



WHAT IS THE LOC SMALL CITIES SUPPORT NETWORK?

The League of Oregon Cities is offering an exciting new program especially for smaller cities in Oregon, which will create a statewide small cities self-help and operational networking group.

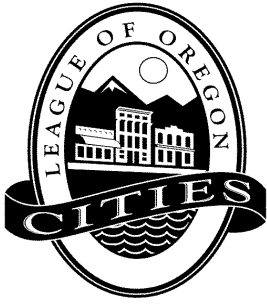
“Small” is defined as cities who have populations of 5,000 or less. There are 168 "small city" members of LOC, which constitutes 70 percent of the total number of cities in Oregon. These small cities are located on the coast, in Eastern Oregon, the Willamette Valley, and even in the Portland Metro area. The unique challenges faced by small cities truly is a statewide issue.

At the end of 2002, a small cities survey was conducted by LOC in conjunction with the small cities group steering committee, in order to assess the needs and goals of our small city members. A majority of survey respondents stated that they would like to see a small cities group formed and would actively participate.

LOC has worked with a group of small cities to develop a draft model for a small cities regional network, which will be formed as a LOC member service. Under this program, the small cities in the state will be divided into regional support teams (see enclosed map and list). Each regional team will meet periodically to discuss the city service and administrative issues facing small cities in their region.

Each regional team will appoint a representative to serve on a statewide Small Cities Council. The council will meet quarterly to discuss day-to-day operational issues and current questions, and make recommendations to LOC on future training, research services and programs for small cities.

Stephanie Nixon, of LOC Member Services, will serve as the staff liaison to the Small Cities Council. In this role, she will assist the Small Cities Council in coordinating regional and statewide meetings, and will report back to LOC on the issues and concerns facing small cities.



SMALL CITIES SUPPORT NETWORK

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What is the purpose and goal of this program?

A: The mission of this group is to further meet the specialized operational needs of smaller cities through networking and collective self-help. It is hoped that this new program will help LOC identify needed training programs and services for small cities in Oregon.

Q: What is the difference between the regional support teams and the Small Cities Council?

A: The regional support teams are made up of the participating cities in the 8 regions. Each team appoints a representative to serve on the Small Cities Council. Based on the discussions by the regional teams, the council creates information and makes recommendations to LOC on how to respond to these needs and issues.

Q: Is there a fee for participating?

A: No, this service is provided to smaller cities as a regular LOC program.

Q: Is this program for city staff or elected officials?

A: Regional teams will discuss day-to-day operations and administration which will be most beneficial to staff.

Q: How many people from a city can participate?

A: A city may appoint more than one representative if desired.

Q: Where will the meetings be held?

A: This decision will be left to each individual region. Teams will likely pick central locations or take turns hosting the meetings in various parts of the region.

Q: What if I cannot travel to a regional meeting or Small Cities Council meetings?

A: Conference calling will be available for those who wish to participate in regional and Small Cities Council meetings.

Q: How often will the regional support teams meet?

A: The regional support teams will meet periodically, depending on the desires of each region. The Small Cities Council will meet quarterly.