

Local Government REIMAGINED

Call for Essays: Future Proofing Local Government: Strategies for Sustainable Innovation

Deadline for Submission:
Friday, April 5, 2024

Background

Local government leadership has always involved managing the “challenge of change”; however, transformations over the last half-century, and especially the last several years, have dramatically altered the conditions in which local governments operate. ICMA’s Local Government Reimagined initiative reflects our long-term commitment to helping public administrators innovate and adapt their leadership practices, management strategies, and operations in the name of more resilient and equitable outcomes for their work and their communities.

With this call, we are seeking ideas for thought-provoking essays to be published in a new ICMA book titled *Future Proofing Local Government: Strategies for Sustainable Innovation*. In this publication, we aim to highlight bold thinking across a range of themes, including:

- Innovations in local government leadership, management, and/or service delivery.
- The future of the local government work force.
- Technological challenges and opportunities for local governance.
- The ongoing local government mission to help foster livable communities and thriving economies.

Call for Essays; How to Submit

Proposed essays should be provocative, outside the box, and geared toward the future. As new challenges continue to emerge and calls for service evolve and grow, local government leaders, managers, staff, and stakeholders need innovative ideas to meet the needs of today and the foresight to anticipate the challenges of tomorrow. Submissions will be evaluated on the proposed topic and its relevance to the future of local government management.

Submission is easy. Apply online through the submission form at www.icma.org/lgr by **Friday, April 5, 2024, 11:59 p.m., ET**. On the form:

- Enter your contact information.
- Select at least one proposed thematic area from a pre-populated list.
- Provide a working title for your essay.
- Provide a brief, compelling abstract describing your proposed topic and its relevance to local government management (approximately 500 words).
- Attach your resume or CV.

Additional Information

- We are looking for submissions from a diverse group of practitioners, academics, researchers, and thought leaders from the United States and around the world. There is no prerequisite for experience, and we welcome submissions from prospective authors at all stages of their careers.
- We expect to ask eight-to-twelve submitters to prepare a 2,000-to-3,000-word essay that will be published in a new ICMA compilation. The publication will be shared with the ICMA membership and other local government stakeholders as widely as possible.
- All submitters will be notified no later than April 30, 2024, about the status of their submission. Selected authors will have a month to develop their full essay.
- Not all submitters will be selected. We expect this to be a competitive solicitation. Only authors of selected content will receive a \$1,000 honorarium upon completion of a final essay that has been reviewed and formally approved by ICMA. (ICMA does not pay proposers to submit their idea for consideration.)
- Contact us at research@icma.org if you need assistance.