputed that the monitoring stations did not demonstrate that the number of pollutants exceeded water quality standards but that “thousands of (other) permitted dischargers,” other than the county, discharged into the rivers upstream of the monitoring stations and therefore there was insufficient evidence to find that the county had violated their permit.

The Appellate Court reversed the District Court’s decision and ruled that the county was liable for the discharge of pollutants from a discharge of pollutants under the Clean Water Act.”

In that case the Supreme Court ruled that the “transfer of polluted water between ‘two parts of the same water body’ does not constitute a discharge of pollutants under the Clean Water Act.”

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Muni Cap May Force $150 Billion in Calls, Citigroup Says

By Brian Chappatta - January 8, 2013 9:16 AM ET

U.S. municipal issuers may have to call as much as $150 billion of debt if President Barack Obama’s plan to limit income-tax deductions is applied to interest on the bonds, according to Citigroup Inc.

Mandatory redemption provisions of conduit and private-activity securities could be triggered by a cap that affects the deductibility of earnings for some bondholders, Citigroup muni strategists and private-activity bonds are exempt securities sold by governments for companies, hospitals and nonprofit organizations. Private-activity bonds are tax-free only if they finance projects or loans that are considered worthy of the exemption, Rai said. The debt represents about $200 billion of the $3.7 trillion muni market.

Obama, a Democrat, has sought to cap tax deductions at the value they would have in the 28 percent bracket for top earners, including interest on exempt debt. That limit wasn’t included in the measure passed by Congress on New Year’s Day.

Recurrent Threat

“We strongly suspect that the threat of such a cap will recur at some point,” the Citigroup analysts said. “Market participants will need to remain alert and involved in making the case for the tax exemption.”

Though Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said further tax-code changes won’t be part of the debate over increasing the government’s debt limit, Obama has repeated his call for a “balanced” approach to reducing deficits. Republicans may use the debt ceiling to push for spending cuts, according to the Citigroup report.

“The wealthiest individuals and the biggest corporations shouldn’t be able to take advantage of loopholes and deductions that aren’t available to most Americans,” Obama said in his weekend radio remarks on Jan. 5.

The muni market’s value may drop by $200 billion, or about 5 percent, under Obama’s deduction cap for top earners, Citigroup said last month. Should it be imposed, investors would demand at least a 0.6 percentage point increase in tax-exempt yields to make up for reduced effective earnings, according to George Friedlander, the bank’s senior muni strategist.

Mandatory redemptions at par value would force losses on bondholders who bought the debt for more than 100 cents on the dollar. It may also produce fiscal strains as states and cities recover from the longest recession since the 1930s. Some issuers could face cash-flow problems if suddenly, for no fault on their part, they are forced to redeem bonds that they hadn’t budgeted for,” Rai said. “This could have a potentially destabilizing effect on the market.”

January 14, 2013
Government Employers See Significant Savings from Proven Cost-Control Moves

By Jeannie Fanning

Cities and other government employers have one big goal in common with the private sector when it comes to employee benefits: containing costs. As insurance premiums and health care costs continue to go up, so does the pressure on cities to find new ways to continue offering valuable, competitive benefits without increasing spending. The good news is research has identified some of the most effective strategies government employers are implementing to control benefits costs — with significant success.

Wellness initiatives top the list of changes cities and other government employers are making to control their employee benefits costs, according to a study by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of its members. The research project, funded by a grant from Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company, identified strategies government employers are using to manage the quality and cost of their employee benefits programs.

A strong majority — 79 percent — of GFOA members responding to the survey said they’re placing a greater emphasis on preventive care, and 77 percent said they’re promoting healthy behaviors as a cost-control technique. An equal number said they’ve established Section 125 “cafeteria” plans and are focusing on maximizing participation in pretax benefits. Only four percent said they planned to eliminate health benefits.

“The public employers clearly see benefits that help them maintain a healthy and productive workforce can also be effective strategies for controlling their benefits costs,” said GFOA Research and Consulting Director Anne Spray Kinney.

Popular Moves Not Always Effective

The study also showed the most common cost-savings techniques were not always the most effective. Health plan design changes, including carving out pharmacy benefits, expanding use of generic drugs, implementing health savings accounts and tightening provider networks, were the fourth most often cited strategy at 71 percent. Yet just over half of those making health plan design changes strongly recommended that strategy to others.

In fact, some strategies getting the strongest endorsements apparently aren’t being widely implemented. Moving non-attraction for public employers. They’re most likely to be able to continue offering high-quality benefits if they find ways to make them more cost-effective.

Proven Cost Savings

Study participants who implemented cost-control strategies reported significant savings in their employee health care benefits. More than half — 55 percent — of government employers reported saving at least 6 percent, and 40 percent of them saved more than ten percent. However, a quarter of respondents said they didn’t know how much they’ve saved. This lack of awareness points out a need for public employers to get help capturing and quantifying their potential savings says McCullough.

Although there is no one-size-fits-all solution for cities to control their employee benefits cost, this research makes it clear cities have access to proven resources and opportunities that work.

“Focusing on the right cost-saving measures could have a significant impact on the bottom line while minimizing the impact on employees,” says McCullough. “Thoughtful implementation of strategies appropriate for each employer can help them continue to offer a stable benefits package in a more financially sustainable way.”

A report based on the survey, “Containing Health Care Costs: Proven Strategies for Success in the Public Sector,” is available free of charge on Colonial Life’s website at www.coloniallife.com. Click on “Services We Offer” and “Public Sector” to find a link to the report. A white paper summarizing some of the key findings also is available on Colonial Life’s website in the Newsroom. Find it by clicking on “Latest News” and “White Papers.”

About Colonial Life

Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company is a market leader in providing financial protection benefits through the workplace, including disability, life, accident, cancer, critical illness and supplemental health insurance. The company’s benefit services and education, innovative enrollment technology and personal service support more than 75,000 businesses and organizations, representing nearly three million working Americans and their families. For more information, visit coloniallife.com.

About GFOA

The Government Finance Officers Association is the major professional association serving the needs of 17,000 appointed and elected local and state level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top-quality publications, training programs, services, and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, with offices in Washington (DC). More information is available online at www.gfoa.org.

For additional information on how these strategies could help your city’s employee benefits, contact Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland with the Conference of Mayors at 301-460-5251 or send e-mail to kw@usmayors.org, or contact Jeff Bean at 202-446-8140 or e-mail jbean@usmayors.org.

City government savings on health benefits in most successful two-year period using cost-management strategies

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USCM EVENTS

January 17–19
81st Winter Conference of Mayors, Washington (DC)
(Thursday–Saturday)
Contact Carol Edwards (202-293-7330)
Registration Now Open

February 27–March 1
Winter Leadership Meeting, Washington (DC)
Invitation Only
(Wednesday–Friday)
Contact Carol Edwards (202-293-7330)
Registration Available Soon

May 1–3
World Cultural Economic Forum, New Orleans
International and U.S. Mayors
(Wednesday–Friday)
Contact Jocelyn Bogen (202-861-6727)
Registration Available Soon
Sponsorship Information Contact Geri Powell (202-861-6774)

May 22–24
Mayors Innovation Summit, Philadelphia
(Wednesday–Friday)
Contact David Burns (202-861-6765)
Registration Available Soon
Sponsorship Information Contact Geri Powell (202-861-6774)

June 21–24
81st Annual Conference of Mayors, Las Vegas
(Friday-Monday), Contact Carol Edwards (202-293-7330)
Registration Available February 2013
Sponsorship Information Contact Geri Powell (202-861-6774)

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