

Newly-Elected Municipal Officials Leadership Academy

Municipal officials are critical stakeholders in the service delivery pipeline. From homelessness to regional development, transportation systems and local public safety, municipal officials are vital to the fabric of local governance. With 458 elected mayors and city council members in 88 cities across Los Angeles County, the leadership, administrative and legislative capacity, of these officials is key to advancing efforts to improve the lives of residents throughout Los Angeles County.

Many municipal officials are elected having had little training in legislative procedures and governance protocols. They can face a very steep learning curve that inhibits their immediate and longer-term efficiency. This has nothing to do with ability, but rather has everything to do with the realities of working as part-time councils with citizen legislators. Many newly-elected officials assuming office have limited experience with public administration (e.g. dissecting a city budget), or perhaps the rules and regulations surrounding community/housing/retail development. With a lack of on-boarding and customized applied training programs, these citizen legislators are often limited in their

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ability to implement a vision for their respective communities. They can also be hampered in their ability to engage and partner with entities like Los Angeles County to deliver the most impactful level of service.

Exploring partnerships that can provide accessible and practicable public administration/governance training to newly and recently-elected municipal officials can not only create a pipeline of more engaged and effective local leaders but also assist the County in focusing resources on priorities such as homelessness and child protection.

To address this need, the California Community Foundation has partnered with Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources and the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy to pilot a training program that seeks to build the skills of newly and recently elected local municipal officials. The program would focus on building practical public administration and governance competencies to implement regional solutions to the County's Board priorities.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Human Resources and other impacted departments to:

1. Work with the California Community Foundation and the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy to implement a one-year pilot leadership certificate program. Aimed at newly-elected municipal officials, it will focus on developing those practical skills essential to public administration and governance; and
2. Report back quarterly to this Board on the progress of this pilot, including

feedback from the participants and a detailed description of the curriculum covered during the training; and

3. Provide follow-up reports, six and twelve months after the end of the program describing lessons learned and demonstrating successes and failure of the pilot program. The final report should include recommendations regarding the feasibility of continuing the program with the County's support and participation.

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