

Our Mission

IPA's mission is to provide services and information that assist in maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness of Iowa's state and local governments. As an outreach service of the University of Iowa, the Institute provides educational programs, publications and resources to state and local officials throughout the state.

IPA assists city council members and city/county boards and commissions in:

- Planning for and implementing their goals
- Resolving conflicts
- Working as a team
- Learning how to more effectively perform their individual roles

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Institute of Public Affairs



Serving Iowa's
State and Local
Governments

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Programs

Iowa Municipal Management Institute: IMMI, a joint effort between the IPA and the Iowa City/County Management Associations, and co-sponsored by the Iowa League of Cities, is a professional development program for city/county managers and administrators.

The annual program provides Iowa's city/county managers and administrators a unique opportunity to participate in a national level management development experience without traveling outside the state. The IMMI has a proven track record for nearly two decades.

IMMI provides a broad spectrum of personal and professional development sessions as well as practical "nuts and bolts" programs which promises a uniquely rewarding experience.

Training/Consultation:

Publication

Municipal Policy Leaders' Handbook:

A Guide for Iowa Mayors and Council Members This essential guide, published every four years by the IPA in cooperation with the Iowa League of Cities, describes the functions and services of Iowa cities as well as the laws governing municipal activities. The Handbook specifically focuses on the duties and powers of both mayors and council members. It contains explanations, tips, checklists, flow charts, and lists of resources useful to city officials. It also includes timely information from numerous state agencies, state associations and veteran city officials.

The 2004 edition of the Municipal Policy Leaders' Handbook has sections on a variety of important topics, including: economic development, ethics in local government, personal liability, public relations, personnel policies, capital improvements planning, and relations with other governments and agencies. These sections and the rest of the book are written in an easy to read format with graphics, charts, and tables.

The Handbook is "required reading" for both new and long term mayors, council members, city attorneys, city managers, department head and city clerks. The everyday responsibilities of these positions are challenging and sometimes overwhelming. This guide will help municipal officials understand what is expected and required of them by explaining both the details and the "big picture" involved in being a municipal policy leader.

To order copies of the Municipal Policy Leaders' Handbook, please call the IPA at (319)335-4520.

Resources

The following is a list of web resources for city/county managers and administrators:

The Iowa League of Cities (ILC) offers information, workshops, and other resources that are key to Iowa's municipal leaders.

The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) is a private, nonprofit corporation with a mission to promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is the professional and educational organization for chief appointed managers, administrators, and assistants in cities, towns, counties, and regional entities throughout the world.

If you are a city manager, you may access the city manager chatroom (on the ILC site), which allows managers to interconnect and collaborate on various issues. (password required)

Contact Information



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