

ICC Government Relations

September 2024

Monthly Update

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The Long Beach Convention Center is the site for the 2024 International Code Council's Annual Conference, Expo and Committee Action Hearings October 20-31.



JOIN THE FUN!

Can't make it to Long
Beach to join the best
building safety event of
the last 30 years?

No worries!

Join the fun October 21
without leaving town.

[Click here and find out!](#)

Early bird registration savings for 2024 Annual Conference in Long Beach end September 16

Come celebrate the Code Council's 30th anniversary at the [Annual Conference, Expo and Committee Action Hearings](#), scheduled for October 20-23 in Long Beach. Don't miss out on the savings by waiting beyond September 16 to register. When you do so, you'll receive the 2024 event's polo shirt ... **FREE!** Here are more tips:

- All governmental voting representatives who plan to attend the 2024 Annual Business Meeting must be validated in order to vote on Code Council business such as elections, bylaw amendments, and member resolutions. View the [Voter Validation Process FAQs](#) page to get more information. The deadline for validating voters is September 21.
- Participating in the Code Council's conference education sessions, building tours, and annual business meeting could earn you CEUs to help maintain or move forward to your next certification -- [up to 41.5 hours or 4.15 CEUs](#).
- Visit the [new Career Zone](#) to take a free professional profile portrait, have your resume reviewed by an expert, view the latest job openings and get tips on how to advance your career. Stop by during Expo hours.
- Code Council non-members registering as delegates are eligible for a free one-year ICC "Participating" membership. For details and a list of exclusive member benefits and services included in this offer, [click here](#). Membership begins January 1, 2025.
- Need to demonstrate why the Code Council's conference is a good investment? We've got you covered with our [justification letter template](#). Use this template to explain the value of the educational and networking opportunities available at the event. Feel free to customize as needed.
- [Here's the official notice](#) for the 2024 ICC Annual Business Meeting.

For registration questions, please call Jessica Franklin (ext. 4333) at 1-888-ICC SAFE (422-7233), or email conference@iccsafe.org.

[Read more here](#) →

Code Council Board election set for Annual Conference October 21

The 2024-25 Code Council Board of Directors Candidates webpage, which includes each Board candidate's application materials and support letters, is now available. David Spencer filed for Board President and Mike Boso filed for Vice President. Spencer and Boso are running unopposed. Two Board members filed to be elected Board Secretary-Treasurer: Steve McDaniel and Jim Sayers.

[Read more here](#) →

“Preparing for BRIC Codes Plus-Up 2024 Cycle” webinar is September 10

Now's the time to prepare to apply for BRIC funds for your community. Register for our upcoming [Preparing for the BRIC Codes Plus-Up 2024 Cycle webinar](#), which will be held September 10 at 3 p.m. Eastern. The Code Council hosted a [webinar](#) last year to help communities take advantage of these resources with FEMA's BRIC program lead (access the presentation slides [here](#)). We also hosted a deep dive into BRIC Building Codes Plus-Up and how to apply in FEMA GO. [Click here](#) to access the recording, [click here](#) to access the presentation slides. FEMA is expected to release the BRIC Funding Opportunity Announcement later this Fall, but many states have pre-application deadlines that require action in the interim.

Initiatives seek to increase housing supply, lower costs, remove barriers

The Biden-Harris Administration recently announced several initiatives aimed at increasing housing supply, lowering costs and removing barriers to housing construction. One of the key initiatives is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing \(PRO Housing\) grant program](#). This program is designed to support state and local governments in removing barriers to affordable housing, including through reforming the housing permitting process. In June, the first [\\$85 million in PRO Housing grants was awarded to 21 communities](#), and HUD announced on August 13 an additional \$100 million in funding. These funds are being used to accelerate local efforts to reform permitting processes, including expediting approvals, increasing by-right permitting, streamlining environmental reviews and creating clear, objective guidelines for developers. Examples of awarded projects include:

- Expediting the permitting approval process for income-restricting housing projects in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Streamlining permitting requirements for affordable housing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Creating regulatory toolkits to improve consistency of housing development and building permits in Rhode Island.
- Expanding staffing capacity to fast-track the review of affordable housing development projects in Denver, Colorado.
- Facilitating adaptive reuse and commercial to residential conversions through an analysis of barriers, code updates and providing best practice templates by New York City, Denver and the Metro Washington Council of Governments.

[Read more here](#) →

Training staff expanding members' Chapter Education Benefit choices

The International Code Council Training staff expanded the Chapter Education Benefit (CEB) day choices from 62 offerings earlier this year to now 84 courses, and more are coming. The list includes classes from the 2024 *International Codes*. Check out the latest catalog at learn.iccsafe.org. Click on the “waffle menu” in the upper right corner of the screen and choose “Schedule Your CEB Today” to reach the Chapter Education Benefit catalog. Requests for Chapter Education Benefit Days are coming in for the last quarter of 2024. If you wish to schedule a day, submit a request as soon as possible. Just click on the email icon in the class you wish to schedule, and a short application will appear. Questions? Contact Karla Higgs at kphiggs@iccsafe.org.

Popular webinar on Chapter Website Benefit is now available online

The Code Council recently introduced a new series of quarterly chapter webinars developed to assist you in planning, growing, and maintaining your ICC Chapter. In case you missed or want others to see it, check out the Quarter 3 webinar: **“Introducing the Online Member Community & Updates to the Chapter Website Benefit.”** The discussion introduced the new online Member Community as well as important updates to your Chapter Website Benefit. The fourth quarterly webinar is scheduled for noon Eastern on Thursday, November 21.

[Read more here](#) →

Energy codes are part of the 2024-2030 National Heat Strategy

In a move to address the escalating threat of extreme heat, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has joined forces with the White House and the [National Integrated Heat Health Information System](#) (NIHHIS) to highlight the first-ever [National Heat Strategy for 2024-2030](#). This strategy marks a significant milestone in the federal government's ongoing efforts to protect communities from the growing dangers of extreme heat. One of the key components of this strategy is the support for the adoption and updating of energy codes, such as the International Energy Conservation Code®.

[Read more here](#) →

Openings offer opportunities to work with industry peers on ICC exams

The Code Council has openings on various Exam Development Committees (EDCs). Apply today to help contribute to the development and maintenance of ICC Certification exams! Application Deadline is **October 31**. If you have additional questions about the duties and responsibilities of an EDC member, please feel free to contact us at 888-422-7233, ext. 5524 or email to accommittees@iccsafe.org.

[Read more here](#) →

Center of Focus on Energy, Resilience & Innovation newsletter available

The International Code Council's Center of Focus on Energy, Resilience and Innovation is pleased to share the August 2024 ICC Energy and Sustainability Newsletter. The [August 2024 issue of the ICC Energy and Sustainability Newsletter](#) features:

- The 2024 International Energy Conservation Code and 2024 International Residential Code, including Chapter 11, are now available in print and digital format.
- Registration for the International Code Council's New York City Climate Week Event in partnership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and American Institute of Architects-New York Committee on the Environment.
- The application deadline for Round 2 of the IRA Competitive Energy Code funding opportunity is open till September 13 (concepts papers are no longer required to submit full applications).
- Information on registration and a full energy education track at ICC's 2024 Annual Conference, Expo, and Committee Action Hearings in Long Beach, CA from October 20-31.

And much more! For more information or to subscribe, contact jsollod@iccsafe.org.

[Download your August Update here](#) →

Report encourages adopting ICC/MBI Standards 1200 and 1205

The [Humanitarian Supply Chain Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) (MIT) hosted a roundtable in January focused on scaling construction capacity after disasters. The discussion covered key issues such as supply chain management, policy frameworks at various governmental levels, building codes and the complexities of private-sector construction. Attendees included the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA), the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD), local government officials, emergency managers, the International Code Council, the [National Association of Home Builders](#) (NAHB), modular homebuilders, the [National Institute of Building Sciences](#) (NIBS) and the [Modular Building Institute](#) (MBI). Their participation underscored a growing consensus on the value of off-site construction as a solution for disaster housing and recovery. The [report](#) from the roundtable

captures the essence of these discussions and provides detailed actions and practical recommendations for each stakeholder group, aiming to improve the effectiveness of post-disaster housing solutions.

[Read more here](#) →

Chief Ray Reynolds receives Excellence in Fire and Life Safety Award

The International Code Council, in partnership with the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#) (IAFC) Fire and Life Safety Section, recently presented Fire Chief Ray Reynolds with the 2024 Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Award. The award honors fire and life safety professionals for their leadership, service and support of model fire codes and standards. Reynolds received the award during the IAFC Fire-Rescue International Conference and Expo in Dallas.

[Read more here](#) →

Cindy Davis elected to Virginia Board of Housing/Community Development

Cindy Davis, CBO, retired Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and Code Council Past President, will contribute her expertise to the ongoing development of policies that support safe, affordable and sustainable housing statewide. Her election to the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development is a testament to her enduring legacy and her dedication to uplifting the building safety community.

[Read more here](#) →

Seattle's Andy Higgins is recipient from Emory R. Rogers Fellowship

Andy Higgins, Director of Customer Success for the City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) started his career in building safety in the late 1990s after being offered an internship in Seattle. He happily accepted the offer but had no idea the profound impact it would have on his life or his career. "Once I tried it out, I fell in love with it," Higgins said. "Ever since then, I've dedicated my entire career to making public service better and making sure we are efficient, effective and doing everything we can to dispel that myth that government is inefficient." Higgins' foresight, persistence and commitment to building safety made him a standout choice for the International Code Council's 2023 [Emory R. Rodgers Leadership in Building Safety Fellowship](#). Named after Emory R. Rodgers (2009), who spent more than four decades devoting himself to building safety, the fellowship was created to help building safety professionals further their careers. Every year, the fellowship is awarded to building safety professionals who have embarked upon a demonstrated executive-level career path and wish to further develop their leadership skills through an eligible executive development program.

[Read more here](#) →

Austin is U.S.'s first ElectriCity through ICC/IAEI engagement program

ElectriCity™ is a new program that recognizes cities for their commitment to electrical safety and provides on-site training from the Independent Alliance of the Electrical Industry (IAEI). By becoming an ElectriCity, the City of Austin, Texas, demonstrates its commitment to ensuring that electrical installations meet required safety standards, reducing the risk of electrical hazards and contributing to the overall safety and sustainability of their community. City staff that participate in the ElectriCity program are better prepared to take the ICC/IAEI certification exams for Residential Electrical Inspectors, Commercial Electrical Inspectors and/or Electrical Plans Examiners. The ICC/IAEI Electrical Inspector Joint Certification Program provides a widely recognized credential that gives certificate holders access to increased job opportunities and improved mobility within the building safety industry.

[Read more here](#) →

GOT PULSE? Episode 57 explores applications of AI in building safety

The newest episode of the [ICC Pulse Podcast](#) explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and building safety, highlighting its implications for enhancing risk prediction and prevention, real-time monitoring, maintenance and inspection. Featuring guest experts, the discussion covers traditional building safety methods, the application of AI in the industry, emerging technologies, standardizing AI and overcoming challenges to implementation. Listen to Episode 57 of the ICC Pulse Podcast, "The I-Codes Go AI: How Artificial Intelligence is Enhancing Building Safety," [here](#).

ICC Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Updates

Deadline is September 16 to apply for PMG Code Action Committee

The International Code Council is currently seeking industry stakeholders to volunteer for the Plumbing Mechanical and Fuel Gas Code Action Committee (PMGCAC). Once appointed, these volunteers will take part in identifying areas of the International Codes® (I-Codes) for improvement, introducing new areas of safety for the built environment or clarifying existing I-Codes. These workgroups will have virtual meetings at various times. The meeting days and times will be sent to all interested parties of those work groups. The application deadline is September 16.

[Read more here](#) →

New standard addresses plumbing issues in hospitals, healthcare buildings

The Code Council has proposed to develop a new standard that is intended to provide holistic design, installation, inspection and maintenance requirements for water supply and sanitary drainage systems in hospitals and healthcare buildings with a primary focus on the different risks associated with each area of a hospital or healthcare building. Academic research commissioned by the International Code Council to support the development of ANSI candidate [ICC 815](#) has highlighted the need to consider the sizing of water supply and sanitary drainage piping systems within hospital and healthcare facilities. This and other research have highlighted the heightened risks faced by occupants of these buildings.

[Read more here](#) →

WateReuse Association promotes best practices for recycling systems

The [WateReuse Association](#) is the premier trade association committed exclusively to advancing laws, policies, funding and public acceptance of recycled water across the United States. Supported by its diverse membership—which includes water recycling utilities, businesses dedicated to developing recycled water projects and major industrial and commercial users—WateReuse strives to promote and enhance water recycling in both centralized and onsite systems. Onsite water systems (OWS) are an increasingly attractive complement to centralized systems in more and more communities, reducing pressure on centralized wastewater systems and creating more resilient communities. An OWS captures nearby wastewater, stormwater and other sources to treat and use in a single building or in multiple buildings. There are several groups advancing training programs for onsite reuse. WateReuse, in partnership with NBRC, Austin Water and others, is developing a training program for operators of onsite non-potable reuse systems. The International Code Council is developing a standard for Onsite DPR (ICC 1600 Series-202x, Professional Qualifications Standard for Onsite Direct Potable Water Reuse Systems) to ensure professionals are properly trained and accredited in accordance with industry standards.

[Read more here](#) →

Don't forget the 12th annual SepticSmart Week is set for September 16-20

The 12th annual SepticSmart Week, with its emphasis on Careers in the Decentralized Wastewater Industry, is less than 1 month away! In preparation for this year's campaign, here are a few updates:

- 1) **SepticSmart Public Outreach Guide.** This is a reminder that the 2024 Public Outreach Guide includes sample social media posts, radio ads, video resources, and two new blog posts. The Careers in the Decentralized Wastewater Industry flyer on page 9 is attached (web and print versions). It is also housed on NOWRA's website at: <https://www.nowra.org/about/partnerships/>.
- 2) **SepticSmart Proclamations.** MOU partners can issue proclamations on behalf of their organization, in addition to working with states or local governments. If you are working with a state, local government, or Tribal entity for a proclamation, please let us know. Proclamation templates can be found on our website here: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicmart-week#proclamations>
- 3) **"Thunderclap" Messaging.** We will share a mini toolkit for a SepticSmart "thunderclap" messaging campaign before the September Full Partner Call. This messaging campaign is intended to boost SepticSmart Week awareness on social media. The toolkit will provide clear instructions for participating in the campaign. Please forward to your communications team when received.
- 4) **[Click here for proclamations](#) for state, tribal and local governments.**

SepticSmart Week is an annual event that occurs the third week of September. Communities, national organizations, local groups, and state governments can bring attention to the importance of caring for and maintaining septic systems by organizing homeowner education events, sponsoring workshops or sharing social media from the SepticSmart program.

ICC Family of Solutions Updates

Turn ARPA Funds into office system upgrades by December 31

Recipients of **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)** have two options: **Obligate funds** into contracts by December 31, 2024, **or return the funds** to the U.S. Department of Treasury. Once you obligate funds into a contract, you have until December 31, 2026, to spend the funds. Use ARPA funds to implement a [Laserfiche](#) (records management and process automation) or [Municipity](#) (ePermitting) system, or enhance your existing systems by adding licenses, expanding to more departments, increasing functionality, or getting additional training. There are still **\$89 billion** in ARPA funds that are **unobligated** and **67 percent of recipients have unspent funds**. More than \$57.3 million in ARPA funds have been used for records management and digitization projects, accounting for 219 projects in 40 states. [Download our ARPA Guide](#) to eligible solutions. Learn how to digitally transform the operations of your organization.