

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



INTERNATIONAL
CODE
COUNCIL®

February 2024

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Chapter Annual Reports are due March 15! [Click here!](#)

[Click here](#) to visit the ICC Government Relations team website.

Code Council launches year-long celebration marking 30 years of building safety and innovation

The year 2024 marks an important milestone for the International Code Council as the organization celebrates its 30th anniversary. Over the past three decades and with over [100 years of impact through its legacy organizations](#), the Code Council has been dedicated to advancing safety in the built environment and fostering innovation within the industry. To commemorate the achievements of the Code Council and its members, the Code Council is gearing up for a year-long celebration. The Code Council has launched a [30th anniversary website](#), complete with an [interactive timeline](#) showcasing major moments in Code Council history, a [photo gallery](#) spanning the years and a [short documentary video](#) about how the Code Council was founded and our vision for the future that features important voices from the past three decades. **A digital guestbook is available** where you can share photos, videos and messages – [click here](#) and follow the prompts to make your submission. You can also share a congratulatory message to the Code Council by email. To share any written material, please email communications@iccsafe.org. [Read more here.](#)

Code Council is offering a suite of new resources to help communities capture federal grant awards

With deadlines rapidly approaching on a diverse array of federal grant support on code adoption and implementation activities, the International Code Council's federal grants team has prepared a [suite of new resources](#) to help communities better navigate these opportunities. These resources include:

- A [decision tree](#) explaining which grant programs are the best fit for different prospective applicants.
- A [matrix](#) comparing four major federal grant programs currently available.
- A [second decision tree](#) specifically for the Department of Energy Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) competitive grants. This resource has information on what state, territory, and/or local government should apply for if they expect to update their energy code in the next four years to a code that's at least equivalent to the 2021 IECC.
- An ICC member-focused [fact sheet](#) on the just-announced \$530M in IRA competitive grant funding.

[Read more here.](#)

City of Fort Collins, CO, secures funding through the federal government's RECI grant opportunity

To achieve a greener and more resilient future, the City of Fort Collins, CO, has secured funding through the federal government's [Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation \(RECI\) grant opportunity](#). When first learning about the available RECI funding, the City of Fort Collins sought guidance and a strategic partnership to enhance its application. Early discussions with Stella Carr, Energy and Resilience Project Manager from the International Code Council set the tone for a collaborative effort aimed at advancing building codes for enhanced energy efficiency and carbon reduction. Stella and other ICC staff were thought partners and contributed to the project development. [Read more here.](#)

Code Council's Leadership Week and Group A Hearings are scheduled for April in Orlando

The popular 8th Annual Chapter Leadership Academy will kick off the list of events April 5-16 in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the 2024 Committee Action Hearings – Group A. They will be held at the DoubleTree at the entrance to Universal Orlando. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to earn CEUs, brainstorm with peers and learn effective methods for advancing your Chapter. The GR Team will be presenting on a soon-to-be-published chapter advocacy guidebook. The Code Council's Membership Councils will also meet in-person in Orlando. These special events are free to all ICC Members. Not a member? [Join today](#). For a schedule and to learn more, [read more here.](#)

Code Council Appeals Board hearings set for February 21-23 and they will be conducted virtually

The International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC) Notice of Appeals Hearings is now available and can be [downloaded here](#). The Appeals Board has decided to consider the appeals in four groups:

- Scope and Intent
- Consensus Building Approaches
- Procedural Specific Issues
- Subject Specific Issues

The hearings will be conducted virtually **February 21-23**. Interested parties, or their representatives, are invited to respond to the appeal(s) by submitting their comments in writing for consideration by the ICC Appeals Board and/or participating in and presenting information at the Appeals Board hearings pursuant to Council Policy 1. Written comments and a notice of attendance must be submitted by all interested participants, including appellants, by filling out the online form "[Appeals Viewpoint and Notice of Attendance](#)." **The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on February 5.**

Now is the time to register to participate in the ICC 2024-2026 code development cycle

The International Code Council 2024-2026 code development cycle is officially underway. This year marks the beginning of a reorganized three-year cycle which will culminate in voting on all code changes at the Public Comment Hearings and Online Governmental Consensus Vote in 2026. For more information on the reorganized process, click [here](#). To be eligible to vote in this cycle, **a governmental unit must be one of the following as of March 8:**

- A current Code Council Governmental Member, or
 - A Code Council Governmental Member that has submitted an application for renewal, or
 - A governmental unit that has submitted an application for Code Council Governmental Membership
- To become a Code Council Governmental Member, [click here](#).
 - To renew your Code Council Governmental Membership, [click here](#).
 - To check your Code Council Governmental Membership status, [click here](#).

In addition to having a current membership, Governmental Member Primary Representatives must validate their Governmental Member Voting Representatives for the 2024-2026 cycle. To help prepare for participating in the process, the Electronic Voter Validation Site is now open. Primary Representatives of current Governmental Members can [click here](#) to login and validate your Governmental Member Voting Representatives. Questions? Contact ICC Member Services at members@iccsafe.org or call 888-ICC-SAFE (888-422-7233) x33804.

ICC Technical Training Program rolls out from ICC Training with new developments and expansion

The Code Council's [Technical Training Program](#) (TTP) was originally designed as a high school program and is the flagship of ICC's broader Safety 2.0 initiative. By early 2023, the program was expanding beyond high schools (into community colleges and trade schools) when it was transferred to the ICC Training Department for continued development and expansion. Under the direction of Alex Kerr (Manager of Next Generation Training) in cooperation with Dr. Tracy Lendi and our Instructional Design team, the TTP was relaunched earlier this month with the following significant upgrades:

- Now resides in ICC's newly upgraded Learning Management System
- Updated to the 2021 International Residential Code
- Modules & certificates have been fully aligned with the IRC structure
- Completion certificates are digitized for immediate online delivery
- Upgraded from text-based format to fully interactive online modules
- Added digital publications: IRC, Study Companion, Basic Code Enforcement, and Inspector Skills

Planned future advancements include:

- Expansion to customized school "portals," allowing greater instructor capabilities for each client institution (Fall 2024)
- Expanded coverage of job skills training to supplement the traditional code-based focus
- Fully self-paced offering for individuals outside traditional school settings
- Increased marketing beyond schools as "new employee" training for jurisdictions
- Future handling of the IBC in similar fashion

For more information or to connect schools interested in utilizing this newly improved offering, please contact Alex Kerr (amkerr@iccsafe.org).

Virginia becomes first state to adopt ICC/MBI Standards 1200 and 1205 for Off-Site Construction

The Commonwealth of Virginia has approved the adoption of ICC/MBI Standards 1200 and 1205 as a part of their adoption package of the International Code Council's suite of 2021 International Codes®. The Commonwealth becomes the first state to adopt the ICC/MBI Standards for Off-site Construction and is the first jurisdiction to do so since Salt Lake City adopted the standards in 2021. The adoption of ICC/MBI Standards 1200 and 1205 was led by the [Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development](#). This underscores the Commonwealth's commitment and leadership in establishing uniformity in off-site construction regulation. [Read more here.](#)

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT: ICC and THIA organizing panel to develop new standard ICC/THIA 1215-202x

The International Code Council and the Tiny Home Industry Association (THIA) are seeking volunteers to participate as interested parties in the development of the new standard **ICC/THIA 1215-202x *Design, Construction, Inspection and Regulation of Tiny Houses for Permanent Occupancy***. This standard will address minimum requirements for the design, construction, inspection, certification and regulatory compliance of tiny houses used for permanent occupancy (with or without wheels) to assure public safety, sustainability and resilience. [Read more here.](#)

The Code Council is seeking code development experts to serve as moderators at code hearings

The International Code Council is seeking code development experts interested in serving as [unbiased moderators of the code development hearings](#). Code Council moderators serve a critical role in the execution of the International Codes® (I-Codes) hearings. The committee action hearings (CAHs) and public comment hearings (PCH) are a part of the industry-leading code development procedures that set the standard for an open and transparent process, allowing any interested parties to participate. This facilitates a broad spectrum of ideas, expertise and input enabling the I-Codes to be the best model codes available to support the built environment, impacting nearly 2 billion people globally. Moderators are appointed by the President of the ICC Board of Directors and act as presiding officers for the public code hearings in accordance with [CP-28](#). [Read more here.](#)

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March 15 is deadline to submit nominations to honor achievements with 2024 Code Council Awards

Each year the International Code Council provides an opportunity for individuals to recognize their colleagues and peers for the important work they do by highlighting their achievements in leadership, innovation and community service. The 2024 Code Council Awards Program is now open and accepting nominations through **March 15**. We encourage you to [fill out a nomination form](#) for one or more of the awards. If you know someone whose hard work and dedication should be celebrated, visit our website, and nominate them for a Code Council award today. [Read more here.](#)

Following building codes and standards in DIY projects can prevent injuries and property disasters

Recent news has covered high-profile cases where individuals have undertaken DIY projects involving tunneling beneath or alongside buildings. This has prompted increased safety concerns for both the individuals and communities. GR's Tech Resources VP Kevin McOsker explains that starting a DIY project—include subsurface tunnelling—without collaborating with a local building department and adhering to applicable building codes and regulations can pose dangers such as structural instability. Plan review, permitting and inspections are critical in renovation and construction projects. These processes are essential to ensure a safe built environment and protect against the potential of a catastrophic event for homeowners, neighbors and fire responders. [Read more here.](#)

Article offers five perspectives on how to start and prosper in careers that promote building safety

A career in building safety can be both [inspiring](#) and rewarding, offering gainful employment to anyone who embraces its multifaceted demands. Though it may be difficult for those who love the industry to retire – some may even [return to work](#) after doing so – it is important to carve a path forward for the next generation. The International Code Council's [Safety 2.0](#) initiative is designed to do just that, providing a resource for training, career opportunities, leadership programs, and more. The Code Council recently spoke to six building safety professionals about their career progression and found that there are multiple ways to advance through the ranks. [Read more here.](#)

New Congressional Research Service report highlights Code Council's role to advance sustainability

The [Congressional Research Service](#) (CRS), a non-partisan research service for members of Congress and congressional staff that prepares anticipatory and on-demand research and analysis, recently released an updated resource, [Building Codes, Standards, and Regulations: Frequently Asked Questions](#). The resource highlights the Code Council's efforts and emphasizes the significant role played by the International Codes® (I-Codes) in advancing community resilience and sustainability across the country. The CRS conducted a report on building codes to help Congress offices interested in advancing more resilient and energy-efficient codes. Building codes have received increased attention at the federal level given several 2022 incidents, including the Surfside condo collapse, Amazon warehouse collapse and Bronx fire. The resource acts as a detailed guide to answering common questions about how buildings are regulated in the United States. The guide addresses building, fire and energy code functions and purposes, the difference between building codes, standards and guidelines, the code development process and natural hazards that codes address. [Read more here.](#)

"Code on a Mission" goal exceeded 119 million people benefiting from adoption modern energy codes

The International Code Council's [Code on a Mission](#) challenge achieved a significant milestone by surpassing its original goal of covering over a third of the U.S. population (115 million Americans) with energy codes based on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC) or its equivalent by the end of 2023. As of December 18, 2023, more than 119 million Americans will now benefit from modern energy codes based on the 2021 IECC. The Code on a Mission challenge was issued to highlight the role buildings play in meeting community energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, and the power energy codes have in helping meet those goals. The Code Council challenged both the building industry and communities alike to update their building energy codes to meet or exceed requirements of the 2021 IECC. [Read more here.](#)

Joint study examines the influence of building codes on mortgage delinquencies after hurricanes

In today's changing climate, hurricanes are becoming more prevalent and destructive than ever before. It's not just the bigger cyclones that are strengthening – [research shows](#) that weak tropical cyclones, including tropical storms and low-category hurricanes, are growing stronger as well. With this in mind, it has become increasingly important that communities are well prepared to mitigate the potential damage and loss of life inflicted by these catastrophic weather events. If a community is not prepared, there can be major consequences both physical and financial. According to the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA), one of the most cost-effective ways to safeguard citizens and communities against disasters is to [adopt and follow hazard-resistant building codes](#), such as the [International Building Code](#)® (IBC) and [International Residential Code](#)® (IRC). Understanding that building codes could help mitigate physical damage during a landfalling hurricane, the [Insurance](#)

[Institute for Business & Home Safety](#) (IBHS) and [CoreLogic](#)[®] also investigated if this risk management strategy could be used to help mitigate financial losses. [Read more here](#).

By enforcing building codes, communities create safe environments, deter crime and inspire growth

Code enforcement officers play a critical role in keeping our neighborhoods safe and are the unsung heroes who work tirelessly to keep our buildings resilient, sustainable and accessible.

Not only do they safeguard our communities from nuisance properties, but they also tackle emerging problems that might not fall under law enforcement's purview. It's a big responsibility, but code officials are equipped with all the necessary tools and support from jurisdictions across the country to succeed and encourage compliance. The [2021 Property Maintenance Code](#)[®] (IPMC) plays a vital role in getting rid of blight in many jurisdictions – offering comprehensive guidelines to tackle issues like dilapidated structures, abandoned buildings and neglected properties. [Read more here](#).



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

The Code Council Signs MOU with Women in Plumbing & Piping to promote the plumbing trades

The International Code Council and Women in Plumbing & Piping (WiPP) signed an MOU to collaboratively promote opportunities for women to pursue successful careers in the plumbing industry. This partnership advances the Code Council's Safety 2.0 mission to welcome and engage a new generation of members and leaders in building safety and illustrates the Code Council's commitment to increasing inclusivity within the plumbing and piping industries. WiPP is a nonprofit membership organization that focuses on the inclusion and support of women in the plumbing and piping industries. Founded in 2022, WiPP's mission is to provide a community of connection and empowerment for women in those trades to thrive personally and professionally. [Read more here](#).

CodesNotes provides information on proper application of fire, smoke and combination dampers

The International Building Code (IBC) Section 717 and the International Mechanical Code (IMC) Section 607 address both ducted and unducted (air transfer openings) systems and provides the details for locations where the openings are required to be protected. These sections of the IBC and the IMC address items such as damper test standards and types of dampers, actuation of the damper, access requirements and where the various dampers are required. [Read more here](#).



ICC Evaluation Services updates

CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP: Shahin Moinian moves into Global Strategy and Business Development role

ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) announced a change in senior management, effective January 1, 2024.

Shahin Moinian, P.E., who joined ICC-ES in 2010 and served as President for 10 years, will now be supporting the Code Council's mission as Executive Vice President of Strategy and Business Development, Global. **David A. Tompos**, LEED AP BC+D, will serve as acting president and Executive Vice President of ICC CAG. Tompos served as President and CEO of [NTA](#) from 2002 to 2023 where he was responsible for the overall strategic vision and direction of the company. During his tenure as President, Moinian oversaw all testing, inspection and product evaluation activities within ICC-ES including building, plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas, and solar certification programs. Moinian's passion for quality and expeditious service was made evident by his many contributions to the company including an expansion of the Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas (PMG) listing program, the addition of an inspection program to create a more robust continuous compliance plan, and greatly reduced turnaround time for report completion. [Read more here](#).

ICC-ES accredited to provide to extend WaterMark Certification for Lead Free plumbing products

ICC-ES is now accredited by JASANZ to provide WaterMark Certification for Lead Free plumbing products, demonstrating compliance with Part A5 of the Plumbing Code of Australia (Volume Three of the Australian – National Construction Code (NCC)). Previously, the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) agreed to amend the NCC to limit the allowable maximum lead content in products that contain copper alloys and manufactured for contact with drinking water to not more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent. Former ABCB officials, ICC Oceania Director Neil Savery and ICC PMG Global Director Tom

Roberts, played integral roles in developing the NCC 2022. Both are eager to assist manufacturers in demonstrating compliance with the standards that will make plumbing products in contact with drinking water safer. [Read more here.](#)



ICC Community Development Solutions update

Track your Municipal work and resources effectively.

Municipality's Work Orders & Maintenance Program of Work makes it easy to:

- Create, assign, and track work orders and maintenance items on parent entities.
- Set up recurring maintenance items - including for third parties.
- Track time and material used, plus generate invoices based on stockpile transactions.
- Generate bulk reminder letters for upcoming maintenance items and more!

Municipality is the only ePermitting and Code Enforcement software from the International Code Council.

To learn more, visit our [website](#) or join a [Municipality Overview Webinar](#) 2/8 at 1 pm ET/10 am PT.