

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



INTERNATIONAL
CODE
COUNCIL®

April 2024

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April 5 is the deadline to submit 'concept papers' for the new round of \$90 million in RECI grants

The Department of Energy is offering \$90 million in funding to support building energy code adoption, training, and technical assistance at the state, territory, tribal, and local levels. This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) represents the second round of RECI funding and builds on the 27 awards that were announced last year, which included activities such as workforce development; community engagement; research and data collection; and increased support for compliance and enforcement. The Code Council is a partner in eight of these efforts. Funds support the adoption and improved implementation of codes that improve energy conservation. DOE does not require stringent adherence to any specific IECC edition for this funding. [The deadline for concept papers is April 5.](#)

The Code Council is seeking state partners on applications that would support the quantification of the International Green Conservation Code's sustainability benefits and the development of tools that can ease IECC compliance for builders and assist in IECC governance for code officials. Please contact us at federalgrants@iccsafe.org if either concept could be of interest.

- For more information about the RECI grant, review our [FAQs](#).
- To learn more about ICC's resilient and efficient codes solutions, access our [factsheet](#).
- You can also [click here to see the 2024 Building Code Grant Matrix](#), created by ICC staff, that helps break down the various federal grant programs that are currently available to fund building code and energy code adoption and implementation.

If you have further questions or would like help from ICC staff, please email Stella Carr at federalgrants@iccsafe.org. More funding opportunities may be available later in 2024. [Read more here](#).

Building Codes Plus-Up Summary: Special dedication grant for building codes viewed as a big success

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently announced that its Building Codes Plus-Up grant program received 133 sub-applications totaling more than \$52 million for this new set-aside funding opportunity—a 10x increase over both prior year funding and applications. The Building Code Plus-Up is a new feature of FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grants program. This is the largest amount requested from FEMA for building codes and it demonstrates momentum toward preparing for tomorrow's disasters through the adoption and enforcement of modern building codes. The Building Codes Plus-Up may return next year.

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2024 COUNTDOWN! April 8 webinar offers new ideas and tips to prepare

Join the Code Council on Monday, April 8, at 1 p.m. CT for an [exclusive webinar](#) to help prepare you and your colleagues for a successful [Building Safety Month](#) celebration in your community. An expert panel will discuss:

- What's new for Building Safety Month in 2024.
- Tips on using the Building Safety Month website and where to find useful member resources.
- Ideas to host community events, create social media campaigns, access teacher outlines and more.
- The Lego prize giveaway for the Building Safety Month contest.
- A question and answer period to share your ideas and questions.

Remember to join in the [virtual discussion via WebEx](#)!

University of Miami report underscores the water conservation benefits the I-Codes can provide

As part of its World Water Awareness campaign, the International Code Council shared findings of a new report from the University of Miami during its Water Conservation Summit, hosted at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. This report underscores the critical need for municipalities to adopt updated water conservation standards contained in the 2021 I-Codes, as captured in the International Water Conservation Code Provisions® (IWCCP). The Code Council partnered with experts from University of

Miami to issue the report, titled *“Water Conservation and Codes: Leveraging Global Water-Efficient Building Standards to Avert Shortfalls.”* Over the next 50 years, nearly half of America’s freshwater basins may not be able to meet the monthly water demand, with shortages anticipated in the central and southern Great Plains, the Southwest, and central Rocky Mountain states, as well as parts of California, the South, and the Midwest. The University of Miami report found that by 2029 across just 4 jurisdictions representing less than 1.5% of the U.S. population, the IWCCP provisions could conserve more than 34 billion gallons of water. You can watch a recording of the Summit [here](#). [Read more here](#).

Group A hearings will be held in Orlando following the inaugural ICC Leadership Week events

The International Code Council will hold the first Committee Action Hearings (CAH) for Group A International Codes® (I-Codes) from Sunday, April 7, through Tuesday, April 16, in Orlando, Florida. Code hearings are open to the public and offer building and design professionals, including code officials, architects, structural engineers, and plumbers, the opportunity to provide input on proposed code changes to the Group A I-Codes. Proposed changes to the 2024 Group A I-Codes are available for public view on the Code Council’s website. View the 2024 Complete Code Change Monograph and learn more about what will be discussed at the 2024 CAH [here](#). Starting in 2024, the code development process for the 2027 I-Codes introduces a restructured approach. It commences with two CAHs for the Group A codes followed in 2025 by two CAHs for the Group B codes. In April 2026, the Code Council will host a combined Group A and B Public Comment Hearings with a combined Online Governmental Consensus Vote in May 2026. [Read more here](#).

Board of Directors makes final decision on 2024 IECC appeals and addresses pre-emption challenges

The International Code Council Board of Directors recently voted to affirm in part and reject in part nine appeals filed by five appellants to a draft of the 2024 commercial and residential editions of the International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC®). The Board also addressed several claims that aspects of the draft 2024 IECC codes were preempted by the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The Board’s determinations mark the conclusion of the 2024 IECC’s development and the code’s finalization. The 2024 IECC builds on the 2021 edition and is anticipated to improve energy efficiency by roughly 6.5% for residential buildings and by 10% for commercial buildings. [Read more here](#).

ICC, MBI publish new standard for mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in off-site construction

The International Code Council, in partnership with the [Modular Building Institute \(MBI\)](#), has published [ICC/MBI 1210-2023, Standard for Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Systems, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation in Off-site Construction](#). This American National Standard is now part of ICC/MBI’s existing series of off-site construction standards including [ICC/MBI 1200-2021](#) and [ICC/MBI 1205-2021](#). ICC/MBI Standard 1210 includes the componentization and modularization of elements of mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) systems and the incorporation of MEP systems in componentized, panelized or modularized building elements. MEP elements used in off-site construction and opportunities to achieve increased energy efficiency and water conservation in the factory are addressed in this standard. [Read more here](#).

Significant improvements are made to the Code Council’s popular Technical Training Program

ICC Training staff have made significant improvements to the Technical Training Program available to high schools and colleges. The self-paced course takes students through the fundamentals of residential inspections. Participants may choose from a variety of disciplines: building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, and energy. Digital access to the *International Residential Code®*, the *IRC Study Companion®*, *Inspector Skills®* and *Basic Code Enforcement®* is part of the reasonable pricing structure. Chapters have been reaching out recently to see how they can help bring this valuable program to their area schools. For information, contact Alex Kerr, email amkerr@iccsafe.org.

How building codes are updated and driving development after the Surfside condo collapse

Building codes are an invaluable part of the construction process and provide an essential guide for ensuring that every building is as safe as possible. They inform everything from the [architectural design](#) to the structure’s safety and stability. The [condo collapse in Surfside, Florida](#), is an important reminder of this. Nearly 100 people were killed when Champlain Towers South (a 12-floor condominium

complex) partially but suddenly [collapsed](#) in June of 2021. In the months and years that followed, the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) (NIST) found evidence of [extensive corrosion](#) that may have contributed to the incident. While federal investigators continue to evaluate the possible cause, they are heavily [focused](#) on the condo's pool deck, which appears to have had several construction problems. NIST also believes that the condo was [not up to code](#) when it was originally built. To help communities address the unique challenges that our aging stock of existing buildings presents, the Code Council is currently developing a new resource, *Existing Building Safety – A Guideline for Inspection (G7-202x)*, which is [open for public comment](#) through April 12. [Read more here.](#)

A new resource helps regulators around the world assess the different risk profiles of buildings

The [International Building Quality Center](#) (IBQC) recently released a new resource, [Risk-Based Building Classification and Inspection Guideline](#), which serves as an important tool to help regulators around the world assess the different risk profiles of buildings and understand the underlying factors influencing these profiles. The guideline is aligned with the building classifications found in the [International Code Council's International Codes®](#) but is presented in a code-agnostic framework. This flexibility allows it to be referenced by jurisdictions globally, regardless of their specific building codes and can serve as a valuable foundation for developing appropriate building regulations where none exist. The guideline is broken down into two parts. Part 1 introduces a building classification methodology, organizing buildings based on their potential risk consequences. In Part 2, a mandatory inspection regime is outlined, aligning the frequency and type of inspections with the risk categories established in the building classification methodology. [Read more here.](#)

Registration open for 2024 Annual Conference, Expo and Committee Action Hearings in Long Beach

Registration is now open for the [International Code Council's 2024 Annual Conference, Expo and Committee Action Hearings](#) (CAH). From October 20-31, 2024, industry professionals and stakeholders will meet in Long Beach, CA, for educational sessions, networking events, career resources, insightful speakers and opportunities to volunteer in the local community. Check out the 2024 Annual Conference video, [here](#). This year's conference will provide attendees with unparalleled educational opportunities designed to elevate their knowledge and expertise in the building safety industry. [Read more here.](#)

BREAKING BARRIERS: Christina Jackson's dedication shapes lasting impact on building safety industry

Christina Jackson, PMO, Senior Codes Inspector for Newport News, Virginia, has been in the building safety industry for 25 years and she has witnessed a notable rise in the number of women entering the industry. Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Jackson pursued accounting before transitioning to the building safety industry. Her journey began in 2002 when she joined the [National Inspection Corporation](#), a third-party building department serving various cities in southwestern Ohio. [Read more here.](#)



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

Code Council's water reuse working group to offer on-site potable water reuse code proposals

Starting in late 2022, the Code Council began preparing for the development of the 2027 International Codes® (I-Codes). As part of this process, the Code Council's PMG Code Action Committee established the Water Reuse Working Group to address how direct on-site potable water reuse is becoming more predominant in the built environment. This working group conducted a thorough examination of the water reuse requirements outlined in the 2024 I-Codes to determine what updates were needed to better address on-site direct potable water reuse in the 2027 versions. [Read more here.](#)

PMG Team's Four Corners event April 6 focuses on Florida's Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas Codes

The [International Code Council's Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas](#) (PMG) Membership Council will be hosting its *Four Corners* event in Orlando, FL, on Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET. The event will be held both in person and virtually, you can register [here](#). The event will include two approved Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) Continuing Education Unit (CEU) accredited training seminars focused on the Eighth Edition of the Florida Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Codes, which went into effect on December 31. [Read more here.](#)

How the One Water Movement made Blue Hole Primary School a leader in water reuse

One of the most notable One Water communities can be found in Wimberley, Texas, home of [Blue Hole Primary School](#). The school, which opened in August 2020, was built in partnership between [The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment](#) at Texas State University, the [Wimberley Valley Watershed Association](#) (WVWA) and the [Wimberley Independent School District](#) (WISD). The One Water movement is an approach to water management that seeks to integrate the management of all water resources (including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and groundwater) in a more sustainable manner. Rather than treating these different sources of water separately, the One Water approach aims to view them as part of a single interconnected system. This movement is already making an impact – in 2023 alone, the [U.S. Water Alliance](#) found that 80 communities were working on or had completed a One Water plan. [Read more here](#).

Amazon's Second Headquarters Highlights Water Reuse and Code Safety in Arlington, Virginia

Amazon had ambitious plans for its second headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Known as HQ2, the company wanted to build Metropolitan (Met) Park to be an incredibly sustainable campus with zero operational carbon emissions. It also strived for [LEED Platinum certification](#) and, as a result, recently became the [world's largest](#) LEED v4 project for Building Design and Construction. Better still, Amazon [saved](#) more than 14,700 metric tons of carbon (the equivalent of the carbon produced by 3,200+ cars annually) through a 20 percent reduction in the carbon footprint of Met Park's concrete structures. HQ2 was built in accordance with the [International Plumbing Code](#)® (IPC). [Read how](#) the I-Codes are paving the way for more resilient communities. [Read more here](#).

Code Council signs MOU with Hydraulic Consultants Association Australasia to promote global impact

The Code Council and the Hydraulic Consultants Association Australasia (HCAA) signed an MOU to support and promote plumbing initiatives on a global scale. This agreement advances the International Code Council's presence throughout the Oceania region. HCAA is an association of consultants and designers engaged in the design, specification and inspection of hydraulic and fire protection systems. This includes hot and cold-water plumbing, sanitary drainage, stormwater drainage, fire services and gas services. The association aims to provide a higher profile and focus for Hydraulic Services Engineers and Designers throughout the regions of Australasia, a subregion of Oceania. [Read more here](#).



ICC Evaluation Services updates

Register here by June 21 to participate in the June 25 ICC-ES Evaluation Committee virtual meeting

The interested public is invited to submit written comments on agenda items, or to attend the virtual Evaluation Committee hearing and present verbal comments on June 25. The following items will be presented for review at the virtual Evaluation Committee hearing:

- AC01 Mechanical Anchors in Cracked and Uncracked Masonry Elements
- AC232 Anchor Channels in Concrete Elements
- AC564 Internal Curing Concrete Admixture
- AC565 Natural Fiber Board Insulation
- AC566 Factory Bonded Humidity-dependent Vapor Retarder Membrane to Rigid Insulation Board
- AC567 Façade and Wall Cladding Composite Panels

Parties interested in joining the ICC-ES Evaluation Committee meeting on June 25 [must register for the WebEx Event before June 21](#). Registrations will be reviewed and approved by ICC-ES weekly, and those who are approved will receive a confirmation. Registrations will not be approved by after June 21. View the detailed agenda and all the latest information [here](#).



ICC Community Development Solutions update

Webinars set for April 4 and 18: Improve your office's efficiency with Muncity® and DigEplan

Community Development Solutions is now a technology partner with Avolve Software, the global leader in government electronic plan review. Muncity customers who want to integrate DigEplan with their

solution can work with CDS directly to improve connectivity to and efficiency with electronic plan review. [Learn more](#). Munity is the only ePermitting and Code Enforcement software from the International Code Council. To learn more, visit our [website](#) or join a [Munity Overview Webinar](#) April 4 and April 18 at 1 p.m. ET/10 a.m. PT.

2024 International Existing Building Code® provides solutions for reuse of buildings and cost savings

The 2024 IEBC encourages the use and reuse of existing buildings. This code covers repair, alteration, addition and change of occupancy for existing buildings and historic buildings, while achieving appropriate levels of safety without requiring full compliance with the new construction requirements contained in the other I-Codes. The 2024 IEBC® contains many important changes — [click here](#) to learn more and order now.



<https://youtu.be/4N-5nLxK2fc>