

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



INTERNATIONAL
CODE
COUNCIL®

December 2023

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Board President Tom urges Code Council members to grab opportunities from 'Codes Up Plus' funding

ICC Board President Stuart Tom has urged members and their jurisdictions to pursue “[Codes Up Plus](#)” funding, a program in the latest BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant program administered by FEMA. “The BRIC ‘Codes Plus Up’ initiative offers an exceptional prospect for states, territories, tribal and local communities to upgrade and enforce their building codes, with an allocation of up to \$2 million per state and territory and \$25 million for tribal communities,” President Tom said. Although applications aren’t due until February 29, **communities should act now** as most states have earlier notices of intent and pre-application deadlines, thus far ICC staff have secured flexibility of such deadlines in 9 states. Examples of eligible code activities include:

- Consulting, hardcopy or digital [publications](#), [building department accreditation](#), [training](#), including ICC’s *When Disaster Strikes Institute*, and [certifications](#), to assist in the adoption, updating, and effective implementation of current building codes; and

ICC has developed Template materials to make getting started on your proposals easier, access [them here](#). Additionally, to learn more about the FEMA GO application [watch this webinar](#) to view a step by step walk through. [Click here](#) to learn more and reach out to federalgrants@iccsafe.org for help and review our latest blog with [National League of cities about BRIC](#).

BRIC success stories: Helping to pave the way for virtual inspections for the City of St. Paul

Code Council Board Member Angier Wiese wrote about the BRIC grant, vital for advancing the city's virtual inspections project, having provided not only financial support but also a framework for collaboration and innovation. During the application process, the City of St. Paul engaged with experts familiar with FEMA's procedures, highlighting the importance of specialized knowledge in navigating federal grant systems, starting with help from ICC. The detailed application process required patience and diligence, involving developing relationships with Emergency Management partners due to the grant's sub-recipient nature. The BRIC funding enabled them to overcome challenges with their existing permitting software and facilitated an upgrade essential for the transition to virtual inspection processes. The article reflects on the journey as a testament to collaborative effort and the effectiveness of leveraging external funding for infrastructural modernization and resilience. [Read more here](#).

2024 International Energy Conservation Code Update: Appeals deadline extended and next steps

To ensure that all interested stakeholders are able to participate in the process, the International Code Council has extended the deadline to submit appeals relative to the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC) to **Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 11:59 PM PT**. The final reports on balloting by the IECC Consensus Committees on approved changes to Public Comment Draft #2 are available on each committee’s webpage ([Commercial](#) and [Residential](#)). Read more here.

Off-Site construction solutions highlighted at U.S. Senate hearing on housing supply and innovation

The [Senate Banking Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development](#) held a hearing on “Housing Supply and Innovation,” which included discussions on modular homes. Off-site (modular) construction, or pre-fabrication, is the design and delivery of housing using an industrialized and manufactured-style approach. With national housing costs having risen 52 percent from 2017 to 2022, this method of construction offers an affordable solution, capable of curbing construction timelines and reducing costs. Off-site construction can deliver projects 20 to 50 percent faster than traditional site-built methods, while also providing cost savings of up to 20 percent. [Read more here](#).

Council Policy 28 change made to provide more detailed cost impact information for code proposals

The Code Council Board of Directors recently approved an update to Council Policy (CP) 28, which required code change proponents to include more relevant cost impact information to assist

committees and voting members in evaluating code change proposals. This action was taken in response to recommendations from the Long-Term Code Development Committee that a more detailed cost impact requirement be added to ensure a better understanding and consideration of the cost impacts associated with proposed code changes. The Board's updated version of [Section 17 of CP28](#) requires code change proponents to:

1. Identify "the code change proposal's estimated immediate cost impacts and estimated life cycle cost;"
2. Identify how that number or range was calculated ("method"); and
3. The data sources used ("basis for variables").

The Board's intent was to require code change proponents to identify the initial cost impact for all the I-Codes® and for proponents of changes to the International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC®) to also identify the life cycle cost impacts of their proposed changes. For codes other than the IECC, the Board intended that it would be optional to provide life cycle cost impacts in support of a proposal. When the Code Council recently publicized draft guidance implementing the new cost impact requirement, it came to the Board's attention that the updated language of CP28 did not clearly articulate its intention that the requirement to provide life cycle cost only applies to the IECC proposals. The Board will be updating the relevant policies to clarify the language. The Code Council's guidance document will also be revised to reflect the Board's intentions regarding the life cycle cost requirement.

Twelve of the 2024 International Codes® are now available for orders through the Code Council store

The International Code Council recently released several of the 2024 International Codes® (I-Codes). The I-Codes are a family of fifteen coordinated, modern building safety codes that help ensure the engineering of safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. The 2024 I-Codes that are published and now available for ordering include the following:

- [2024 International Building Code®](#)
- [2024 International Existing Building Code®](#)
- [2024 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®](#)
- [2024 International Private Sewage Disposal Code®](#)
- [2024 International Property Maintenance Code®](#)
- [2024 International Zoning Code®](#)
- [2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code®](#)
- [2024 ICC Performance Code®](#)
- [2024 International Fuel Gas Code®](#)

The 2024 [International Plumbing Code®](#) and [International Mechanical Code®](#) were both released earlier this year and can also be ordered on the Code Council store. The 2024 edition of the [International Fire Code®](#) was made available for pre-order on November 14, 2023. The 2024 editions of the [International Energy Conservation Code®](#), [International Residential Code®](#) and [International Green Construction Code®](#) will be available in 2024. [Read more here](#).

NIBS holds a Housing Affordability Hearing in Washington, D.C., on three focus topic sessions

The [National Institute of Building Sciences](#) (NIBS) last month held a [Housing Affordability Hearing](#) in Washington D.C. The hearing, hosted by the NIBS Consultative Council, brought together individuals from across the nation to question the causes of the housing affordability crisis in America and shape solutions. The hearing was comprised of three sessions which featured key industry leaders sharing their insights and expertise on housing affordability. [The topics of discussion were:](#)

- Session 1: The State of Housing Affordability
- Session 2: Examining Solutions – Innovation & Best Practices
- Session 3: Examining Solutions – Means and Methods

Preserve accurate/authorized codes and the codes/standards development processes you power!

America's codes and standards ensure public health and safety and are developed by non-profit organizations through a rigorous, resource-intensive consensus-based process. The development costs are funded by sales of the codes in digital and physical form. This system, and its substantial benefits for public safety and our economy has come under threat as several courts have refused to stop opportunists—who contribute nothing to the code development process—from copying, sometimes

erroneously, codes and reselling them commercially for profit. [Your help is needed to stop this threat by weighing in with your members of congress in support of the bipartisan Pro Codes Act \(S.835 / H.R. 1631\)](#). Please visit www.procodesact.com to engage in this effort and to join the dozens of individuals and organizations – from the American Society of Civil Engineers to the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the American Hospital Association.

Code Council’s new Performance Code Consensus Committee to conduct first meeting December 13

The International Code Council Performance Code Consensus Committee, recently approved by the ICC Board of Directors, will conduct its first virtual meeting of the committee on December 13 at 10:00 a.m. Central/11 a.m. Eastern. You can join the meeting [here](#). In 2021, the Code Council undertook a reimagining process facilitated and supported by Brian Meacham, Managing Principal at Meacham Associates, on behalf of the Code Council. Based on the findings of this process, the Code Council decided to launch an effort to revise the [ICC Performance Code](#) (ICCPC) utilizing the organization’s Consensus procedures. The reimagined ICCPC will be developed to replace the 2024 ICCPC with the next publication to be available tentatively by the end of 2027. [Read more here](#).

VBCOA Chapter honors the life of the late Jim Ellwood for his work for next generation code officials

The late James “Jim” Ellwood of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland, was the International Code Council’s [Career Development Liaison](#), responsible for managing the organization’s [Safety 2.0 Technical Training Program](#) (TTP). His passion for educational advocacy, including encouraging students to seek and train for building construction careers, earned him the Code Council’s 2016 President’s Award for outstanding contribution to the organization’s goals, vision and mission. The [Virginia Building and Code Officials Association](#) recently honored Jim’s his life and accomplishments with its Outstanding Public Service Award, presented at its banquet to Jim’s wife Fran and his daughter Ashley. The plaque was given in special recognition and appreciation for Ellwood’s exceptional service, interest and initiative in promoting students’ education nationwide. [Read more here](#).

Houston adopts updated International Codes after series of task force meetings on building safety

The Houston City Council recently voted to adopt the latest International Code Council’s 2021 International Codes® (I-Codes). In mid-2022, the City of Houston launched the [Construction Code Modernization Project](#) to help improve the safety and resiliency of buildings within the community. Recommendations from four task groups and a coordinating committee were presented to the Houston City Council. The vote to adopt the I-Codes is just one of the many outcomes of the project, involving more than 200 community stakeholders representing more than 50 construction and industry associations. Code Council Director of PMG Technical Resources Richard Anderson served as co-chair of the Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Codes Task Force Group. Senior Regional Manager of Government Relations Mark Roberts served on the Construction Code Modernization Committee, which reviewed the decisions and recommendations made by each Task Force Group. The International Building Code®, International Existing Building Code®, International Fire Code®, International Residential Code®, International Swimming Pool and Spa Code® and International Energy Conservation Code® will become effective on January 2. [Read more here](#).

Code Council to highlight role of building codes and standards in achieving climate resilience at COP28

The International Code Council, the leading global provider of building safety solutions and a member of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), will be presenting at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). Held this year in Dubai, COP28 will conclude December 12, and will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). COP28 is meant to unite countries and push for increased mitigation and adaptation efforts in response to a changing climate. This year’s event is focused on rethinking, rebooting and refocusing global climate action. The work of the International Code Council and similar organizations is to spotlight the need to incorporate the buildings and construction sector in climate discussions. [Read more here](#).

Jamaica collaborates with International Code Council to develop 10 building codes and training

The Code Council collaborated with the [Bureau of Standards of Jamaica](#) to produce ten customized building codes based on the existing 2018 International Codes® (I-Codes). The Jamaica Fire and Building

Codes are scheduled for release in early 2024. Remaining codes are to follow throughout 2025. The ten Jamaica codes were created based on the International Building Code®, International Fire Code®, International Residential Code®, International Plumbing Code®, International Mechanical Code®, International Fuel Gas Code®, International Existing Building Code®, International Property Maintenance Code®, International Private Sewage Disposal Code® and CARICOM Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code®. The Code Council is also partnering with [University of Technology, Jamaica](#) (UTech) to provide extensive training. [Read more here.](#)

GOT PULSE? Episode 54 focuses on how off-site construction is rapidly gaining popularity

In this episode [of the ICC Pulse Podcast](#), we break down [what off-site construction is](#), the history of off-site construction and how this type of construction is gaining popularity as a form of construction to help solve the affordable housing crisis. We'll also hear perspectives from owners of modular construction companies on the benefits and pain points of off-site, highlighting how [adopting standards](#) and [working together](#) in the industry helps solve off-site's growing pains. **Guests on the Show:**

- Ryan Colker, Vice President of Innovation, International Code Council
- Professor Ryan E. Smith, Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona
- Wanona Satcher, CEO and Founder of Mākher Studio
- Justin Stewart CEO, Synergy Modular



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

ICC PMG-sponsored apprentice Cody McDonald wins the 2023 PHCC National Apprentice contest

Held by the Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Association of Georgia (PHCC), PHCC CONNECT is a national plumbing and HVAC apprentice contest that calls on the top apprentices across the nation to test their skills, knowledge and accuracy. During PHCC CONNECT 2023 held in Cleveland, Ohio, the International Code Council-sponsored plumbing apprentice Cody McDonald of Van Contracting, Columbia City, Indiana, competed against 19 other contestants and won the 2023 PHCC National Apprentice Competition, marking the first time an Indiana contestant has won. [Read more here.](#)

International Code Council sponsors 'American Plumber Stories' season five from Australia

The International Code Council will sponsor season five of Pfister® Faucet's docuseries [American Plumber Stories](#) which is anticipated to air in the second half of 2024. The new episodes will be filmed all over the world, with some featuring plumbing stories in the land down under. American Plumber Stories is a docuseries that serves to inspire, educate and entertain both current and future members of the plumbing industry. The show celebrates the lives and work of all plumbers by sharing their passion, advice to the next generation of plumbers and their plans to reshape the industry. [Read more here.](#)

Free online training event December 6 is titled "Plumbing Pipe Sizing: Why Is It Important"

The International Code Council will be hosting a free [Learn Live online training](#) event on December 6, 2023, from 12:00 – 1:30 PM CST. **Plumbing Pipe Sizing: Why Is It Important**, is sponsored by the Code Council's Plumbing Mechanical and Fuel Gas (PMG) resources group and will offer attendees 0.15 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). [Read more here.](#)

CodeNotes resource provides tips on how to properly install and maintain water heaters in your home

The water heater installed in a home can be a ticking time bomb if not installed or maintained correctly. A water heater temperature and pressure relief valve is an important safety device for a water heater as well as the water distribution system. If it is operating properly, the pressure in the water distribution system is no greater than is required by the code, and the relief valve is in proper operating condition, then there should not be any water discharge from the relief valve. [Read more here.](#)



Additional Updates from the ICC Family of Solutions

Webinar December 14 highlights Municipality's streamlined process to facilitate recurring inspections

Municipality's Periodic Inspections Program of Work makes it easy to:

- Track recurring inspections for public safety, fire safety and health.
- Create detailed inspection checklists in relation to ordinances.
- Add inspector notes, results, and photos from the field.
- Print checklist items and ordinance pass/fail, bulk inspection reminder letters, and more.

Municipity is the only ePermitting and Code Enforcement software from the International Code Council. To learn more, visit our [website](#) or join a [Municipity Overview Webinar](#) 12/14 at 1 pm ET/10 am PT.

Elk Grove Village becomes the first in the State of Illinois to earn accreditation from ICC IAS

The Elk Grove Village Building Division of the Community Development Department recently became the first in the state of Illinois to receive a Certificate of Accreditation by [the International Accreditation Service](#) (IAS), a member of the International Code Council family of solutions. Achieving accreditation from IAS involves an assessment of the Building Division's goals, policies and procedures, as well as permitting, inspections and plan reviews. This [full accreditation status](#) allows the Elk Grove Village Building Division to join 23 other building departments throughout the United States that have achieved this accreditation. [Read more here.](#)