

## LMC Annual Conference

June 21-23, 2023

A highlighted message over the course of the conference was the historic level of funding that was allocated this year. Increased state funding, as a result of state budget surplus, and several federal funding opportunities administered by the state as a result of the IIJA (Infrastructure & Investments and Jobs Act) and IRA (Inflation Reduction Act).

The state 2023 legislative session included nearly \$69 million in state aid to small cities.

Vergas will be receiving a total of \$39,070 new aid.

New Public Safety Aid of \$15,710. Onetime aid that will arrive sometime Sept-Dec 2023. Focus is Fire and Police (crime & youth)

Increase LGA funding in 2024 of \$5,937; totally \$43,751. Result of LGA formula change

New small city transportation assistance funding of \$17,861 in 2024. Will be annual funding & will increase as a result of a new auto part sales tax and delivery retail fee.

There are a number of funding opportunities related to Housing; Environment, Climate & Energy, Water/Waste Water Infrastructure, Transportation, and Child Care. Refer to the provided 2023 Legislative Session Overview brochure.

Of note to the Council is the change to the open meeting law, which now authorizes officials to participate in a meeting via interactive technology from a nonpublic location up to 3 times a year; if advised by a health care professional against being in a public place for medical reasons.

Adult Cannabis use goes into effect 8/1/2023. Office of Cannabis Management established with a website and a webinar is planned for July 25th to further review. There are population-based limits for number of retailers (based on Otter Tail County population there can be 6). Components include local registration and zoning with local compliance oversight.

### **Action:**

Provide information to respective committees/boards/councils to examine funding opportunities.

Examine establishment of a city climate action plan, which is the gateway for funding for Environment, Climate & Energy. Technical assistance available in assessment and grant writing. (this component incorporates parks)

### **Available Resources:**

- Slides from the LMC annual conference available on LMC website; especially helpful are the slides from the presentation I attended on "Federal Grant Opportunities Administered by the State." The slides outline in more detail the available grants/bonds and requirements.
- LMC Grant Navigator
- Law Summaries on LMC website and LMC webinars with full recap of 2023 legislative session
- New cannabis law webinar on July 25th
- Respective state agency websites who are administering funding; Public Facilities Authority, Department of Transportation, Department of Commerce, Department of Housing

I would like to thank the Council and Residents of Vergas who support continuing education in the city budget. In addition to the educational sessions, there are several networking opportunities. I attended the Mayor Breakfast, Small Cities Association, and Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, which were especially informative.

Respectfully submitted;  
Julie Bruhn